

Welcome Back!



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a fantastic break and enjoyed relaxing in the sunshine with your wonderful children. Hopefully you are feeling refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

We are thrilled to say that all the children have made a very positive start to school and seem to be having lots of fun learning with their new teachers. It has been fantastic to visit each class and see what a positive attitude our children have. We can already see pupils using our school "Learning Characters" (which are on page 4) to grow their brains!

We have also been very impressed with our sixty new Reception pupils who have settled quickly into school routines. As you can see from the photographs on the following pages, they are absolutely delightful and have made a fabulous start to life at Sydenham.

All of the staff are looking forward to working in partnership with you once again to ensure your children have the very best educational experiences. As you know, we try very hard to make school life positive for all members of our school community, but do come and tell us if you think we aren't getting it right or have any suggestions for improvement!



My First Week at School!





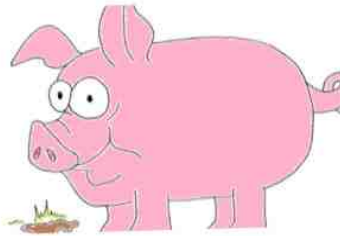
Our Learning Characters

These are the characters we use at school to help us develop a good attitude to our learning and GROW our brains!

Concentrate.



Have a go.



Cooperate.

Be curious.

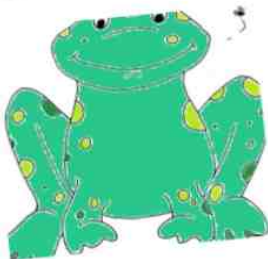


Never give up.

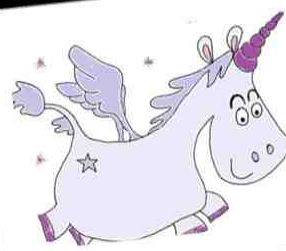


In assembly this week we have been thinking about having a positive attitude to learning so that we keep on trying even if things are hard.

When we think like our characters, we become learning super heroes!

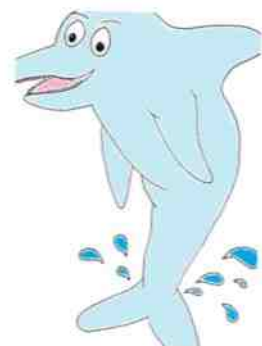


Keep on improving.



Use your imagination.

Enjoy learning.



Learning To Learn

At school we work hard to provide pupils with the skills they need to be good learners. All lessons provide opportunities to develop a “**growth mindset**” – the belief that, if we keep on trying, we can all be successful and learn new things.

At Sydenham Primary School, pupils are taught to:

- Get excited about challenges.
- Keep trying, even when it gets hard.
- Listen carefully to advice.
- Cooperate with others.
- Remember that everybody has to practise if they want to learn.
- Cheer for each other when we work hard!

Growth Mindset Maths Week

This week, all children in Key Stages One and Two have been enjoying growth mindset maths lessons every day. The lessons have been developed by Jo Boaler—the highly regarded Professor of Mathematics Education at Stanford University who has worked extensively with growth mindset pioneer, Carol Dweck.

The lessons very much support our attitude to the teaching of Mathematics—that although pupils need to learn some things by rote (eg, times tables) they also need to access Maths on a much deeper level. As Jo Boaler says, “Mathematics is a beautiful, open, creative, and multi-dimensional subject. But school mathematics can be uninspiring, procedural and one-dimensional – it is all about memorizing methods and procedures. The narrowness of the mathematics taught in some schools is one of the reasons so many students disengage from mathematics. One-dimensional mathematics is not the mathematics of the world and it is not the mathematics of our 21st century workplace. “

If you would like to learn more about the lessons your child has enjoyed and the pedagogy behind them, please visit:

www.youcubed.org/week-inspirational-math/

The website also includes information for parents/carers and downloadable mathematical activities to use with your child.

Pupil Voice



Meet our Y6 **prefects** for the first half of the Autumn Term! These wonderful children will carry out special responsibilities around school including manning the office in the mornings, ordering and organising the playground equipment, helping to supervise younger children, supporting play during Reception lunchtimes and helping with collective worship.

