

## Ms Matthews' Retirement

Ms Matthews will be retiring from her post as Associate Head Teacher at October half-term. The whole staff will be so sad to say goodbye to her, after so many years of dedicated service to our school community. We are incredibly grateful that she has agreed to remain on the staff until October, to help to induct the new Associate Head Teacher, and help to get the new academic year off to a flying start.

Ms Matthews is an incredibly hard-working, committed and caring teacher at Sydenham Primary School. She works tirelessly in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure the smooth-running of the school. Ms Matthews has had such a positive impact on so many children's and families' lives.

On behalf of the children, families, staff and governors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Matthews for the many years of commitment, professionalism and expertise she has given to our community. She has been a wonderfully supportive and inspiring colleague and friend to so many staff, who appreciate her warmth, empathy, kindness, integrity and wisdom. Ms Matthews will be very much missed by us all.

For my part, I shall miss her more than most! We have worked together for fifteen years at Sydenham. We taught alongside one another as Year 5/6 class teachers; as members of the senior leadership team under the previous head teacher, Joan Blows; and most recently, in our respective head teacher roles as part of the Leamington Federation. I frequently tell Carla that she is like my 'work wife'! I can't quite imagine being without her; we have shared so many professional and personal triumphs and challenges! I feel incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to be her colleague, and think she deserves a most wonderful retirement.

We wish Ms Matthews every happiness in travelling the world, and pursuing her other interests outside of education during her retirement.

Juliette Westwood, Executive Head Teacher



**Reminder : School Closed 2 days next week.**

**School will be closed on Monday 4th May for the Bank Holiday and on Thursday 7th May for Election Day, as the school is being used as a Polling Station.**

## Children in Action!



### Gold Award

Congratulations to Sommer Eley in y2 JRL for achieving a gold medal in Gymnastics in a Coventry Competition. Sommer showed her certificate and medal in assembly and told the children how she had done the vault, the trampette and the floor exercises correctly to get the award. Sommer also told us that she did warm up and conditioning. Well done Sommer.



### Nothing escapes our children.

When Lucas Heer heard in assembly that Sommer was going to be in the newsletter because of her medal, he was quick to act. Lucas showed Miss Bond the medal he received for football at the weekend and asked whether his photograph could go in



### Road Safety Competition Winners

Well done to all these children who were creative in their ideas for the Road Safety Competition and were lucky enough to win a prize.

Well done to Caitlin and Jiaan in y6, our two Road Safety Officers, who organised the competition and the prizes.

Look out for the last competition of the year coming soon.

### P.E Kit

Please can your child/children leave his/her//their P.E Kits in school between holidays or during the week, as kit is often not in school for after school activities., Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Clubs: Places still available:

There are places still available at Strictly Sydenham (dance!) for years 4,5 and 6 on Thursday afternoons. £2 per week.

There are places still available for Kayaking starting next Wednesday afternoon for pupils in years 4,5 and 6. This course is heavily subsidised at £3 a session.

Please contact the school office if you would like your child to take up a place.

### Level 2 Cycling

A reminder to book your child's place next week on the cycle training course for children in years 5 and 6.

One of our y6 pupils had a lucky escape this week and now appreciates the importance of safe cycling and wearing a helmet. Forms available in the school office.

**Best wishes, Carla Matthews, Associate Head Teacher**

## Year 2 visit the Gurdwara!

We found out about the different ceremonies that take place there.



We were invited to try some delicious food in the Langar Hall.



We went into one of the Diwan halls to see the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and listened to some traditional music.



Last week Szymon said, "Today we went to the Gurdwara. We walked there and it took a long time. When we go there we washed our hands, took our shoes off and put on our headscarves.

We went there to learn about a different religion and a special place of worship.

Jack Bloor," The building was a very big, whitish golden castle. It had a beautiful, colourful floor inside.

People who are Sikhs go to the temple to pray. They get on their knees and bend their heads down.

They were very kind to us and gave us nice food and biscuits.



## **All aboard** **for the Year Five Residential Trip!**



Last week, Year 5 travelled down to London to learn more about the First and Second World Wars. This was an exciting and fascinating trip which involved spending the night on HMS Belfast – a Second World War cruiser which is now moored on the River Thames.

We travelled to London by train then made our way to the ship by tube – one of the many highlights of the trip. Afterwards, we visited the Imperial War Museum which was full of interesting information and artefacts relating to our learning.

We were delighted that they have finished refurbishing the Imperial War Museum as this is the first year that we have been able to include it in our trip.



