

Dear parents and carers,

The Pitter Patter of Tiny Sydenham Feet!

Congratulations to Mrs Banks and her husband, who are expecting their first baby at the end of July.

Mufti Day Madness!

Please accept my sincere apologies on behalf of all of the staff for the confusion regarding Mufti Day today...our brains got in a bit of a pickle due to World Book Day next week; we are so sorry! Next Friday 6th March, children may dress up as their favourite book character (**no** contribution to school fund is needed—it's just for fun!).

Crazy Creatures

We are looking forward to welcoming 'Crazy Creatures' music ensemble to school on Monday morning. All of the children will participate in this wonderful performance, sponsored by Leamington Music and the Arts Council. 'Crazy Creatures' will also be performed at the Royal Spa Centre on Sunday 15th March.

World Book Day

Please see the information overleaf about World Book Day vouchers. Please note that staff will exchange a small number of vouchers for the special World Book Day books, for those children who are unable to get to a book shop next week.

The PTA has been participating in the 'Own Books' scheme for a number of weeks now. The scheme encourages young children to develop an early love of books and reading through choosing and having their own books at home. Children are allowed to select one or two books a week for themselves to take home when it suits them. The scheme avoids any obligation to buy or return the books, and removes any financial constraints over acquisition of books. The PTA have moved the 'Own Books' bookshelf out of the library and into the school entrance hall for World Book Week, so that parents and carers can go and choose books to take home.

Bedtime Stories

Please see the flier overleaf for information about our 'Bed~time Stories' evening next Thursday 5th March. A paper copy has been sent home with your child this afternoon.

Best wishes,
Juliette Westwood
Executive Head Teacher



International
School Award
2010-2013



Healthy Schools



SILVER
Extended Services
Warwickshire



WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2015

How to use your £1 World Book Day book token

Thanks to National Book Tokens and lots of lovely book publishers and booksellers, World Book Day, in partnership with schools all over the country, will be distributing more than 14 million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children.

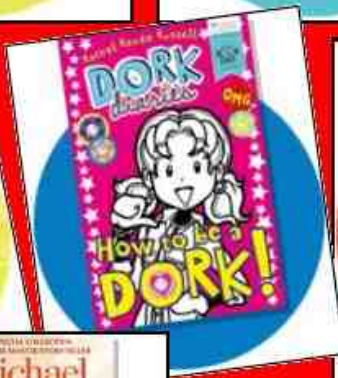
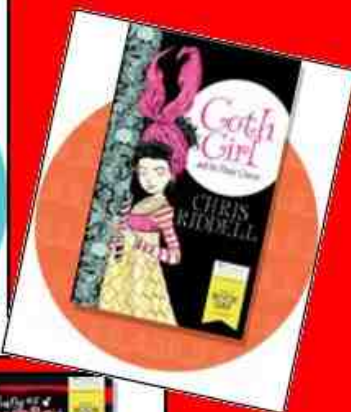
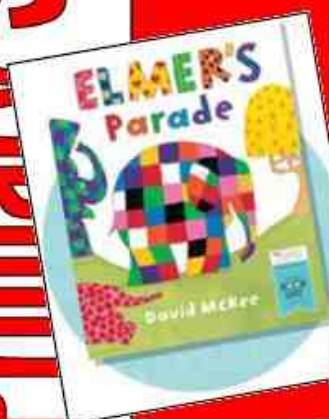
When you get your book token, all you need to do is to take it to your local bookshop and swap it for one of these ten (exclusive, new and completely free) £1 World Book Day books!

Or, if you'd prefer, you can use your book token to get £1 off any full price book instead! And if you'd rather get an audio book, that's fine too!

So that's £1 off any book or audio book, it's your choice, just as long as it would normally cost at least £2.99.

Then all YOU have to do is take your book home and enjoy it.

The World Book Day Book Tokens are valid from 2nd March—29th March 2015.



Tokens will be given to children next week!