From next week, our Y6 **peer mediators** will also be at work on the playground, helping other children to solve any friendship disputes. In addition, each class elected a school councillor last term and we hope to have our first **School Council** meeting together very soon.

We will also shortly be recruiting new **Learning Detectives** to help monitor learning behaviours in the classroom as well as Y5 **Arts Ambassadors** to organise next year's SPLAT children's arts' festival in Jephson Gardens. Furthermore, our **Wombles** begin their litter picking duties over the next few weeks so there are plenty of jobs to keep pupils busy!



Making a difference, having a say and being heard are an important part of school life. Through this, pupils can feel valued, listened to and contribute to the development of Sydenham Primary School.

Information for the Forthcoming Year

School Meals

A reminder that all infant children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are entitled to a free hot lunch. School dinners for juniors (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) now cost **£2.20**. Please pay using Parent Pay.

Football

At present, we are still able to use the school field. However, once the weather changes and we are confined to the tarmac, we will be implementing a **football rota**. This is to ensure the safety of pupils on the playground and to take account of the fact that we now have 14 classes. If you would like to see the rota, please ask Miss Glenny.

PE Kit

For health and safety reasons it is vital that your child has a full PE kit, **including trainers** in school at all times. Pupils will require black shorts and a white T shirt as well as jogging bottoms and a sweat top when the weather gets colder (as lessons may still take place outside.) All kit must be named and placed in a separate, labelled bag. **Please note that canvas pumps are no longer recommended for sport as they do not provide enough ankle support.** Please provide your child with trainers instead (they do not need to be an expensive, designer brand.)

Early Birds Breakfast Club

A reminder that our school breakfast club runs from 8 o'clock every morning, and now **costs £4.00 per session**, whatever time your child arrives. Children are served breakfast, including toast, cereal, yogurts, bagels, fresh fruit and fruit juice. Food is served until 8.40am. Breakfast club is held in the green, outdoor classroom. If you would like your child to attend, please see Kiran, Anna or Deb in the office.

Lateness and Absence

Classroom doors are open between 8.45 and 8.55am every morning ready for a prompt start to the school day at five to nine. Please remember that lateness causes disruption to a child's learning and can cause children to feel upset and anxious. If you do arrive late, please note that children must come into school via the main reception / office area, and be signed in by an adult. **Due to matters of safeguarding, parents/carers are not allowed in the school building before or after school unless they are accompanied by a member of staff.** Please pick your child up from their classroom door at 3.20pm.

Code Word

If your child is being collected from school by a person who is not a named contact, they will need to share a code word with the class teacher. This is a safeguarding precaution. To obtain the code word, please contact the office and then share it with the person responsible for collection. Please note that the code word changes on a regular basis.

Emergency Contact Details / Text Alert Service

It is vital that the school has up-to-date contact details for all parents and carers in case of an emergency situation. We also need your current mobile phone number so that you don't miss out on our text alert service. Please ensure you have informed the school office of any changes to your address or telephone numbers. Please also provide your email address so you can receive correspondence electronically. Thank you.

Parking

It is crucial that parents and carers do not use the school car park to drop off / collect their children at the start and end of the day. As pedestrians use this entrance / exit, it is highly dangerous for cars to be trying to use it as children are entering or leaving our site. Please park legally and responsibly to ensure the safety of all our children, with due consideration for our neighbours. Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

Home Learning and Book Bags

Home learning is a wonderful way to become involved in your child's education. It also promotes time management and academic discipline as well as being a fun way to practise skills or find out new things.

Your child should have already received a new home learning book. Class teachers will stick homework into your child's book each week. We will try hard to give your child several suggested activities related to their learning in school, so that everyone feels able to achieve something. You may choose to do one or two of the suggested activities, or may find that you have time to do all of them! Children are also expected to read at home on a regular basis and learn any spellings they are given. Children from Y1 –6 must also practise their times tables. Please ensure your child has their book bag and reading book in school every day.

Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any difficulties regarding home learning or need to be able to access resources such as the Internet in school. Home learning books will be sent home on Thursdays and must be returned by Tuesday.

