



# Southway News

## Spring Update

2016



*'Keeping you informed'*





Dear Parents and Carers,  
Spring term has been very busy and productive and I would like to share a few of the headline moments with you.

The school has adapted its **assessment and reporting practices** in line with the requirements of the new National Curriculum and all parents will have been informed of these changes at **parent consultations**. We encouraged children to be present at these

important meetings and I was delighted to see such a big turnout. We also held a **GPS (Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation) parent workshop** this term in order to explain to parents how the new writing curriculum is structured and outline how much more demanding it is of children. We had a wonderful turnout with over 60 parents attending over the two sessions.

We held our first **House v House Quiz** competition, which was hotly contested and was won by Dyke House. All teams were awarded with certificates and the winners received medals and a trophy.

As a school community we provided, thanks to your generosity, a large collection of food stuffs for the **Burgess Hill Foodbank**.

We have completed the construction of a dedicated **Art and Design Technology room**. This is now being used by all classes for cooking, DT and art lessons.

You will also have noted that the first part of our **sensory garden**, the outdoor classroom has been completed and further development is planned for next term. This is just a snapshot of course, and we are constantly improving what we do and how we do it.

### Locality

The local schools have several initiatives underway this year. They include a Burgess Hill wide **maths project** to support as well as spread excellent practice in all schools. We will also be taking part in **Get Caught Reading** which has become an annual fixture. This is only an example of what is going on between schools locally but it gives you a flavour of the work that goes on behind the scenes between our local schools.

If you have any comments or suggestions please do make an appointment to speak to me.

Best regards

**Mr P Newbold, Headteacher**

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

### Year 3 – Battles and Bangs

Roman Empire, battles and volcanoes have all captured the children's imagination this term in

Year 3. The children immersed themselves in a Roman Day with a visit from the Rainbow Theatre and dressed for the part. The children visited Butser Farm and learnt how the Romans lived and made jewellery.



*"I think they did a really good job teaching us how they lived in Roman times. I enjoyed it a lot." - Matty*  
*"The best bit was making Roman tiles. They are called mosaics." Olivia*

### Year 4 – Mysterious Maya

The world of ancient Maya has certainly kept Year 4 busy this term, looking at hieroglyphics, temples, diet, including making chocolate and civilisation. The children visited a Hindu temple where the children had the opportunity to learn to meditate and do yoga. Their final piece of learning had the children in the Art / DT Room making salsa, guacamole, couscous and hot chocolate ending the day with a Mayan feast on the patio where they all got to taste the fruits of their labours.

*"I loved chocolate day. We researched all about it and weighed it. When we had done that, we melted some. I really liked all of the flavours." – Lexi*

*"I really enjoyed the yoga, it was very relaxing! I thought that ringing bells was very fun because they made a lovely sound. The beautiful music was soft and relaxing!"*

*Isabelle G*



### Year 5 – Seas, Storms and Survival

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo has kept Year 5 captivated this term whilst they have been learning all about rivers, seas and survival. A trip to Seven Sisters, a visit from the RNLI and a shipwreck day have all added to making their learning journey interesting and exciting.

*"The teachers and pupils were so well behaved and truly embraced all I had to share"*  
*Mark Chorley, Bedelands Ranger*



### Year 6 – Frozen in Time

Shackleton, polar expedition and all things cold have filled Year 6's days this term with a survival day starting the term off in a wet and muddy January. The children had the opportunity to use our wonderful grounds to build shelters, caving, orienteering and exploring.



*"The best part of the day was orienteering because we got muddy!" Leon*



## Focus on Maths:

This term Southway have been working on how we ensure children respond to the marking and feedback that teachers provide in books. Children now have maths jotter books where they can make mistakes and try ideas out. Alongside this they have formal maths books where presentation is expected to be good. Children are provided with one of three tasks the very next day after they have completed a formal piece of work. The three tasks range from *Reinforce* where practice is clearly needed to *Challenge* where the child needs to extend their thinking and understanding. This practice is already drawing attention from other West Sussex schools.

You will also have received the maths **assessment grids** we are using to track your child's progress and these will provide you with valuable information about what your child is expected to know by the end of the year.



**Parent View Questionnaire.** We would be grateful if you would take 10 minutes to complete the Parent View questionnaire on the Ofsted website, which can be found on the Southway website, Parents, Ofsted section or by searching for Ofsted Parent View.

*Enjoy your  
Easter Holidays  
and see you in  
April*

