



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a wonderful break with your lovely children and feel refreshed and ready for the new academic year.

All pupils 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 the "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.

It has been a real pleasure this week to work with Miss Challand who has returned after a secondment as acting Associate Head at Lighthorne Heath Primary School. Miss Challand will be working as a second Associate Head alongside myself and Mrs Westwood, helping to run our growing school.

All of the staff are looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure our children have the very best educational experiences. We try very hard to make school life a positive experience 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 Day At School!



# Sydenham Primary School Newsletter



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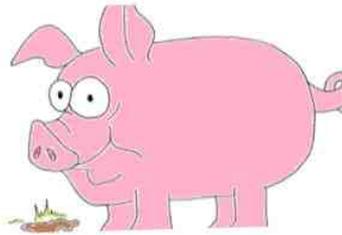
# Our Learning Characters

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.



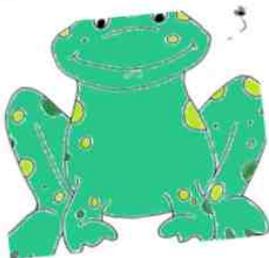
Never give up.



In assembly this week we have been thinking about the characteristics of a successful learner.

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

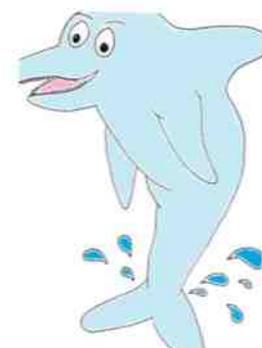
Enjoy learning.



Keep on improving.



Use your imagination.



## 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) cost £2.10.

### Footballs

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.

### Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 will begin their swimming lessons at Newbold Comyn leisure centre next week. Miss Martin's class will swim every Monday (beginning September 12th) and Miss Ball's class will swim on a Tuesday (beginning September 13th.) The children will be travelling by coach. Swimming is a compulsory part of the curriculum, so please ensure your child has a swimming costume and towel with them. Lessons will cost £3.50 per week

### Library

For those parents and carers who have children that are new to the school, please note that we have a computerised library system at Sydenham. Staff will be scanning new children's thumb prints so that they can access their library account. Please contact your child's class teacher if you would like any further information about this system.

### 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 today. Please do not hesitate to 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 / session**, whatever time your child arrives. Children are served breakfast, including toast, cereal, croissants, eggs, bacon sandwiches, yogurts, fresh fruit, tea and fruit juice. Last food served at 8.40am. Please see Sarah, Kiran, Anna or Deb in the school office if you would like to book your child a place.

### Lateness and Absence

Please note that all children should be lined up in the school playground at 8.55am for the start of the school day. Please remember lateness causes disruption to all the children'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.

### 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

Please park responsibly and legally **outside** the school when dropping off and collecting your child. Please show consideration for local residents and the safety of all children and families. Owing to the potential danger occasioned by the numbers of children and families using the school gates and the additional site traffic, you are reminded that it is absolutely

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 already have 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! Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any difficulties or concerns, 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.

Children will still be required to read regularly at home with you and given regular spellings to learn. Please make sure that your child brings his / her book bag to school every day. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any further queries or concerns about home learning.

**Medical Appointments**

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.

**Term dates**

**Autumn term 2015**

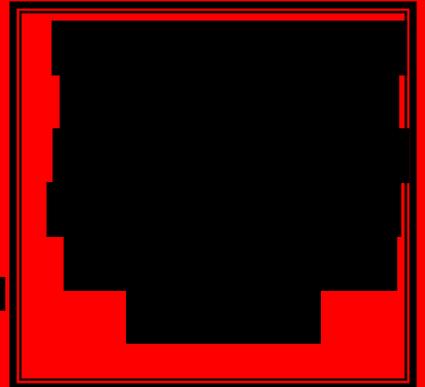
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**Spring term 2016**

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

**Summer term 2016**

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]



## Clubs

All children in Y1—Y6 should have brought home a letter today explaining the clubs that are running this half-term. If your child would like to attend a club, please complete the form on the letter and return it to the class teacher. We will allocate places next week and **inform you via text if your child has a place at a club**. We try to make this a fair process and hope to ensure that every child gets at least one club of their choice. Now we have 360 pupils, this can be tricky and not everybody can have their first choice club—thank you in anticipation of your understanding over this matter. Thank you also to the teachers who are generously running these clubs after school.

