



Southway Junior School – Website & Virtual Learning Environment

Many of our parents / carers are already regular users of our Website. However, as a school we thought it would be useful for our parental body to understand a little more about the website and virtual learning environment (VLE) and how it will be used progressively more in the future to communicate learning and information between school and home.

Our website address is : www.southwayjunior.co.uk

The learning platform contains two areas; the website itself and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The website area is accessible to all users of the Internet and includes important information about our school.

The VLE is only accessible to parents, pupils and staff and requires a unique login to be able to view its content.

Initially, we have launched the website with the most important content that you will need about the school but in the future you also have the ability to log in and see what is happening in your children's classroom. As we progress with the VLE, you will be able to access more and more content that will enable you to monitor and get involved in your children's education. This VLE gives us the opportunity to give children access to great educational content such as quizzes, videos and material on specific topics that will enhance their learning and make it fun.

Currently each child has their own unique login, which has been provided to them by their class teacher. In time, we will also be providing parents with their own unique login. This will enable you to access classroom pages specific to your child or children.

THE WEBSITE

The website has been structured to help you find all the information that you need easily and is divided into the following sections:



'Home' – This is our home page which gives a brief welcome to our school website. You will be able to access the latest newsletters here, diary dates for forthcoming events, and most recent school news. You will also see, at a glance, urgent or important messages pertaining to school activities or perhaps closures in the case of extreme weather, for example.

'About Us' - Contains details such as the school's staff, our vision and aims and press articles about the school.

'News' – Latest news items will be found here.

'Calendar' – The School Calendar which shows details of forthcoming events.

'Useful Information' – This section provides information on Ofsted, school performance and school policies.

‘Parents’ – You will find all the information you require about School Clubs, copies of letters sent home, previous newsletters, quick link to ‘Pay On-Line’ for trips/activities, how to order school lunches / milk, term dates and ordering of school uniform, plus information about transferring from The Gattons if you have a younger child.

‘Pupils’ – Contains information the school curriculum and learning journeys, achievements, birthday celebrations and the school day.

‘Community’ – Information about our Governing Body, Home School Association (HSA), volunteering at school and any school job vacancies.

‘Gallery’ – A selection of photographs from events and trips enjoyed by our pupils.

‘Contact’ – This enables non-school people to contact the school. Parents should continue to email us as they do now.

It is important that you check the website frequently (at least once per week) as this is one of the school’s primary means of updating parents of the latest comings and goings at school.

THE VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE)

Your child can log into the VLE and see details of their class by clicking on the ‘Login’ button at the top right corner of the homepage. They have been provided with their login name and password by their classteacher.



Once logged into the VLE, they will be able to access the ‘Class Homepage’ specific to them. The Homepage contains important information about the class, their learning journey, homework and PE days. The children also have access to a discussion board where they can chat with each other about their learning or outside interests.

Over time the pages will be developed further to include useful web links, materials on specific topics that will enhance your child’s learning and make it fun.

Children have had lessons in school about internet safety and the appropriate use of the discussion boards. If you would like further information on internet safety for your child please refer to www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

Parental logins

We are aiming to provide logins to parents in the future. Parents will then be able to access information about their children’s attendance, view any letters home, calendar of events specific to your child, and ultimately booking parents evening on-line and providing a parent app for notifications. We still have some work to do behind the scenes before we can roll this out to parents, so please be patient.