

Looking At Learning



What happens at Sydenham Primary School after the bell rings at 8.55? Let's take a peep behind the scenes...

In their Literacy lesson, children in Year 4 are preparing to write a piece of persuasive text all about owning a pet dragon!

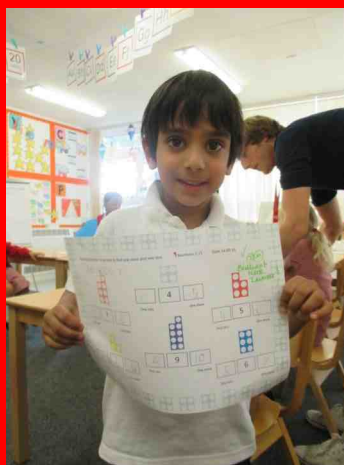


Year 6 are learning about place value in their Numeracy lesson.



In Reception, whilst some children are enjoying their Busy Learning, others are working with Mrs Birk and Mrs Millican or they are having a Music lesson..





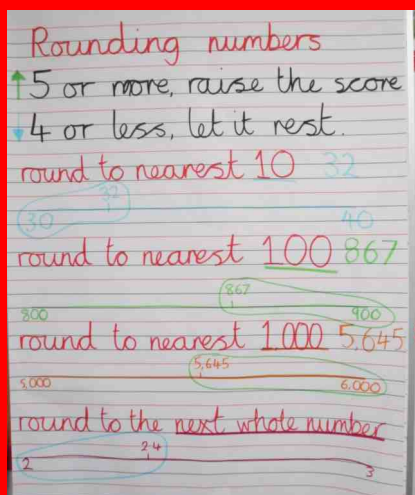
Children in Year One are using Numicon and a hundred square to help them find one more and one less.



Meanwhile, in Year Two, pupils are completing addition and subtraction calculations.



Pupils choose a mild, spicy or hot task to complete independently in each lesson. They are supported in their learning by "success criteria" which break each task down into a series of manageable steps.





In Year 5, pupils are working with their talk partner to partition numbers.



Year 6 are going on a trip to the hot house in Jephson Gardens.



Years 3 and Four are enjoying their singing assembly, led by Mrs Murphy.

What an action packed day, full of learning!



A healthy diet helps to make a healthy brain! It's fruit time in Key Stage Two.

Play time!



In the dining hall, Key Stage One are enjoying their lunch..



In the afternoon, Year One are learning to play hockey with Onside Coaches.



Learning To Learn!

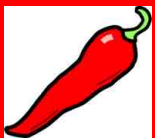
At school we work hard to provide pupils with the skills they need to be good learners. All lessons provide opportunities to develop a “**growth mindset**” – the belief that, if we keep on trying, we can all be successful and learn new things.

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!



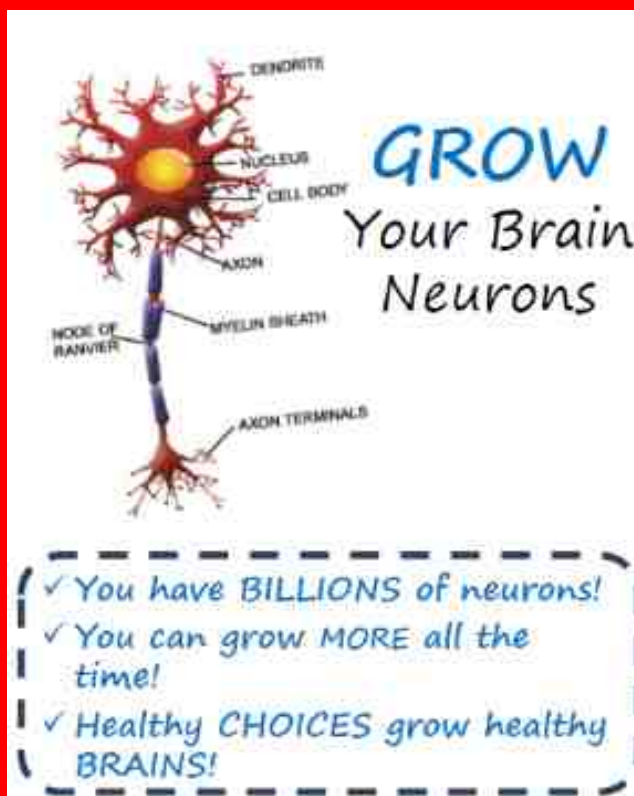
Pupils use the **Learning Characters** to help develop these skills.