## Staff changes

As well as welcoming back Miss Challand as a second Associate Head Teacher, we also say hello to Miss Martin who is teaching Year Three. Three wonderful new Teaching Assistants join our team: Mr Sidgwick (Year 2,) Mrs Quantrell (Year 3,) and Miss Hover (Year 6.) All new staff are a fantastic asset to our school.

# Parent Pay

*Dear Parents,*

*We would like to say a very big thank you to those parents who have already started using ParentPay either to log on and activate their account or to make on line payments. We have already noticed the impact of having less cash in school.*

*If you would like any help in activating your account or require any training in making an online payment please call in to the school office where Sarah will be happy to assist you. If you have mislaid your letter with your username and password, we can supply you with a duplicate letter upon request.*

*We have some parents who have expressed an interest in making payments via a local Paypoint (McColls or Asda) and if you would like to use this service, please let the office know and we can order you a paypoint card.*

*As we are entering all payment items on to Parent Pay you can log in to your account and check if you have any outstanding balances and check the payments you have made. We urge you to log on to check your account regularly as if you do not agree with any of the outstanding balances we need to know as soon as possible.*

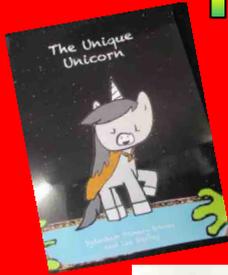
*The school office will continue to send regular texts regarding outstanding monies for dinners, swimming, trips, breakfast and butterflies etc. If you think there is any discrepancy after receiving a text please let the school office within 5 days in order that we can amend your account. If you do not contact us within 5 days after receiving a text we will assume you agree with our records.*

*Once again many thanks to everyone who has started to use our new online payment system and please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any help.*

*Best wishes,*

*Sarah Beck( (business Manager)*

# The Sydenham Book



Last year the whole school wrote and published a book called "The Unique Unicorn" which celebrated diversity and the fact that difference is a wonderful thing! The story and pictures were all created by the children, guided by local author Lee Sterrey. As you can see from the newspaper report below, we even made it into the local press.

The Observer Series, Thursday July 21, 2016 www.leafington

## Schools News

# Pupils go into print

THEY certainly have the gift of the gab at a Leafington school - and they have celebrated the fact by publishing a book.

Sydenham Primary School has more than 300 pupils speaking a combined 25 languages.

And when children's author Lee Sterrey visited and offered to help them write a book, staff and pupils knew there was only one topic they wanted it to focus on - celebrating their variety of cultures and languages.

The Unique Unicorn follows the story of a unicorn who feels different from all of the other unicorns on her planet. She then meets an alien who takes her to Sydenham Primary where she celebrates her uniqueness.

The story was the creation of both the author and pupils.

Lee - whose other books include Doyley the Dormouse and The Buttercup Game - said: "The biggest demand of the school was how to include all 310 pupils, which certainly created a challenge.

"The teachers were insistent that every child should be involved, such is the ethos of the school."

To help create the book, Lee - who lives locally - took a week of annual leave from her job at IBM and spent each day at the Calder Walk school.

She held a number of workshops, discussions, story-board and acting sessions, involving every child at the school.

The result is a book which is also full of 430 pieces of artwork and photos by the children to accompany the story.

She said: "We found a way to do it and I think the results are a tribute and celebration of Sydenham's achievements."

The book costs £6.99 and is available from Amazon.