Medical Appointments and Medication

Please try to make medical / dental appointments out of school hours, so that your child does not miss out on any of her / his learning. Thank you, in anticipation of your support.

If your child requires regular medication such as an asthma inhaler or an EpiPen, please inform the school office who will give you the relevant paperwork to complete. Please note that school staff are not allowed to routinely administer prescription medicines (such as antibiotics) to pupils. If your child requires antibiotics three times a day, we recommend that you administer the medicine before school, after school and before bed. Alternatively, you may come in to school and administer the medicine yourself at lunch time.

Parent's Evenings

Thank you to all parents/carers who have come to or are planning to come to our Welcome Meetings. You will have a chance to meet individually with your child's new class teacher on either Wednesday 28th November or Thursday 29th November 2018. These meetings offer an important opportunity to share information with the teacher and keep up to date with your child's academic progress so we would urge you to attend. Letters containing more details and an appointment slip will be sent home later on in the Autumn Term.



Before and After School Clubs

As you are aware, Breakfast Club and Butterflies now run in the green, outdoor classroom. This space provides a dedicated, safe environment for the children and should make dropping off and picking up easier for parents/carers

Lots of families booked places at these clubs but did not take them up this week. We understand that this is probably because it is the first week of term and children are re-adjusting to the change of routine. Please note, however, that as communicated to you last term, **from next week you will be charged for all sessions that you have booked on your contract. It is imperative that we are made aware of any changes to the requirements indicated on your contract to safeguard your children and to enable us to plan for staffing and resources.** Should you wish to cancel a session, please notify the school office by 12 noon each day for Butterflies and as soon as possible for Breakfast Club and we will then cancel your place and you will not be charged.

All fees should be settled by the end of the week as failure to do this may result in your place being withdrawn.

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Special Menu

ITALIAN FOOD

**Census Day
Italian Pizzeria
Lunch Menu**

Thursday 4th October 2018

Pizza with various toppings or

(v) Twisty Pasta with Tomato Sauce

served with

Potato Wedges

Fresh Salad and Sweetcorn

(v) Gelato Ice Cream Tub (Vanilla or Chocolate) or Fresh Fruit

Buon appetito!

the NUTRI GANG
"On a mission for nutrition"

FOOD FOR LIFE

FS 034414



Well done to Y6 JB and Y6 KC who had the highest attendance at school this week with a brilliant 100%

Attendance for other classes this week was as follows:

YR AH	99%
YR RK	99%
Y4 KJ	97%
Y2 KG	95%
Y3 AH	95%
Y1 JL	94%
Y5 CB	94%
Y1 EL	94%
Y5 JvS	93%
Y4 CD	92%
Y2 AP	91%
Y3 JM	89%

Please note that our school attendance target is 97%.

The minimum acceptable attendance, as stipulated by Warwickshire Local Authority, is 95%. Low attendance results in poorer educational progress and attainment.

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Please note that diary dates are correct at the time of publication but they are subject to change, sometimes at short notice, due to matters beyond our control.

Monday 10th September 2018	Y2 Welcome Meeting for Y3 parents/carers in the hall from 5.30—6.15pm.
Tuesday 11th September 2018	Y4 Welcome Meeting for Y3 parents/carers in the hall from 5.30—6.15pm.
Wednesday 12th September 2018	Y5 Welcome Meeting for Y3 parents/carers in the hall from 5.30—6.15pm.
Tuesday 18th September 2018	Y6 KC (Mrs Christensen) class assembly at 9.15am in the hall.
Thursday 20th September 2018	Y6 visit to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to see “Romeo and Juliet.”
Thursday 20th September 2018	Y4 Anglo Saxon Day.
Friday 21st September 2018	YR RK Welcome Meeting at 9.15am in the green, outdoor classroom.
Tuesday 25th September 2018	Y2 KG (Miss Gillespie) class assembly at 10.15am in the hall (please note the later time.)
Wednesday 26th September 2018	Individual school photographs.
Friday 28th September 2018	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—children must bring 50p to wear their own clothes.
Friday 28th September 2018	YR RK Welcome Meeting at 9.15am in the green, outdoor classroom.
Tuesday 2nd October 2018	Y1 JL Reading River at 9.15am in the hall—Y1 JL parents and carers welcome.
Week beginning Monday 8th October 2018	Shakespeare Week—“A Comedy of Errors.”
Tuesday 9th October 2018	York Waits concert for KS2 pupils (Renaissance music.)
Wednesday 10th October 2018	Y6 JB class assembly at 9.15am in the hall (change of date due to the York Waits concert.)
Monday 22nd October 2018	Y2 KG Reading Cafe at 2.45pm in the small hall—Y2 KG parents/carers are invited to attend.

