



Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

Em caso de quer ter uma tradução desta informação em Português contacte em secretaria escolar.

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you enjoyed the Summer holidays? We have been blessed with the most amazing weather, haven't we? We're feeling a little relieved to see some rain this morning, as we've been anxious about our new turf shrivelling up and dying in the heat!

We've been thinking about 'New Beginnings' in our assemblies this week. We all love the start of a new academic year, with new hair cuts, shiny new shoes, new school uniform, and there's nothing quite like settling down to write on a clean page in a brand new book! A new academic year is an opportunity for a fresh start and a time to make resolutions about what we hope to achieve over the forthcoming year. What are your child's aspirations for this year?

You will have noticed our own school site's 'New Beginning'! The builders have worked incredibly hard over the Summer holidays to complete Phase 1 (the new Children's Centre) and Phase 2 (school internal works) of our project. There was a huge amount of work to be achieved, and everyone has worked flat out to be ready for the children. There are still a few 'snagging' issues remaining, but the contractors will be starting work on Phases 3 and 4 once the Children's Centre re-locate to their new building at the end of this month. Thank you for bearing with us through all the changes to the site and building; we appreciate that it is not ideal for our children and families, but look forward to a much improved building by Christmas! We also have plans to redecorate the school and re-furbish the children's toilets, on a rolling programme. Our caretaker, Tony Haines, is currently on leave of absence due to pulling all of the ligaments in his leg. We are really missing Mr Haines, and wish him a speedy recovery.

The staff are all looking forward to continuing to work in partnership with all of our parents and carers, to ensure your 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! We have a 'Suggestion Box' in the entrance hall, so please share your comments or any bright ideas with us. Although there were very few suggestions last year, I shall empty the box at the end of each month to read your comments, and feed back via the Newsletter, which will be available to read on the school website every Friday.

A very warm welcome to all of the lovely new children in our Reception Class! They are beginning to settle into school routines really well, and have made a very positive start to school life at Sydenham. We are so proud of how well they have all managed this weekthey are absolutely delightful! We are also pleased to welcome additional new pupils to some of our other classes this term. We will be holding Pupil Performance Review Meetings for parents and carers towards the end of October, so that you can find out about your child's learning and progress in school and get to know your child's class teacher.

Best wishes, Juliette Westwood, Executive Head Teacher



International
School Award
2010-2013



Healthy Schools



SILVER
2008



Information for the Forthcoming Year

Footballs

A polite reminder that children should not be playing football in the infant 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 may bring soft balls into school to use at playtimes, but no hard, leather balls!

Year 4 Swimming

Year 4 will begin their swimming lessons at Newbold Comyn leisure centre on Tuesday 11th September. 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 every Tuesday. 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 has been given one of these to bring 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 per 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 or Deb in the school office if you would like to book your child a place.

I appreciate that this is quite a hike in price from previous years but, unfortunately, we no longer receive any additional funding to subsidise the club, and have had to bring prices in line with other school breakfast clubs in order to cover staffing, food & utilities costs.

Lining Up in the Playground

We appreciate that the infants' playground has been especially busy this week due to all of the additional adults supporting the new Reception children. Staff will be out early on the playground on Monday to show children new lining up position to help ease the 'traffic'!

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. 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! Please note that the car park is for the use of site staff only.

Parking

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. Unfortunately, I have already received a telephone call from one concerned local resident about parents stopping their cars in the middle of the road for children to get out. 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

Research over a number of years in this and other countries has shown that home learning can make an important contribution to pupils' progress at school. An OFSTED Report published in 1995 confirmed that many pupils and their parents saw learning done at home as a valuable and essential part of school work.

The Government believes that there is enormous advantage in children spending regular periods of time on different learning activities devised by schools, as part of a home learning programme which supports the work they do in class.

Your child should already have received a new home learning book and a piece of sticky-back plastic (very Blue Peter!) to cover it. 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. We appreciate that home learning can present difficulties for some families, and that children sometimes need access to a computer, the internet and books. There will be a 'home learning club' running this term, to try to alleviate some of these potential barriers to home learning.

Admissions 2014

A reminder that the closing date for applications for Reception Class places for September 2014 is 15th January 2014. It is very important that forms are returned on time to ensure your child is given a place! Text STARTSCHOOL to 07950 081 082 for a text message reminder on how to apply. Telephone 01926 742037 or apply online at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryschool>

Term dates

Autumn term 2013

Friday 25th October—INSET Day—School Closed for Children

Half term - Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2013

Monday 4th November—INSET Day—School Closed for Children

Term ends Friday 20 December 2013

Spring term 2014

Monday 6th January—INSET Day—School Closed for Children

Term starts - Tuesday 7 January 2014

Half term - Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2014

Term ends Friday 11 April 2014

Summer term 2014

Term starts - Monday 28 April 2014

Monday 5 May—School Closed for Early May Bank Holiday

Half term - Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2014

Term ends Friday 18 July 2014

Free School Meals

Please ensure that you have registered your child for a free school meal this term, if you are entitled to. Please see Sarah, Kiran or Deb in the office if you would like any help in doing this. Unfortunately, the school must charge parents and carers for any school meals taken if you have not registered.

School Dinners

A reminder that all school meals must be paid for either prior to, or on the day which they are taken. The cost of a school dinner is £2.00 per day £10.00 per week.

Sydenham Super Stars!

**Congratulations to all of this week's Sydenham Super Stars!
Friday 6th September, 2014**