Outside The Imperial War Museum.



Kiran dressing up at The Imperial War Museum.

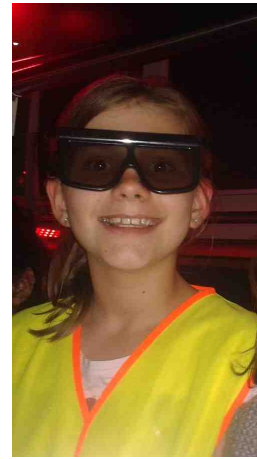
We particularly enjoyed visiting the First World War Gallery which included many interesting artefacts such as gas masks, uniforms and military vehicles.



Admiral Morgan.



The London Eye



Tayla enjoys the 4D Experience.

We then rode on the London Eye and visited its 4D Experience! This was followed by a river-side walk to take in the sights of the South Bank. We saw The Tower of London, Big Ben, The Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge, The Gherkin and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre as well as lots of fantastic street entertainment. We were very glad to reach Pizza Express where we ate our evening meal before returning to the ship for the night.



Pyjama time!  
The Pink Ladies!



Day two began with breakfast on board the ship followed by a lesson about the role HMS Belfast played during The Second World War. This gave us a fascinating insight into the hazards of a sailor's life. We then toured the ship and visited the gun turrets, engine rooms, sick bay and officers' cabins. Afterwards, we made our way back across London on the underground to Marylebone station. We returned home exhausted but thrilled by all the new things we had experienced.

Well done to all the children— your behaviour was outstanding! Many thanks as well to the wonderful staff who gave up their time to accompany us on our visit.  
Ms Glenny



Suvraaj and Sukhy  
captain the ship!

Ranveer dressed up as part of our education session on the ship.



## Pupil Premium Funding

Dear parents and carers,

Please read the following information and find out how you can help us and gain £40 credit with the school.

What is Pupil Premium funding?

Pupil Premium funding is additional financial support that is provided by the government and which is allocated to schools to meet the needs of certain pupils. For each pupil that qualifies the school receives a significant sum of money that is used to raise standards in pupils.

Does my child qualify for this additional support?

You may be eligible to apply for Pupil Premium funding if you receive any of the following...

Income Support

Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)

Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit

Both Income-Based 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

Child Tax Credit and have an annual income, as assessed by HMRC, not in excess of £16,190 (and you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit)

Or if your child...

- has been looked after (their care is managed by the local authority) for 1 day or more
- was adopted from care on or after 30 December 2005, or left care under a special guardianship order a residence order

Or

if either parent is in the Armed Forces

## **How do I apply?**

Where a child is eligible for Pupil Premium funding their parents or carers must usually apply through the Local Authority.

This can be done online at:

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

The Pupil Premium funding received by the school is used in many ways to improve provision and to raise standards in all pupils.

**As an incentive to families making a successful new application for this funding this term, the school is offering a £40 credit for each successful application.**

**Once confirmation of allocation has been confirmed, parents/ carers can choose to use this to purchase uniform (through the school), to contribute to the cost of school trips and visits or for extra-curricular clubs including the school breakfast and after school club. An application only takes a few minutes of your time so if you think that your child may be eligible please apply.**

Please note that we do aim to make all aspects of learning and school life inclusive and accessible to all. The school budget currently subsidises all trips and visits as well as providing a wide range of additional opportunities for all pupils.

**Mrs Manley and Mrs Fennelly can offer further advice and support if necessary to parents wishing to make an application.**

## Free Books

Vic Alcock, one of our dedicated PTA parents, is supporting our Free Book scheme. Vic is taking a trolley of free books onto the playground at the end of the day on Mondays and Fridays. The idea behind the scheme is that any child can take home a free book every few weeks and if she/he wants to keep it, he/she can. Parents can if they wish return the book for others to read and if any one wants to contribute unwanted books from home this is also welcome.

A big thank you to Vic for supporting this scheme and to you all for participating.

## Head Lice

It is that time of year when Headlice appear with a vengeance. Please help our school community by checking your child's hair and treating your child. Many parents do not like using lotion from the chemist. Olive oil works well if you are happy to comb your child's hair again and again, as the lice slide off and can't cling on to the slippery hair! It is time consuming, but the only way to get rid of lice and their eggs, if you don't like chemicals.

## Family Learning Course

The Monday Family Learning Course has been cancelled due to lack of numbers, as many parents were unable to attend because of childcare arrangements..

