



# The Southwater Infant Academy

## “Growing, Learning and Succeeding Together”

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Families,

Many of you will be thinking about how the changes that have come about as a result of Covid will affect the usual events that we would run at the infant academy. We are adapting many of these events to ensure that you can still enjoy them virtually, however some of these events were also used to raise funds to support those in need. During these difficult times, when charities are struggling as they are unable to operate or raise funds in the way they normally would, we feel it is even more important to support them. At our Harvest Assemblies in October, we would normally collect food donations for the food bank at Horsham Matters. In the past our families have been extremely generous in their donations, for which we have been very grateful. This year, we would like to request that, in place of the usual donations, our families make a donation via Just Giving to Horsham Matters to support them with the amazing work they do. It does not have to be a large amount, anything you can give would be very gratefully received. The link to the Just Giving page for Horsham Matters is below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/horshammatters-appeal2020>

Please also be aware that the Horsham foodbanks are there to support should you feel that you need some extra help at any time. During lockdown they were operating on a delivery only service, however we have been informed that they are now starting to reopen some centres. An update from Horsham Matters regarding the foodbank arrangements is below.

*As you will be aware, since 17<sup>th</sup> March this year, we have been operating a home delivery service for our foodbank clients, covering the whole of Horsham District. We have completed approximately 1200 deliveries during that time, plus an extra 70 deliveries per week during the summer holidays.*

*We are now in a position to start reopening a few of our foodbanks over the next couple of weeks as follows:*

*Horsham United Reform Church – Monday 2.30-4.30 pm from 28.09.20*

*St Andrews Roffey – Thursday 10 am to Midday from 08.10.20*

*Quaker Meeting House Horsham – Friday 1-3 pm from 09.10.20*

*Trinity Centre Storrington – Thursday 10 am to Midday – start date TBC*

*These sessions will be appointment only, and clients will be booked in by us. Clients should not just turn up – if they do, they will be directed to call our office. All locations will be Covid secure.*

*When contacting the foodbank, you may be directed to a foodbank collection point, as opposed to having food delivered (mainly clients who live nearby or have transport). This will help us to manage client expectations, and start reducing the number of home deliveries we are doing. **Unless there are exceptional circumstances, any client that can access the foodbank collection point, will be expected to do so, as home delivery will not be an option.***

## Drop Off and Pick Up

Thank you again to all our families for your support with wearing face masks and trying to arrive as close as possible to your designated time slot. The weather has definitely moved into Autumn now, and cold and rainy conditions are likely to become the norm going forwards! With this in mind, we will be taking the children in as close to their drop off time as possible in the morning, especially when it is as wet as it was this morning. We will not leave before your child's drop off time, and will aim to wait for a couple of minutes afterwards, however we don't want children standing in cold and wet conditions for long. Please be assured that if you arrive just after your child's line has gone, they will not be classed as late and we will take them in to join their class as soon as we can.

Can we also please remind all our families to ensure that your child comes to the academy with a coat every day, as rain can appear quite suddenly - even when the sun is shining in the morning. It is also absolutely fine to send your child in wellies to school and to pop their school shoes in their bag. We very much appreciate the efforts that families are going to to walk whenever possible, and puddles are sometimes a little too tempting to ignore!

## Photos

Please can we have any outstanding photo orders returned to the academy as soon as possible and before the deadline of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Any orders placed after this will incur an extra charge. If your child has an order in their bookbag which has not been taken out by a staff member, please let either myself, Mrs Dilling or Mrs Ashbolt know at the gate or pop a note into your child's Reading Journal so we know to check!

## Parents Evenings

The arrangements for Parents Evenings are currently still under review. West Sussex will be providing guidance for schools on this area in the next week or two, so we will confirm our plans when we have received this information.

## Harvest

As I mentioned above, we will unfortunately not be able to hold our usual Harvest Assemblies for our families to come and watch this half term. We recognise that this is an important part of our learning however, so class teachers will be preparing Harvest Videos to share with parents and carers on Tapestry. Each video will show the children singing some Harvest Songs for you, and this will be done separately for each class to ensure the class bubbles do not mix. We will let you know when these are finished and available to view.

## Science Day- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Next week the children will be taking part in Science Day. As this can be a messy day, we ask that the children come to school in their own clothes - ideally something that isn't special and can get messy. Some Year Groups have also asked for a few donations of bits and pieces to support with the day's learning. These requests, where they have been made, will be on Tapestry. We look forward to sharing all the excitement with you on Tapestry next week.

## FSIA

We are pleased to announce that Emma Barden will be our new Chair supported by Hannah Borrett as Vice. The team are very busy collecting and preparing the Christmas Cards ready to come home for you to view and purchase online. This may seem a long way in advance, but the ordering and printing process takes a little while. The FSIA have always supported us brilliantly, and have raised substantial sums over the past few years which have been essential in providing much needed resources and materials for the academy. As we do not anticipate being able to hold our usual FSIA Christmas and Spring Fairs, we are aware that this will impact the fundraising that takes place over this academic year. We hope that fundraising activities, like this one, will go some way towards making up for this.

## Amazon Wish List

We would like to inform all our new families about our Southwater Infant Academy Amazon Wishlist. This is a list, accessible through clicking on the link below, of resources that the teachers have chosen that would help and support our children with their learning. The Wishlist was set up after discussion with other schools in the area who are facing similar financial pressures with school budgets and who have incorporated something similar. Since setting up our Wishlist, we have been overwhelmed with the generosity shown by our families, receiving over £2000 worth of items since we started it. We do not want any of our families to feel under pressure to buy something from the list - we are not expecting every family to purchase an item. This is rather a list of the items that we would love to have for our children, and if you have some spare pennies, and feel that you would be willing to help us improve the learning opportunities for the children here, and item purchased for us would be fantastic. To all our families that have already bought something this term, we are as always very grateful and appreciative of your support. The link to our list is here: <http://amzn.eu/7LFxzGp>

## Safeguarding

As the days get shorter and pick up times get darker, can we ask that families please try and ensure children are as visible as possible. Reflective strips on coats or bags work very well and can help drivers to see children sooner. Can we also please ask all drivers to take extra care when driving through the layby or along Worthing Road. Rain, shorter days and cloudy skies all cause reduced visibility for drivers, and when traffic is bad and families are running late it is easy to make mistakes.

Can we also please ask that parents and carers are considerate in their parking. We have already had the layby partially blocked on more than one occasion by cars parked too close to the layby entrance, which causes anxiety and difficulties for other families. Lintot Square is available for Park and Stride to help relieve the congestion at the front of the academy, and we would much rather that our families took a few minutes longer to find a safe place to stop.

## Uniform Orders

Our uniform supplier has indicated that some items are taking longer to arrive than usual, therefore please take this into consideration when placing an order.

As always, many thanks with your support in everything we do.

Yours sincerely



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