Bed~Time Stories



As part of World Book Day celebrations, we are inviting children to return to school on Thursday 5th March from 6.30-7.30pm in their pyjamas for some bed-time stories with their

class teachers. They can also choose to bring their teddies, a pillow and a blanket, if they wish! Children will also be served a cup of delicious hot chocolate, whilst they snuggle down and enjoy a lovely story. Please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to your child's class teacher on Monday, if you would like your child to take part. Children should come back into school through the main school office entrance at 6.30pm, and go to their classrooms where their teachers will welcome them. Please collect your child from their classroom at 7.30pm.



Bed~Time Stories

My child's name: _____ in class: _____

I give my child permission to come and have a bed-time story on Thursday 5th March from 6.30-7.30pm.

I will collect my child from the classroom at 7.30pm ☐

My child will walk home at 7.30pm ☐

Signed: _____ (parent / carer)

Looking at Learning ~ Basic Skills Quality Mark 5 Assessment

Miss Glennly and Miss Challand worked with other members of staff to put together a portfolio of evidence for the Basic Skills Quality Mark assessor in January. We are delighted to have received this prestigious nationally recognised award for the fifth time! Please see our feedback below.



Basic Skills Quality Mark (BSQM) - Visit Feedback Report

School name Sydenham Primary School , Calder Walk , Sydenham , Leamington Spa, CV31 1SA
Headteacher Mrs Juliette Westwood (Executive Head Teacher)
 Mrs Carla Matthews (Associate Head Teacher)
School and/or HT email Head2622@welearn365.com **Phone:** 01926 339138
Alliance BSQM Assessor Elaine Stevens **Visit date:** 28/1/15

Purpose of Visit	Renewal Assessment BSQM5
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The Assessor spoke with the following people

Headteacher and/or Senior Leaders	Literacy Subject Leader	Numeracy Subject Leader	Assessment Manager
YES	NO	NO	YES
SENCo	Pupil representatives	Governor representative(s)	Parent representative(s)
YES	YES	YES at Lighthorne	NO

'Learning Walk' completed? YES	Relevant evidence-base reviewed? YES
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The previous development points have been considered and have been implemented

Suggested areas for development in preparation for the next Quality Mark visit and links to the 10 Elements of the Quality Mark:

- On the day of the renewal visit the school was having an Ofsted Inspection. Although I was unable to meet with the Literacy and Numeracy leaders because of the exceptional circumstances, they had prepared a very thorough portfolio of evidence for the visit. I was able to speak to other staff members to explain the evidence presented.

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- The SLT will continue to support both schools in their strive towards an Outstanding judgement for each setting. They have the capacity to ensure that the data and evidence is consistently high in both schools. (Elements 1,2)
- The school has been involved in the Federation for some time and this has ensured a consistent approach to policy and practice. Sydenham continues to be a very high quality provision with consistently high quality teaching, planning, monitoring and assessment practice in place, together with very high results this year. All groups continue to make better than expected progress from the baseline. (Elements 1, 7, 8)

Some Development points we discussed in Literacy include:

- Following an analysis of data it was decided to focus on Reading across the whole school. Clear evidence of new library areas, take-home books, reading displays, visits by authors together with whole-staff CPD by the ECAR teacher (Every Child a Reader) has effectively raised the profile of Reading across the school.
- The ECAR teacher supports target children in very effective and focussed sessions. Evidence in data of rapid progress and home support. The teacher is a strong role-model across the school and is used very effectively to raise standards in Reading.
- The EAL Teacher (English as a Second Language) works predominantly with Eastern European children to improve the language skills of identified children. She is a peripatetic teacher and advisor for the LA and supports the school very effectively.
- Very thorough teaching of all aspects of Literacy to all groups within lessons enables a significant majority of children to make more than expected progress. The Quality of Teaching was a strength of the school.
- All classrooms and shared areas displayed examples of high quality writing, celebrating success and encouraging children to aspire to greatness. Working walls were relevant and used in lessons to scaffold learning.
- There was clear evidence in children's books of prompts, story-boarding, scaffolds and a very effective marking and feedback system, which all helped to accelerate the progress of all groups in Literacy.
- The challenges of the school assessment system 'chilli peppers' encouraged the children to set themselves more challenging (hotter) targets to aspire to. Children talked confidently about the system and how it helped them improve.
- Evidence of the high expectations in Literacy across other subjects was seen in books and displays. The same high quality success criteria, consistent marking key and very effective use of scaffold to support learning was seen.
- Data shows that children who made 3 levels progress this year (more than expected) exceeded both the local and national results (2013 and 2014).
- There is a strong emphasis on teaching of Phonics, and a whole school approach to dictation has had a positive impact on writing.

