



The Southwater Infant Academy

“Growing, Learning and Succeeding Together”

16th July 2019

Dear Families,

It is with great reluctance, and a sense of incompleteness, that I am writing the final newsletter for this academic year. When we started back in September, no one could possibly have predicted that we would be ending this term in such strange and unprecedented circumstances. Whilst the measures that were introduced by the government way back in March and April were designed to keep everyone safe and look after our very important NHS, they have left many of us with a sense of sadness and frustration. This is certainly not how we had planned to end this year. We have missed the class assemblies, the mini marathon, meeting our new children, celebrating sports days, and enjoying the Year 2 leavers shows as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their learning. Without these important and familiar points in our summer term, it has been hard to accept that we really are coming to the end of the year and preparing to say goodbye for the summer.

What we will hold on to however, are the positive experiences that we have had during these difficult times. The supportive conversations, the messages of thanks, the chances to help each other, the ingenuity and creativity shown by so many in finding solutions, and the care and compassion we have seen from so many within our academy community and beyond. We have seen many learning experiences that our children have had that are just as important as those that may have taken place in a classroom. Learning to play the piano or the guitar, learning to ride a bike without stabilisers, learning how to cook, how to care for animals, and so many more that we have been privileged to share with you through your Tapestry posts. We may finish this year without some of our usual events, but we also finish knowing many of our children a little better through sharing these experiences with you.

When we return in September there will be many challenges and many new routines to learn, but the academy staff will all be there to support our families. There will be time spent getting to know each other again, and settling children back in so they feel safe and secure and are ready to resume their learning. Regardless of the experiences our families have had during lockdown, we will be there to help in whatever way we can, and to do what we do best - nurture and develop your child, encouraging them to be the best that they can be.

Finally, I would like to thank all our incredibly supportive families. You have given so much to us this year - donations and purchases from the wishlist, time helping with trips and visits, attending fundraising events, coming to workshops and information evenings, providing us with valuable feedback, and helping to support your children with all their learning tasks - both in the academy and online. We are, as always, very grateful for all that you do. I would like to wish you all a very relaxing and restful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming Year 1 and 2 back on Monday 7th September, and our new Reception children when we meet you for your Teddy Bears Picnics. We also want to say ‘Goodbye’ and ‘Good Luck’ to our current Year 2 families who move to their new schools next year, we wish you all the very best.

Staffing News

I am sure you will join me in thanking the SIA staff for all their very hard work and dedication over this past year. It has been a challenging one for all the staff, and they adapted amazingly to the sudden arrival of lockdown. They prepared online learning for all the children, responded to questions and posts from families and learned to work in new and very different ways at very short notice.

Some of our families may have noticed a name missing from our teaching staff next year when we sent out the information about new classes. It is with a great deal of sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Curran this year, who has decided not to return to the academy after her maternity leave. Mrs Curran - or as some of

our families may remember her, Miss Short - has been a very valued member of the academy teaching staff for 12 years. She has worked across Year 1 and Year 2, and anyone who has been lucky enough to have her as a class teacher will know how calm and caring she is, and how much she really loves bunnies! While we are very sorry to see her go, we are also very pleased that she will be able to spend more time at home with her family, and wish her all the best.

Some good news, is that we are welcoming some new members to the academy team in September. Miss Isla McCormick will be joining us as a class teacher in Year 1, and some of our families will already know Miss McCormick as she completed part of her training with us in the Spring. We are also welcoming Mrs Lucy Holt as a teaching assistant in Year 2, and Mrs Miranda Hobby as a teaching assistant in Year 1.

Mrs Emma Smith, who teaches and supports across the academy, will not be returning to work at the academy in September, as she is continuing to recuperate and recover at home. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well, and we hope that she will be able to return to the academy in the near future.

September return

With all the changes to routines and procedures for schools needed under the guidance provided to schools by the government, it seemed easier to provide this for our families in a booklet so that you have all the information you need in one place. You should have received this booklet by Parentmail but it can also be viewed on our [website](#). It is very important that all our families read through the booklet, as this explains the measures we are taking to keep your families and staff safe, and what we need our parents and carers to do to help us with this. It is essential that details such as drop off and pick up times are followed as strictly as possible, as these ensure that risks are reduced and that there is less risk of infection from Covid-19. We ask all our families to please support us with these measures, as this will help to keep everyone as safe as possible.

FSIA

It is with huge sadness that we say goodbye to Adele Jones, Sam Lawrence, and Mikaela Passfield from the FSIA team this year. These three incredible ladies have been led the FSIA for the past seven years, organising and managing all the events to raise money to support the academy. There is no doubt that without the energies and time they have dedicated, we would not have been able to buy so many additional resources to support the children with their learning. We cannot thank them enough for all their hard work.

PTFA

We are also very sad to be saying goodbye to Jenny Smith who is stepping down as secretary of the infant and junior PTFA. Jenny has supported both academies through raising money with a very varied range of activities, including some of the whole community events that many of you will know like the fireworks, which have taken a great deal of hard work to organise. On behalf of everyone at the infant academy we wish to thank Jenny for everything she has done to support the schools, and wish her all the best for the future.

As a final fund raising event for the academies this year, the PTFA are running a 'Virtual Balloon Race'. This is a fun, and environmentally friendly, way to support both academies. The race starts on Monday the 20th July, and finishes on Friday the 31st July, and you can track your balloon throughout the race to see how it is doing. Each balloon costs £3, but the closing date for entries is tomorrow, the 17th July, so you need to get in quick if you want to take part! There are some great prizes that can be won by the winners of the three balloons that have virtually travelled the furthest!

Summer Reading Challenge

Many of our families will have taken part previously in the summer reading challenges that are held each year. With the restrictions in place due to Covid-19, the challenge this year will be an online one. Children can still take part to earn rewards, but will need to sign up online. All the information you need is here <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> so we hope you all enjoy reading and discovering new books over the summer.

Wildlife Photo Competition

Please find attached a poster advertising a photographic competition being run by St Margaret's Church in Warnham. The competition launches on the 1st August, and will be a great way to get out with your children and discover the amazing wildlife in our area. Details and how to enter are on the attached poster.

Safeguarding

Can we please remind our families of the importance of monitoring children's online activity. Children should not be playing games with a rating above their age, especially 18 rating, as the content is extremely unsuitable for children and can cause anxiety and upset for some time afterwards. We would also recommend that children are not set up with accounts for online platforms or Apps such YouTube, and Tick Tock, as these enable other people to start following or linking with children.

Information and details about how to keep your children safe can be found on the Internet Matters website <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Yours sincerely



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National Teaching School
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Sept			
Thursday		03	INSET
Friday		04	INSET
Monday		07	Year 1 and 2 children return to school
Wednesday		09	Stay and Play for half of EYFS
Thursday		10	Stay and Play for half of EYFS
Friday		11	EYFS children start am or pm
Oct			HALF TERM Monday 26th to Friday 30th
Nov			
Monday		04	INSET
Tuesday		03	Children return to school
Dec			
Friday		18	Last day of term
Jan 2021			
Monday		04	Children return to school
Feb			HALF TERM Monday 15th to Friday 19th
Monday		22	INSET
Tuesday		23	Children return to school
Apr			
Thursday		01	Last day of term
Monday		19	Children return to school
May			
Monday		03	Bank Holiday
			HALF TERM Monday 31st to Friday 4th June
June			
Monday		07	Children return to school
July			
Friday		23	Last day of term for children

Key Dates for 2020 / 2021

