

★ ★ Welcome Back! ★ ★

Dear Parents and Carers,

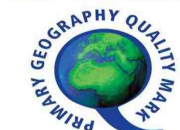
Welcome back to school! We hope you had a wonderful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

I'm pleased 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 parents and carers once again to ensure our children have the very best educational experiences. As you know, we try very hard to make school life positive for all of the 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!







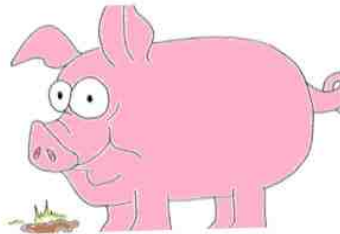
Our Learning Characters

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.

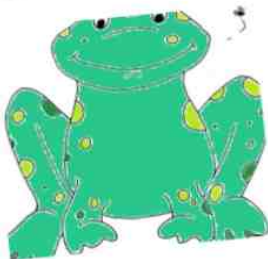


Never give up.

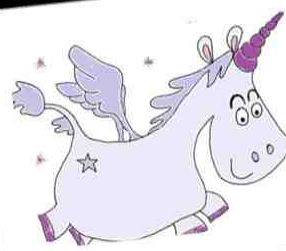


In assembly this week we have been thinking about having a positive attitude to learning so that we keep on trying even if things are hard.

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

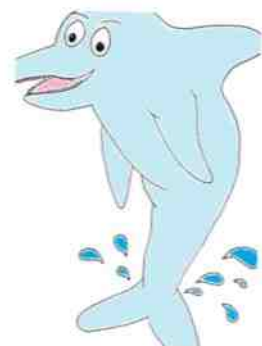


Keep on improving.



Use your imagination.

Enjoy learning.

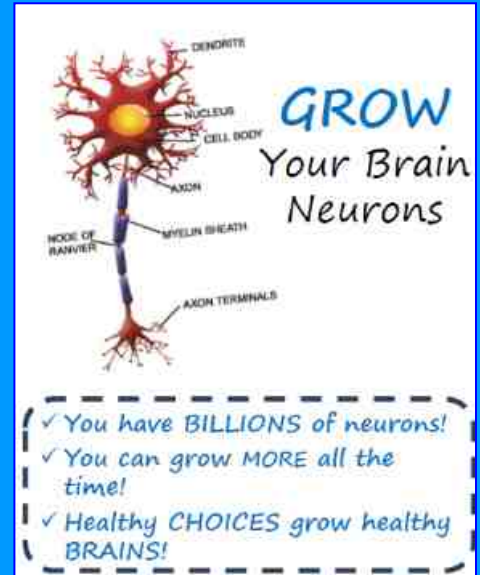


Learning To Learn

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!



The school Learning Characters help children to develop a “growth mindset.” These children were all spotted using the Learning Characters in class and were nominated as fantastic role models. Well done!



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 **£2.15**. Please pay using Parent Pay.

Football

A polite reminder that children should **not** be playing football in the playground before the school day to prevent other school children, toddlers, babies or parents getting hit by balls. Please help us by closely supervising your child / children in the playground before and after school. Thank you, in anticipation of your usual support. Children do not need to bring in footballs to use a break time—we will provide suitable balls.

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.)

Topic Letters

Each class teacher has published a 'Topic Letter' so that you can see what your child will be taught this term. Your child should have brought this letter home this week. Please see your child's class teacher if you would like any additional information.

Early Birds Breakfast Club

A reminder that our school breakfast club runs from 8 o'clock every morning, and now **costs £3.50 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 currently full but, if you would like your child to be added to the waiting list, please see Kiran, Anna or Deb in the office.

Lateness and Absence

All children should be lined up in the school playground by 8.55am for the start of the school day. 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.

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. 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.

Clubs

Free, teacher led, after school clubs for Y1 – 6 will start week beginning Monday 18th October and will run until Christmas. Please apply using the form sent out this week which also contains the dates of each session. You will be notified by text message next week if your child has a place in a club. Please note that places are limited although we try our very best to make the allocation of spaces as fair as possible.

Onside Coaching will also run clubs although there is a charge to attend. For more information and to apply for a place, please see the letter which will be sent out as we receive it from Onside Coaching.

Parent's Evenings

You will have a chance to meet with your child's new class teacher on either Wednesday 18th October (appointments available from 3.30—5.30pm) or Thursday 19th October (appointments available from 3.30—7.00pm.) 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 this half-term.



Language of the Month Malayalam

Thank you to Ishita one of our Young Interpreters, and her family for talking to us in assembly on Wednesday this week about our language of the month, Malayalam. Ishita had prepared a talk and a PowerPoint presentation all about the language which is spoken in the state of Kerala in South India. She told us all about Kerala, the festival of Onam which was also celebrated this week and with the help of another of our Young Interpreters, Alan, Ishita taught us a couple of words and phrases in Malayalam. It was an extra special occasion as her grandmother who lives in Kerala was also able to join us together with her mum and dad who had helped her put together such a wonderful presentation. We were also joined by Esha's mum as Esha and her family also speak Malayalam as a first language. Thank you everyone!