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Some development points we discussed in Numeracy include :

- Clear evidence in books of the AfL strategies being used effectively to support learning.
- Children respond to comments on their work and correct misconceptions. Children were able to talk confidently about their learning, explaining the assessment system and feedback to me.
- The School Improvement Plan identifies the Using & Applying of number as a key issue. Children's books show clear evidence of this across the school, with problem-solving and 'real-life' maths practice.
- Interventions for maths across the school are carefully monitored by the class teacher and SLT
- Strong links with parents through workshops, leaflets and the 'Mathletics' website encourages home learning.

In General :

- The school is very effectively led and managed by the executive head teacher and senior leaders who have a clear focus following careful analysis of data and evidence from monitoring.
- All groups of children are very effectively supported with focussed interventions.
- Children's well-being is met extremely well through Nurture provision, Learning Detectives, School Council etc. Children's achievements are valued highly and children are happy, confident and enthusiastic.

'Good practice' identified in relation to the 10 Elements of the Quality Mark:

Elements 1,2,3,10

- The processes for assessment have become embedded in practice, with children clearly involved in the process of target -setting.
- Appraisal is closely linked to key issues, with a strong evidence base for the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of practice.
- Leadership at all levels impacts positively on the high standards in evidence during the visit.

Elements 4,5

- Clear evidence of very effective intervention in place across the school. Adults with strong subject knowledge are able to support the groups very effectively, with evidence in data of rapid progress across the groups.
- The development of the "chilli peppers" target-setting system has involved children in their learning very effectively.
- Staff take part in joint lesson study to improve their teaching, with the ECAR teacher sharing her expertise with the whole staff.

Elements 6,7,8

- Whole-school CPD to raise attainment in basic skills - with the impact seen in practice.
- Strong links between Staff Appraisal and the key issues to be addressed, with a

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thorough monitoring cycle led by SLT.

- 'Learning Detectives' (children) is very successful in empowering the children to be involved in improving teaching and learning.
- On the Learning Walk I observed photographs of children engaged in different activities including residential trips, art projects, Forest School. The school has recently been awarded an Art prize from the National Gallery- with evidence in school of their achievement. The children were very keen to tell me about the award.
- There were new resources linked to reading seen and used.

Element 9

- Clear evidence on the website of home-school agreements , reports and support from the Family Information Service.
- Parents are invited to various workshops and events across the year.
- Homework books reflect the support from home, together with the Reading diaries and take-home books.
- There are opportunities for parents to take part in school activities.

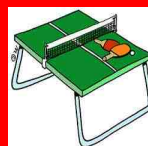
Overall, the school shows clear evidence of its Outstanding practice and provision and clearly meets the needs of all its children extremely well indeed.

Children were enthusiastic, well-behaved , inquisitive and confident , and a credit to the staff who worked exceptionally hard to make this setting the high quality provision it is. I felt warmly welcomed and very privileged to be a part of it for the day.

Sydenham Super Stars!

Congratulations to all of this week's Sydenham Super Stars!
Friday 27th February, 2015





Easter multi sports at Champion School Organised by Central Warwickshire Sports Partnership

**Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March 2015
9am-3pm**

**Open to children currently in year 2, 3, 4, 5,
and 6**

Sports to choose from include: Hockey, football, badminton, table tennis, fitness, cupstacking, goalball, sports hall athletics, archery and many more.

(Choices can be made on the day)

Prices:

£10 per day

10% discount for siblings

Prizes to be won!



To book please e-mail

sportspartnership@champion.warwickshire.sch.uk

Places will be issued on a first come first served basis.