Tuesday 23rd October 2018	Y1 EL Reading River at 9.15am in the hall—Y1 EL Parents/carers are invited to attend.
Tuesday 23rd October 2018	Y2 AP Reading Cafe at 2.45pm in the small hall—Y2 AP parents/carers are invited to attend.
Wednesday 24th October 2018	PTA AGM at 6.00pm—all welcome.
Thursday 25th October 2018	Open Morning for prospective Reception parents 2019/20 at 10.00am.
Friday 26th October 2018	MUFTI (non-uniform) Day—children must bring 50p to wear their own clothes.

Half-term holiday from Monday 29th October—Friday 2nd November 2018

Monday 5th November 2018	Children return to school.
Monday 5th November 2018	Y6 Warwick District Council visit.
Friday 9th November 2018	Y5 CB perform “The Armed Man” at Warwick Arts’ Centre—more information soon.
Monday 12th November 2018	Y3 JM Reading Cafe at 2.45pm in the small hall –Y3 JM parents/carers are invited to attend.
Tuesday 13th November 2018	Y3 AH Reading Cafe at 2.45pm in the small hall –Y3 AH parents/carers are invited to attend.
Week beginning Monday 9th November 2018	Language of the Week—Hungarian.
Tuesday 20th November 2018	Open morning for prospective Reception parents 2019/20
Friday 23rd November 2018	School closed for staff training (INSET) - Talk for Writing training, led by Pie Corbett.
Monday 26th November 2018	School closed for staff training (INSET) - Child Protection training, led by Adrian Over.
Wednesday 28th November 2018	Parent’s Evening from 3.30—7.00pm.
Thursday 29th November 2018	Parent’s Evening from 3.30—5.30pm.
Monday 3rd December 2018	Christmas Crafternoon for Reception families.
Wednesday 5th December 2018	Y2 Christmas show at 9.30am.

Wednesday 5th—Thursday 6th
December 2018

Y6 residential visit to Marle Hall, Wales.

Monday 10th—Wednesday 12th
December 2018

PTA Present Wrap Room

Wednesday 12th December 2018

Y1 Christmas show at 9.30am.

Thursday 13th December 2018

Flu immunisation for pupils in Y1—5.

Thursday 13th December 2018

Reception, Y1 and Y2 visit to Warwick Arts' Centre to see "Wilde Creatures" (1.30pm performance.)

Friday 14th December 2018

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 visit to The Birmingham Repertory Theatre to see "The Wizard of Oz."

Monday 17th December 2018

Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day.

Tuesday 18th December 2018

KS1 Christmas parties (PM.)

Wednesday 19th December 2018

KS2 Christmas parties (PM.)

Wednesday 19th December 2018

Reception Nativity at 9.30am.

Thursday 19th December 2018

Y3/4 carol concert at 2.15pm

Friday 21st December 2018

Y5/6 carol concert at 9.30am.

Friday 21st December 2018

Break up for the Christmas holiday.

Christmas holiday from Monday 24th December 2018 to Friday 4th December 2019

Please note that school is closed for staff training (INSET) on Monday 7th January— online training on health and safety, forced marriage and honour based violence, female genital mutilation and safeguarding.



Free Piano

We have a pre-loved piano, free to a good home. Mrs Murphy (our music teacher) has advised that it is suitable for a beginner although its tuning is not perfect. Please let us know if you are interested but note that, although the piano is free of charge, we are unable to transport it to your home.

Sydenham Super Stars!



Sydenham Super Stars!



Well done everyone on a brilliant first week back. Have a rest over the weekend and we will see you all on Monday.
Best wishes from Miss Glenny and Miss Challand
(Associate Headteachers)