They also take **The Chilli Pepper Challenge** in each lesson by choosing, with the guidance of the teacher, a mild, spicy, hot or vindaloo task to complete.



In addition, pupils work with a different **Talk Partner** each week, sharing their ideas and learning to cooperate with a range of people.

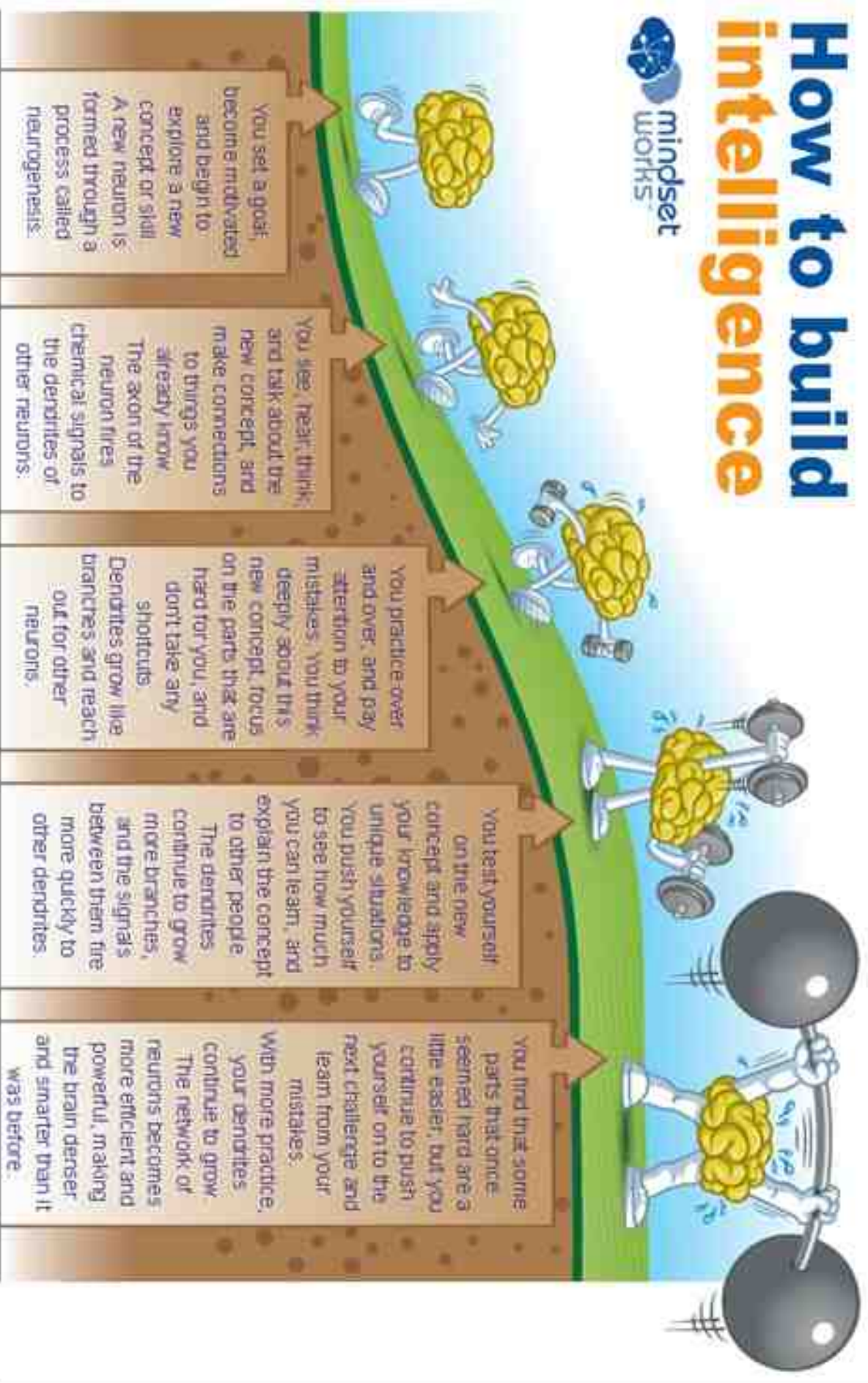


Research has shown that intelligence is not fixed at birth—we can all GROW our brains!

For more information about developing a growth mindset, visit Carol Dweck's Brainology website at:

<http://www.mindsetworks.com/>

How to build intelligence



Homelearning: get involved with your child's education!



Research shows that pupils are more likely to fulfil their academic potential when parents value education and actively become involved in their child's learning.

