

**Issue number
3
Spring Term
Friday 14th
February
2020**

SOUTHWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

Why is high attendance important to my child's education?

I was recently considering the importance of regular school attendance as a key indicator to a child's future success. Several years ago attendance at Southway was below the national average. Over recent years and with the support of the parents, we have managed to remain consistently above national averages, at around 96%. The government have set all schools and parents a minimum target of 95% attendance over a school year and when a child starts to fall below that figure the school is obliged to find out why this is the case and if necessary support the family.

The latest research on school attendance throws up some important statistics that I would like to share with you. A child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life. 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all. Poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable. Poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime; a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly. 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.

This year we set the school the ambitious target of 97% attendance for the year and we are currently at 96%. With your help our target could become a reality.

'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late'. **William Shakespeare**

Have a lovely half term break

Mr P Newbold

Diary Dates

February

Friday 14th-Awards Assembly to Invited Parents 10am

Mon 17th-Fri 21st-HALF TERM-School Closed

Mon 24th-INSET DAY-School Closed

Tues 25th- **Library Visit** (Churchill & Pankhurst Classes)

Weds 26th-Quicksticks Hockey @ Downlands

March

Mon 2nd- Y5/6 Indoor Cricket @ The Triangle

Weds 4th- Y5/6 Netball Tournament (A Team)

Thurs 5th-World Book Day

Mon 9th- Y4 Drumming Workshop

Mon 9th -Y5/6 Basketball @ St. Pauls

Mon 9th - **3.30-7.00pm**-Parent Consultations

Tues 10th-Library Visit (Rowling & Shakespeare)

Tues 10th-Y5 Newhaven Fort Trip

Weds 11th-Y4/5 Handball Festival (TBC)

Thurs 12th-Library Visit (Dickens & Hawking)

Thurs 12th - **3.30-5.30 pm** Parent consultations

Book Sales

We will be selling good quality, second hand children's books at lunchtime every Monday, from now onwards. The sales will take place in the hall, and books will be priced at 50p and £1.00.

If your child would like to make a purchase, please send them in with a small sum of money on a

Monday.



Parent Consultations

We will be holding Parent Consultation Meetings on Monday 9th March and Thursday 12th March 2020. This is a change to the previously published dates.

Families are invited to make an appointment, to meet with their child's class teacher, through the VLE which can be accessed via the green login button in the top right hand corner of the school website homepage.

Please note that only one appointment per family per child will be available in order that all parents / carers have the opportunity to discuss their child with the class teacher.

The booking system will be available for you to make appointments from Monday 17th February at 7am.

SOUTHWAY JUNIOR SCHOOL

www.southwayjunior.co.uk

Email: parentline@southwayjunior.co.uk



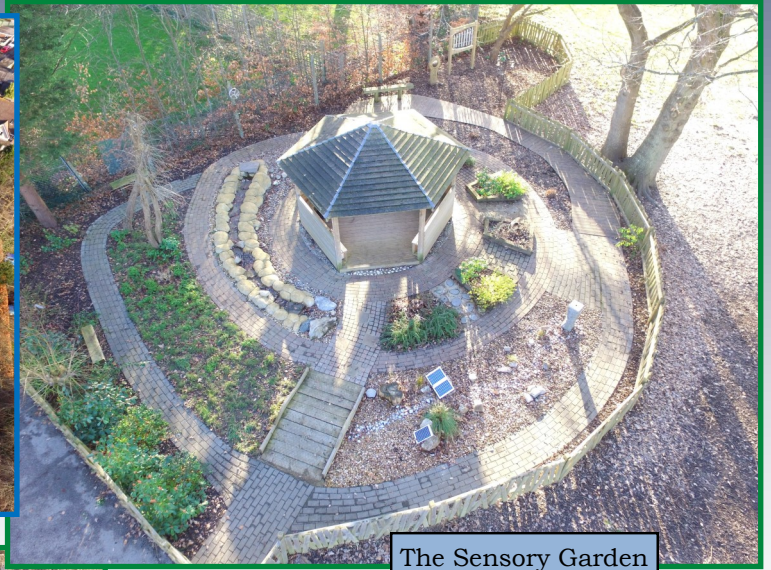
***'Learning and Achieving
Together'***

SOUTHWAY
BURGESS HILL
WEST SUSSEX
RH15 9SU

Southway from Above!



The school site



The Sensory Garden



The Bird Hide & Pond



The Pond again!

Mr Meehan, our Premises Officer, has taken some aerial pictures of the school site from his drone. We think you'll agree that they make fascinating viewing!



Year 5 & Year 6

What's Been Happening?



Lucas (Y3), Gabriel (Y6), Isla (Y5) & Meenakshi (Y4) were all winners in their year groups in our recent Spelling Bee



Year 3 had a fantastic day with **Sir Teachalot!** We learnt lots about the history of the Vikings and where they came from, how place names are derived from Viking language and even got to use some Viking weapons (carefully). We had a brilliant day learning lots of interesting information to help us with our **Invaders and Raiders** topic!



Year 6 recently visited St Paul's to watch **Beauty and the Beast** (performed by children in years 7 - 13). It was inspiring to watch young people perform their talents and be so engaged and our children thoroughly enjoyed the performance. 5*!



Y6 had a great time when **Moses** came to Southway to help us learn all about the Egyptians for this term's Learning Journey. The children enjoyed getting into character for the workshop & looked fantastic in their costumes!

Staffing Update

Over the next few weeks, we will be saying goodbye to **Mrs Bromley** & **Miss Newbold**, who have both been working in Y4, as well as **Mrs Bingham**, who has worked with all our year groups. We would like to thank them all for their hard work & dedication during their time at Southway. We would like to welcome **Miss Hutchings**, who has recently joined us, & will be working in Y4.