



Southway Junior School

# Newsletter

Learning and Achieving Together

January 2025



Dear Southway families,

Last week we welcomed OFSTED inspectors on site to complete a graded inspection of our wonderful school. They looked closely at our curriculum and spoke with all staff, governors and many of our children and parents over two very busy days. We look forward to receiving our finalised report after half term, at which point, we will share the outcomes of their visit. As always, I was incredibly proud of the children and all staff at Southway who were a credit to our school.

Year 3 and 4 children have been out to a Basketball festival this week. The children took part with a number of children from other schools at Haywards Heath College. They learnt so many new skills and enjoyed making new friends. Our Values Visionaries have been busy again collecting questions from classes to ask our local MP Alison Bennet at the next Burgess Hill Youth Council meeting. The children have certainly provided some thought provoking questions to ask. The whole school community are celebrating the Arts in full today. Children from Year 4,5 and 6 and lots of staff off to sing at Young Voices today. Children who have not signed up for Young Voices are taking part in an Art immersion day. I cant wait to see the range of artistic projects undertaken by the children and also enjoy our choir perform at the O2.

Best Wishes *Mrs Smith*

After what had been an extremely busy start to the week, **Year 5** learnt all about Rationing during World War II by looking carefully at different sources of evidence. They also visited the Market Garden and re-enacted 'Dig for Victory'. The children braved the elements and prepared the soil, planted a number of different seeds and watered them in. Fun was had by all!



In PE this week the **Year 3** children were taking part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team in the context of following instructions. Sometimes they had to use non-verbal instructions. They played a variety of PE games including moving equipment as a team using only one finger from point A to point B, then hiding something and guiding their partner to it without using any words and demonstrating great teamwork skills by working cooperatively to move hoops around the circle holding hands, without letting go, alongside many other fun orienteering games. It was great to see a number of children earn their teamwork value sticker during these sessions.



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### More Fun at Playtime!

Year 6 children had lots of fun trying out some new playground equipment earlier this week.



Year 4 have been getting stuck into their Mysterious Maya topic by learning all about their culture and lifestyle, which luckily for us has been exploring chocolate! Through our research in English, we found that the Maya added spices to their chocolate to make it taste better, so we thought we would try some for ourselves. We then voted for our favourite flavours, and turned this information into a bar chart.

### Dates for your Diary

#### January

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> – Y5/Y6 Basketball at H. Heath College

#### February

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> **Childrens Mental Health Week**

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> – Y4 Hands on History Mayan Workshop

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Parent Consultations

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> – Y3 Roman Walk in Burgess Hill (am)

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Parent Consultations

w/c Mon 10<sup>th</sup> – Book Fair in school

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> - Y3 Parents invited in to read with children 2.50-3.05pm

Weds 12<sup>th</sup> – Y6 British Museum Trip

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> – Golden Awards Assembly to invited parents – 10am

Mon 17<sup>th</sup> – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> – Half Term Holiday – School Closed

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – INSET DAY – School Closed

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> – Back to School

### Noticeboard

#### Free School Meals

Any child who is confirmed as eligible for free school meals from 1 April 2025 will be subject to ongoing checks to confirm continued eligibility. If you think your child may be eligible, and to ensure your claim and future funding, please submit your application before the end of March 2025.

Please click [here](#) to submit an application. If you have any queries please email the Free School Meal Eligibility Team at [fsm@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:fsm@westsussex.gov.uk)

#### House Points

Dyke	1135
Beacon	1094
Hill	1063
Cliff	953

#### Attendance

Whole School  
95.7%  
Class with highest attendance from 13<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January  
**Shakespeare 98.6%**



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# Achievements



These children have been busy taking part in lots of out of school activities, including visiting Santa in Lapland, playing rugby, doing Park Runs, playing football, learning to swim, earning awards at Brownies, doing dance exams & taking part in Kumon Maths Club!

## Children's Mental Health Week

Here at Southway we will be celebrating Children's mental Health week from the 3rd-9th February. This year we are exploring the theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself', using the characters from the film Inside Out and our own Zones of Regulation. Throughout the week there will be some fun activities for the children to participate in and we are asking all children on the Friday to come in wearing something cosy that makes them happy - this could be pyjamas, onesies, their favourite tracksuit - whatever makes them smile. We want to encourage embracing self-awareness to build resilience, grow and develop.

Please see below a link to an excellent webinar about Stress and Anxiety but through the lens of a Dyslexic person, delivered brilliantly by an emotions coach with her own lived experience of living with Dyslexia. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xt6tO2YxaaU>