Taking an interest in homework is one way to support your child's progress and help them to achieve well at school.

Every Thursday, your child will be given their homelearning book containing the tasks they must complete by the following Tuesday. Teachers try hard to make these tasks fun, interesting and accessible for all pupils. Here are some top tips to help you become involved with homework:

- Try to provide a quiet space for your child to use when completing their homelearning. This will help them to concentrate and produce their best work. Encourage them to sit at a desk or dining room table so that their handwriting is neat and tidy.
- Establish a routine. This will encourage your child to be organised and is good preparation for secondary school.
- Sit with your child and talk to them about their homework. Try to explain the task if they don't understand. If you are confused, talk to your child's teacher – they will be more than happy to clarify the task.
- Try not to do the homework **for** your child! Encourage them to have a go by themselves.
- Remember that your child has been issued with a library card which entitles them to borrow up to ten free books from Leamington library. This can be helpful if your child needs to research a topic.
- Practise spellings and times tables with your child as often as possible. Mastering these basic building blocks can make a massive difference to your child's learning.
- Read with your child every day and don't forget that bed time story!
- **Remember – even though homework can sometimes be stressful as a parent, becoming involved and taking an interest in your child's education DOES make a positive difference! You are your child's most important teacher.**



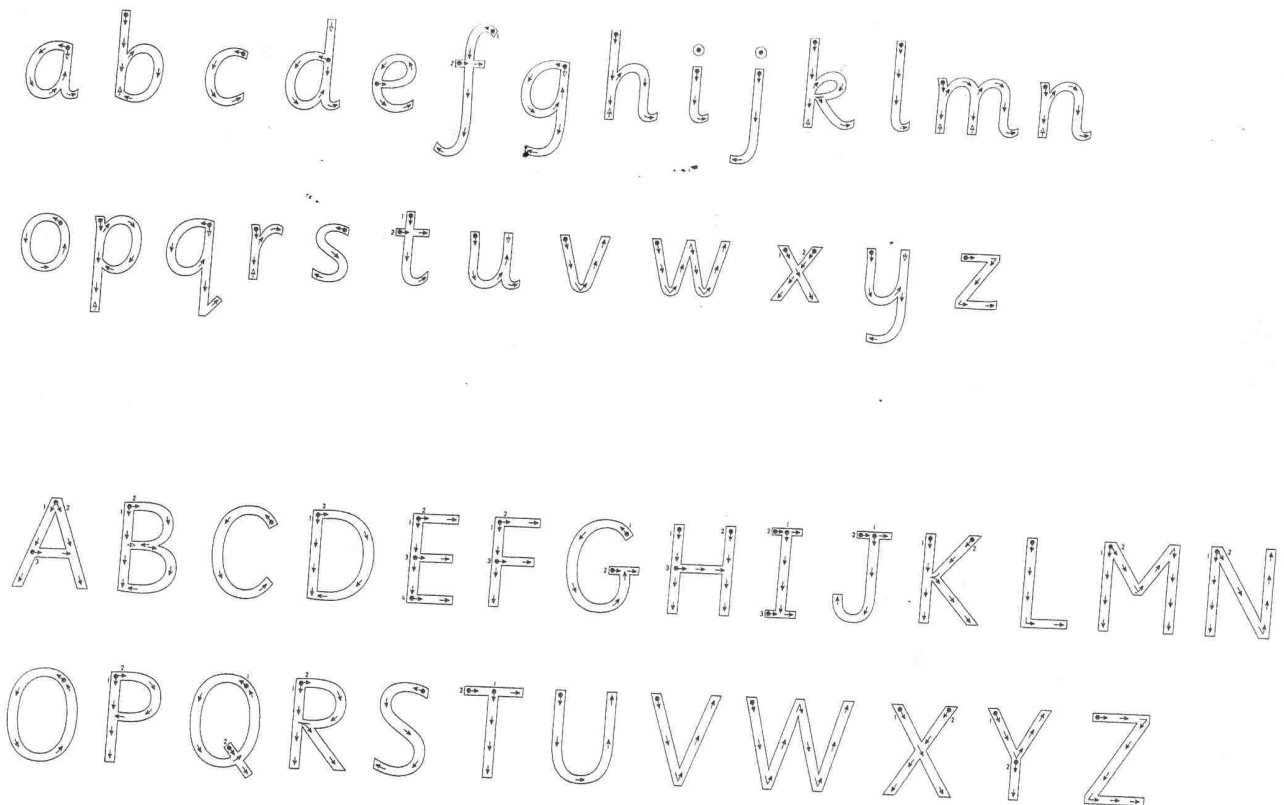
Thank you for your support!



