



# Southway Update

2014-15

Academic Year



*'Keeping you informed'*





Welcome to the third and final of our parent updates for the academic year 2014-15. I hope you will find it useful.

We have had a very busy year, culminating in our Ofsted inspection in June. The outcome was as we had hoped and the school was rated as **good** overall and **good** in all four inspection categories. We look forward to continuing our journey to 'great' and hope you will continue to be a big part of our future development.

If you do 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 6

At the end of the Spring term Y6 finished their topic of “Frozen in Time”, building sledges and holding races. It was certainly a lesson in aerodynamics and engineering.

As their time at Southway comes to an end the children have been studying “Blood, Bones and Body Bits!” A learning journey designed for the children to learn about themselves through portrait art and learning about the human body. The children had two very successful weeks this term completing their ‘Safer Cycling’ course – congratulations!



Year 6 put on the most fantastic production of ‘Cinderella Rockerfella’ in three performances to parents, friends and family.

The Ugly Sisters were certainly a big hit with everyone!!

As we go to publication, Y6 have



Returned from their residential in Norfolk having worked extremely hard at learning more about themselves and each other.

*We wish them all well in their new secondary schools as they continue their educational journey.*

## Year 5

Have been extremely busy with hatching and releasing butterflies and visiting Burgess Hill School for Girls to see a production of “The Witches”.

The children have also been learning all about life in Ancient Greece, the advent of democracy, Greek warfare and Gods. The children created a book of myths. Mark Chorley, Bedelands Ranger, showed Year 5 the wonders of our school grounds.



## Year 4

Have had a truly out of this world experience this term learning all about outer space. All the children and staff dressed as astronauts, learnt about life in a space station and ate astronaut's "rations".

The Astronomy Dome came to visit and the children loved learning about space and entering the dome to get a sense of what space is like and look at all the stars.



Year 4 also delighted parents and carers with a violin concert showcasing off their musical abilities they have spent this year learning.



## Year 3

Have delved into the depths of "Scoundrels at Sea" to discover how despicable pirates were. A terrible crime was committed when treasure was stolen. The culprit was caught on CCTV and the children had to follow the clues around the school to

discover where the pirates had buried it! Luckily the children were excellent detectives and found the treasure!



As a fabulous finish to their learning the children attending a theatre workshop and put on a production of Treasure Island for parents and carers, learning the play, making scenery and props all in one day!

## Locality Singing Morning

In June, 155 children from around the Locality took part in a Gospel singing morning. The singing was led and accompanied on the piano by Emily Barden, Leader for Singing and Projects for West Sussex Music, who said of the event, 'This was a great opportunity for children across the Burgess Hill Locality to have the opportunity to sing as a massed choir and explore harmony. The sound that they made was soulful, fantastic and full of joy'.



## The Gattons Transition Events

During one of the various visits from The Gattons Year 2 children this year, we partnered them with Year 5 pupils for reading sessions. This provides the children with a "buddy" who will be in Year 6 when they arrive and helps to settle Year 2 in September.

*We look forward to welcoming all the new children and their families to Southway.*



## Eco Warriors



*Well done Eco Warriors!*

Burgess Hill Horticultural Society provided the Eco Warriors with seeds, pots and soil and asked the children to grow marigolds as part of their Summer Show in June. Children from five schools took part and grew their marigolds which were voted for by visitors to the show. Southway's entries came third.

## Sports Day

As always our sports day event was well attended by parents, families and friends, despite the weather deciding not to be very 'sporting'.



Well done Beacon House!

## **Get Caught Reading**

As part of the Burgess Hill Locality Project, Southway enjoyed another successful Get Caught Reading event. Parents, carers and grandparents were invited into school to hear the children read and to share their love of books with them.



## **Focus on Maths:**

The staff of Southway Junior and St Wilfrid's Primary in Burgess Hill worked together on a joint research project. Teachers from both schools visited each others classrooms and shared the very best practice. New ideas were tried out and suggestions for further improvement were made.

Miss Spring gained her MAST (Maths Advanced Skills Teacher) certificate after working with the University of Brighton in her spare time. Well done Miss Spring!



## **Focus on Reading**

We introduced a catch up reading scheme called 'Rapid Reader', an online resource, which has been a big hit with the children and has already had a noticeable impact on children's confidence and ability.

The school has continued to invest in the importance of reading. Our Year 6 SAT results were the highest ever achieved by Southway children and this looks set to continue in the future.

## **Focus on Writing:**

Talk for Writing has continued across the school and staff will be attending an Inset in September on using T4W with non-fiction texts.

Our Year 6 SAT results were the highest ever achieved by Southway children and this looks set to continue in the future.

## **Focus on Handwriting:**

This will continue to be a focus next year as we fully intend to drive standards even higher. We have introduced a handwriting award and Miss Whitman, our new English subject leader has plans to develop this further in September.



# WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED SINCE SEPTEMBER 2014?

## In class / working practises

- New tables and chairs in the communal / cloakroom areas
- Continued the redecoration of the school, with the main hall, dining hall and Y3 corridors being completed during the Summer 2015 holidays
- We have had new lighting fitted throughout the school building
- New blinds have been fitted in classrooms
- The 'small' classroom, where many children are taught in focus groups, has had a brand new 'clever touch' TV fitted.

## The School Grounds

- We have constructed a new story telling garden where teachers can share their love of reading with the children
- Two small meadow areas have been created at the front of the school enabling the children to study bees, bugs and butterflies up close!

## Future plans

- We are planning to construct a boardwalk during the summer break, allowing the children greater access to our large pond, alongside the bird hide.
- We are refurbishing the 'zone' and turning it into a fully equipped and dedicated art and DT classroom.



# ***What we are enjoying about the Summer Term***

***"The best part of the day was our treasure hunt. We succeeded finding lots of booty! "***

Amber (Year 3)

***"I felt a little scared when Blanchbeard's boat appeared in my classroom! But now I think it looks amazing!"***

Athol (Year 3)

***"Emily's piano playing was really good! "***

Daniel (Year3)

***"The sound and performance that the children produced was incredible. They could be heard throughout the school! It was a wonderful morning."***

Mrs Moleton (Music Co-ordinator)

***"I really enjoyed Area Athletics, it was my first time doing sport out of school and I'm proud of Southway!"***

Eva (Year 4)

***"There were amazing actors and phenomenal props. We liked how they turned off the lights and put on creepy music..."***

Year 5 – The Witches production

***"I think there are a few budding actors out there, look out in a few years time! The ugly sisters were amazing! "***

Parent (Year 6 – production)





## Southway Junior School vision

At Southway, we want all our children to .....

Be happy

Be confident

Respect others

Achieve personal success

Respect the world in which they live and

To develop an enthusiasm and thirst for learning.

## Southway Junior School aims

We aim to provide a learning environment which is child centred, creative and challenging

We aim to ensure our children are happy, engaged, hard-working and enthusiastic learners

We think of the school as a community of learners

We recognise the importance of developing individuals' sense of self-worth and self-respect, as well as respect for others, to help them succeed and achieve

We have high expectations throughout the school and aim to foster children's independence as they develop their different skills and have fun whilst learning

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**Have a wonderful summer  
holiday,  
see you in September!**