**Author Lee Sterry is joined by Sydenham Primary pupils and assistant head teacher Carol Glenny in showcasing their diverse book. 29.016.003.leaf. jm1**

The book was entered in to a national competition run by the NASUWT teacher's union. The competition, "Arts and Minds", celebrates cultural diversity and, this week, we received a letter and certificate explaining that **our book has been awarded a special commendation!** The judges of the competition said: ***"This is an amazing book. It looks at the importance of communication in a fun way and is an accessible read. We love the idea of the unicorns changing colour when they take on different ideas. It's nice to think this is a whole school project and the product of something that is a lot bigger. A truly fabulous piece of work."***

You can see the certificate we were awarded on the next page.

There are still have some copies of the book available to buy from school, priced £5 (you can buy the book on Amazon but it will be more expensive.) In addition, French and Roumanian translations of the book are now available to buy on Amazon. Thank you to Yeleen's mum and Tudor's mum for providing the translations.



arts  
&  
minds

Celebrating Cultural Diversity in the United Kingdom

## SPECIAL COMMENDATION

Awarded to Sydenham Primary School  
in recognition of their entry  
'The Unique Unicorn' in the  
2016 **arts & minds** competition

signed: Johns Keates  
General Secretary NASUWT

**NASUWT**  
The Teachers' Union

*The largest teachers' union in the UK*

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Sponsored by



# Diary Dates

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

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Y3 JM swimming lessons begin.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Y3 CB swimming lessons begin.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Y3 visit to Pitt Rivers Museum.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Y5 local history walk and visit to The Pump Rooms.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Y6 science visit to Jephson Gardens' hot house.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Y1 topic/dressing up day – Superheroes.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2016	Y2 to Coventry Transport Museum and Herbert Gallery.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2016	Y4 to the Food For Life farm, Kenilworth.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Buddhist monk visiting Y5.
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	MUFTI day (non-school uniform) – bring 50p.
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Open morning for prospective parents at 10:00 am.
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Y1 Share-a- Book from 2:45 – 3:15pm. All Y1 parents and carers welcome.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Y2 Share-a- Book from 2:45 – 3:15pm. All Y2 parents and carers welcome.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Joy Pannu (Police Community Support Officer) visiting YR.
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Language of the Month Day: celebration of Hindi language and culture.
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Language of the Month assembly – all parents/carers are welcome at 9:15am.
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Y2 class assembly – all Y2 parents/carers are welcome at 9:15am.
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Joy Pannu (Police Community Support Officer) visiting Y1 MB.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Joy Pannu (Police Community Support Officer) visiting Y1 JL.
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Wriggle Dance Company visiting Y1.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Y1 visit to Batsford Arboretum.
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Parent/Carer learning Review Meetings with teachers, 3:30 – 5:30pm.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Parent/Carer learning Review Meetings with teachers, 3:30 – 7:00pm..
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016</b>	<b>Break up for half-term holiday.</b>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	INSET Day (school closed for staff training.)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2016	Children return to school.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2016	Open afternoon for prospective parents at 1:45pm.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2016	Y5 visit to The Space Centre, Leicester.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	YR, Y1 and Y2 visit to Warwick Arts Centre to watch a performance of "The Stick Man."

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	MUFTI Day (non-school uniform – bring 50p.
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Y6 residential visit to t Marle Hall.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	Scholastic book fair in school.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2016	Book fair in school
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016	Book fair in school.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016	Y6 return from Marle Hall.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Y3 JM, last swimming lesson.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Book fair in school.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Y3 CB, last swimming lesson.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Book fair in school.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	YR perform “It’s A Baby!” – all YR parent/carers welcome at 9:30am.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Y1 perform “Angel Express” – all Y1 parent/carers welcome at 2:15pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Recorder and choir performance to parents and carers at 9:15am.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Y2 perform “Christmas With Aliens” – all Y2 parents/carers are welcome at 9:30am.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Class Christmas parties, PM.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 visit The Birmingham Repertory Theatre to watch a performance of “Treasure Island.”
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016</b>	Break up for the Christmas holiday.

# School Photographs



Brush up your smiles because the school photographer is visting to take individual portraits of each child on **Wednesday 28th September 2016**.



Well done everybody on a brilliant first week back at school!  
Enjoy the weekend and see you all on Monday.

Best wishes from  
Miss Glenny and Miss Challand  
(Associate Head Teachers)