Handwriting News

We have just made a significant investment in new materials to improve pupils' handwriting. From now on, across the whole school, we will be using the Pen Pals handwriting scheme. This includes lots of fun, physical warm-ups to prepare for writing, interactive resources and clear progression towards joined handwriting from Reception to Year 6.


Below, you can see the upper and lower case letter formation which we will be expecting children to use. We will be sending out more information soon, explaining how you can support your child at home with handwriting.



Butterflies After School Club

Further to our text message informing parents/carers that this club is currently full, we have a number of families who are in need of a place. If you have returned a contract and no longer require your place or if your original choice of days has changed, can you please inform the office as soon as possible.

Some families have booked a place but their child has not yet attended. We have made a note of those families who have given us the date in which their child will start this term. However for those families who have not been in touch we may have give priority to those families who are in need of a place immediately.



E Safety—Facebook

We understand that children are very keen to use social networking sites to communicate with one another and that there may be some children at school who are currently using Facebook or other social media sites and have created their own accounts.

We would like to make you aware of the following information which we have copied from the Facebook website:

“Statement of Rights and Responsibilities Registration and Account Security

Facebook users provide their real names and information, and we need your help to keep it that way. Here are some commitments you make to us relating to registering and maintaining the security of your account:

- You will not provide any false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself without permission.
- You will not use your personal profile for your own commercial gain (such as selling your status update to an advertiser).
- **You will not use Facebook if you are under 13.”**

“Facebook Privacy Policy

No information from children under age 13. If you are under age 13, please do not attempt to register for Facebook or provide any personal information about yourself to us. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under age 13, we will delete that information as quickly as possible.”

We are sure that you will agree that the rules are clear and that any primary school child with a Facebook account has clearly broken these rules and supplied false information in setting up their account.

We urge you to have a discussion about Facebook with your child and take appropriate action where necessary. The BBC website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/online/safety>) has links to many resources associated with e-safety, some of which we use in school. I am sure that I do not need to remind you of the potential vulnerable situation children can put themselves in when using social networking sites such as Facebook inappropriately. In creating an account without the right privacy settings children can very easily make personal information available to anyone.

Please note that these rules also apply to other social networking sites such as Instagram and Snapchat.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2016 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 19 th September 2016	Y1 topic/dressing up day – Superheroes.
Friday 23 rd September 2016	Y2 to Coventry Transport Museum and Herbert Gallery.
Friday 23 rd September 2016	Y4 to the Food For Life farm, Kenilworth.
Wednesday 28 th September 2016	Buddhist monk visiting Y5.
Wednesday 28 th September 2016	School photographs – individual portraits.
Friday 30 th September 2016	MUFTI day (non-school uniform) – bring 50p.
Wednesday 5 th October 2016	Open morning for prospective parents at 10:00 am.
Thursday 6 th October 2016	Y1 Share-a- Book from 2:45 – 3:15pm. All Y1 parents and carers welcome.
Friday 7 th October 2016	Y2 Share-a- Book from 2:45 – 3:15pm. All Y2 parents and carers welcome.
Friday 7 th October 2016	Joy Pannu (Police Community Support Officer) visiting YR.
Tuesday 11 th October 2016	Language of the Month Day: celebration of Hindi language and culture.
Wednesday 12 th October 2016	Language of the Month assembly – all parents/carers are welcome at 9:15am.
Thursday 13 th October 2016	Y2 class assembly – all Y2 parents/carers are welcome at 9:15am.
Thursday 13 th October 2016	Joy Pannu (Police Community Support Officer) visiting Y1 MB.
Friday 14 th October 2016	Joy Pannu (Police Community Support Officer) visiting Y1 JL.
Monday 17 th October 2016	Wriggle Dance Company visiting Y1.
Tuesday 18 th October 2016	Y1 visit to Batsford Arboretum.
Wednesday 19 th October 2016	Parent/Carer learning Review Meetings with teachers, 3:30 – 5:30pm.
Thursday 20 th October 2016	Y1 harvest assembly – all Y1 parents/carers are welcome at 9.15 am.
Thursday 20 th October 2016	Parent/Carer learning Review Meetings with teachers, 3:30 – 7:00pm..
Friday 21st October 2016	Break up for half-term holiday.
Monday 31 st October 2016	INSET Day (school closed for staff training.)
Tuesday 1 st November 2016	Children return to school.
Thursday 3 rd November 2016	Open afternoon for prospective parents at 1:45pm.
Thursday 3 rd November 2016	Y5 visit to The Space Centre, Leicester.
Thursday 24 th November 2016	YR, Y1 and Y2 visit to Warwick Arts Centre to watch a performance of “The Stick Man.”
Friday 25 th November 2016	MUFTI Day (non-school uniform – bring 50p.
Wednesday 30 th November 2016	Y6 residential visit to t Marle Hall.