Meeting for Reception Parents

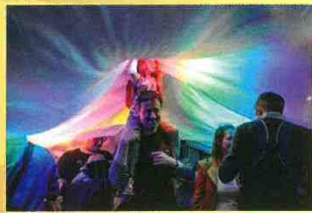
We would like to invite Reception parents to an informal meeting with Ms Knight and Mrs Harrad to learn more about how staff are working with children to support their learning and wellbeing. There will be a separate meeting for each class as follows:

Mrs Harrad's class: Friday 22nd September at 9.30am.

Ms Knight's class: Friday 29th September at 9.30 am.

Please come to the office area and Miss Glenly will take you down to the staffroom for the meeting. Tea and coffee will be available and Ms Knight is promising home made cake!

Fun Things To Try



BIG FISH LITTLE FISH FAMILY RAVE: DANCE // CREATE // PLAY

THE ASSEMBLY

Spencer Street, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3NF

SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER // 14:00-16:30

DJ SHOCK C (THE ECLIPSE / DREAMSCAPE)

Fancy dress theme: "Heroes & Villains" (Optional but encouraged!)

including Parachute Dance, Glitter Cannons, Giant Bouncy Balloons, Bubbles and Club Lighting!

WINNER OF BEST FAMILY EVENT 2014 / 15
National Family Arts Festival Awards

BUY TICKETS:

www.bigfishlittlefishevents.co.uk

Tickets £8.50 Adults // £5.50 Children // Free for under 1's

More on the door if available

[f bigfishlittlefishevents](#) [t BFLEvents](#) [i bflifevents](#)

Aimed at families with 0-6 year olds but older children welcome. We bring a festival vibe with top DJs, Craft Tables, Play Area with Tents and Tunnels, Baby Safe Space with Ball Pool, Colouring Mural, Playdoh Table, Glowsticks and Transfer Tattoos.

Extras: Facepainting, Licensed Bar and cakes!



**Big Fish
Little Fish**
2-4 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE

Why not come down and try Stagecoach Leamington Spa on 16/09/2017 at Trinity School, Guy's Cliffe Ave, Leamington Spa, CV32 6NB and discover what we do!

Your child will experience what it would be like to attend our classes as they take part in three fun & engaging 20-minute taster sessions in singing, dancing & acting.

You and your child will have the chance to meet the Principal and teachers, who will be more than happy to answer any questions.

Come and discover what Stagecoach can do for your child!

W stagecoach.co.uk/leamingtonspa

@ leamingtonspa@stagecoach.co.uk

☎ 01926 702725

f /StagecoachLeamingtonSpaandWarwick

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Diary Dates

Diary dates do sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances. If any date changes, we will always try to notify you via text or letter. However, the following dates are correct at the point of going to press!!

Monday 11th September 2017
Wednesday 13th September 2017
Friday 22nd September 2017
Friday 29th September 2017
Monday 18th October 2017
Wednesday 27th October 2017
Tuesday 10th October 2017
Tuesday 12th October 2017
Monday 16th October—Friday
20th October.
Wednesday 18th October 2017
Thursday 19th October 2017
Friday 20th October 2017
Monday 30th October 2017

Y3 JM start swimming lessons.
Y3 AH start swimming lessons.
Meeting for YR AH parents/carers at 9.30am.
Meeting for YR RK parents at 9.30am.
Teacher led, after school clubs begin.
Photographer in school to take individual portraits.
Flu vaccinations for YR—4 (more information soon.)
RSC workshop and performance to Y4 pupils.
No clubs (except Breakfast Club and Butterflies) this
Week.
Parent's Evening from 3.30—5.30pm.
Parent's Evening from 3.30—7.00pm.
Break up for the half-term holiday.
School closed—INSET (staff training with the RSC.)

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Tuesday 31st October 2017
Tuesday 31st—Friday 3rd October 2017

Tuesday 7th November 2017
Wednesday 29th November—Friday
1st December
Wednesday 6th December 2017
Wednesday 13th December 2017
Monday 18th December—Friday
22nd November
Wednesday 20th December 2017
Thursday 21st December 2017
Friday 22nd December 2017
Friday 22nd December 2017

Children return to school.
No clubs (except Breakfast Club and Butterflies) this
week.
Y5 visit Pizza Express.
Y6 residential to Marle Hall, Wales.

Y2 Christmas performance at 9.30am.
Y1 Christmas performance at 9.30am.
No clubs (except Breakfast Club and Butterflies) this
week.
YR Christmas performance at 9.30am.
Y3/4 music concert for parents at 2.30pm.
Y5/6 music concert for parents at 9.30pm.
Break up for the Christmas holiday.

INSET (Staff Training) Dates

Please note that school will be closed for staff training on the following dates:

Monday 30th October 2017
Friday 5th January 2018
Monday 4th June 2018
Plus one other date (to be confirmed.)

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
(Associate Headteacher)