Thursday 1 st December 2016	Scholastic book fair in school.
Thursday 1 st November 2016	Book fair in school
Friday 2 nd November 2016	Book fair in school.
Friday 2 nd November 2016	Y6 return from Marle Hall.
Monday 5 th December 2016	Y3 JM, last swimming lesson.
Monday 5 th December 2016	Book fair in school.
Tuesday 6 th December 2016	Y3 CB, last swimming lesson.
Tuesday 6 th December 2016	Book fair in school.
Wednesday 7 th December 2016	YR perform "It's A Baby!" – all YR parent/carers welcome at 9:30am.
Wednesday 7 th December 2016	Y1 perform "Angel Express" – all Y1 parent/carers welcome at 2:15pm
Friday 9 th December 2016	Recorder and choir performance to parents and carers at 9:15am.
Wednesday 14 th December 2016	Y2 perform "Christmas With Aliens" – all Y2 parents/carers are welcome at 9:30am.
Wednesday 14 th December 2016	Class Christmas parties, PM.
Thursday 15 th December 2016	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 visit The Birmingham Repertory Theatre to watch a performance of "Treasure Island."
Thursday 15th December 2016	Break up for the Christmas holiday.

Term dates (last week's were incorrect—sorry but Miss Glenny's brain was not working properly!)

Autumn term 2016

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Spring term 2017

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Summer term 2017

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Year One Harvest Assembly

If you are a Year One parent/ carer, we have a new date for your diary—the Y1 harvest assembly on Thursday 20th October at 9.15. All parents and carers of Year One children are welcome.

School Photographs

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



<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/startingprimaryschool>

All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils in state-funded schools can have free school meals.

If you think you receive one of the qualifying benefits we recommend that you still apply. **This will mean your child's school does not miss out on important funding. It may also mean your child will continue to receive free meals after the end of Year 2.** When you successfully apply for free school meals the school will receive at least an extra £900 of government funding, even if your child does not want the meal. This additional funding will be used to help children from lower income families do their very best at school..

Families who receive the following are eligible for Free School Meals:

- Income support
 - Income-based job seeker's allowance (JSA)
 - Income-related employment and support allowance (ESA)
 - Guarantee element of state pension credit
 - Universal credit
 - Both income-cased and contribution-based JSA/ESA if you receive the same amount for both. You should also qualify if you receive both but the Income-based amount is greater, but not if the contribution-based amount is greater
 - Families who are awarded Child Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC, not in excess of £16,190 are also eligible to claim free school meals providing there is no entitlement to Working Tax Credit (unless in respect of a 4-week 'run-on').

You can apply for free school meals at:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>



Parent Pay—a message from Sarah Beck, our school business manager

Dear Parents,

Thank you once again to the parents who have logged on to our new online payment system ParentPay and made payments to school. There are a small number of parents who still have not activated their accounts. If you have lost the original letter with your Username and Password, please call in to the school office and we can give these to you again.

We have provided some user notes for you in the School reception area for making payments and adding siblings to your account. However if you would prefer to come in to school for some help, the office staff will be happy to help you.

A small number of parents have requested pay point cards which we have ordered for you. Please note that these cards only allow you to make dinner money payments. This is a ParentPay restriction and I am currently investigating ways in which you can make payments for trips etc. with a barcode.

We are continuing to see a reduction in cash in school and we aim to become cashless by October half term. **There will still be some items that we have to take cash for, ie, MUFTI days, cake sales, recorders/recorder books etc.** This decision has been made not only to reduce time receiving and recording cash but for the safety of our staff as we were receiving large amounts of cash in school each week. Making payment via Parent Pay also gives parents an instant record and receipt of their payments.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Beck

Business Manager

Sydenham Super Stars!



Photo of the Week...

Here are Y3 JM lining up beautifully in the playground after break. What a wonderful example of good behaviour.

Have a fabulous weekend. See you all next week!

Best wishes

**From Miss Glenny and Miss Challand
(Associate Head Teachers)**