

Dear parents and carers,

**Music Prize Winners Concert**

The 2013 Leamington Music Prize was awarded at Birmingham Conservatoire in February and won by the piano trio consisting of Zhivko Georgiev from Bulgaria, Lucy French from Leamington Spa and Yu-Fen Lin from Taiwan. We are delighted that they will be performing to Key Stage 2 on Thursday 7th November.

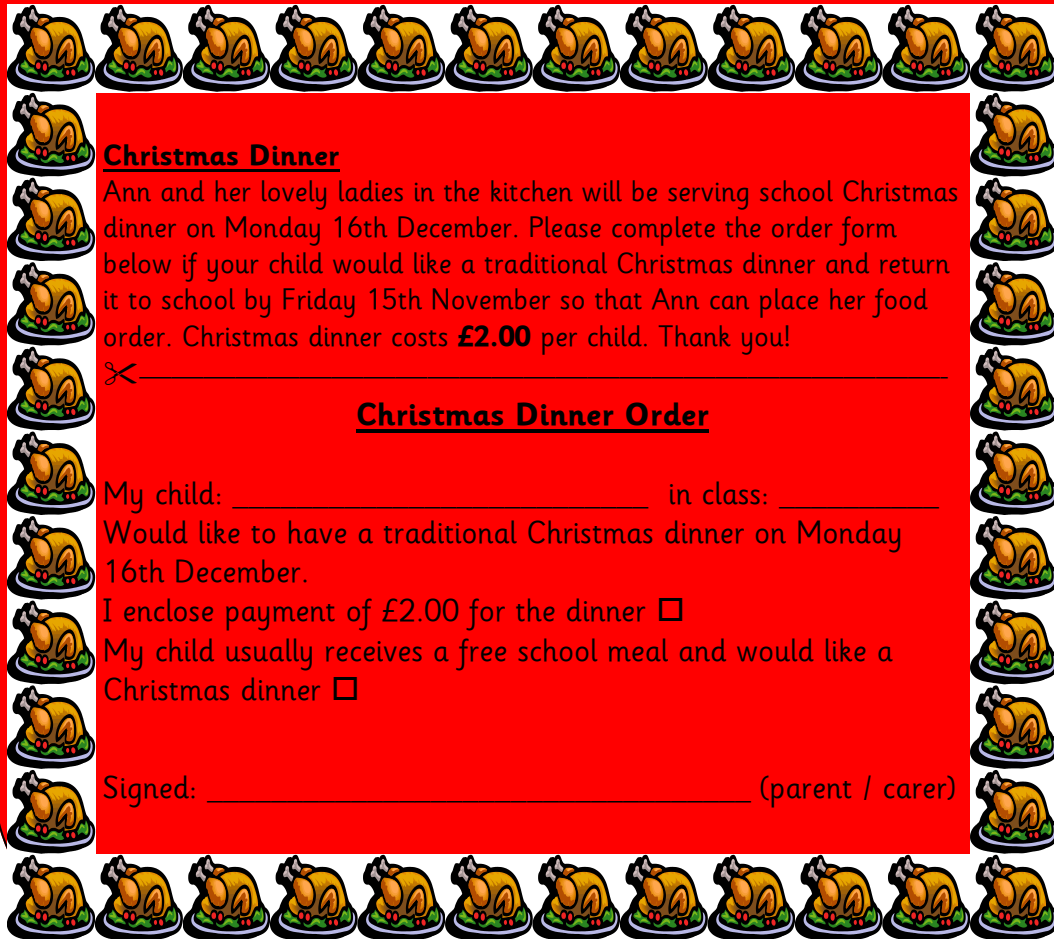


**Lesson Observations**

We have had the pleasure of observing all of your children learning several times over the past few weeks. We have observed pupils' learning during their writing lessons; during Forest Schools sessions; during interventions (catch-up programmes, programmes for Talented & Gifted pupils); and looked at our learning environment. We can already see that the children are making fantastic progress in their learning, and have settled into their new classes and school routines very well. Keep up the hard work, children!

**Talk Partners**

We would like to give you more information about some of the teaching strategies that we use at Sydenham. Please see the information overleaf about our use of 'Talk Partners'.



**Christmas Dinner**

Ann and her lovely ladies in the kitchen will be serving school Christmas dinner on Monday 16th December. Please complete the order form below if your child would like a traditional Christmas dinner and return it to school by Friday 15th November so that Ann can place her food order. Christmas dinner costs **£2.00** per child. Thank you!

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

**Christmas Dinner Order**

My child: \_\_\_\_\_ in class: \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to have a traditional Christmas dinner on Monday 16th December.

I enclose payment of £2.00 for the dinner

My child usually receives a free school meal and would like a Christmas dinner

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (parent / carer)

# Sydenham Primary School Newsletter



International School Award  
2010-2013



Healthy Schools



NATIONAL GREEN APPLE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS WINNER 2006



SILVER 2008



Extended Services  
Warwickshire



## Sydenham Super Stars!

Congratulations to all of this week's Sydenham Super Stars! Friday 4th October, 2013



## Attendance Stars

Our whole school attendance target is 97% this academic year. We can't achieve this without your support!

### This week's attendance:

- Class R MB: **88%**
- Class R AH: **96%**
- Class 1 LC: **97%**
- Class 1KH: **94%**
- Class 2: **96%**
- Class 3: **98%**
- Class 4: **98%**
- Class 5: **99%**
- Class 6: **98%**

**Overall Attendance: 96%**

Congratulations to to Class 5. Let's see if any classes can achieve 100% next week!

## Learning Detectives

Please see information overleaf about how our Learning Detectives help to monitor the learning at Sydenham Primary School.

## Parking

We urge you to park legally and responsibly, with due consideration for the local residents. We have had a number of reports of very dangerous parking. Please consider the safety of our children, and our whole community. Please note that the police will be regularly monitoring parking.

## Data Collection Forms

Thank you to those parents and carers who have returned their Data Collection forms. If you have not already done so, please return your up to date contact details, and provide us with an email address so that we can email you letters as a matter of urgency. We shall be trialling a new email system soon, and would like to be able to email all letters home.

## In-Service Training Days

A reminder that school will be **closed on Friday 25th October** for staff to be trained on 'The Taking Care Project'. School will also be **closed on Monday 4th November** for training on the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture Project'.

## Half-Term

A reminder that school is closed for the half term holiday from Monday 28th October ~ Friday 1st November.

## Parent and Teacher Learning Reviews

Thank you to those families who have returned your appointment request slips for the Learning Review Meetings on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October .

Appointment times will be sent home on Monday.

## Harvest Festival

A reminder that we are collecting tins and packets of dry food to be distributed amongst people via the Salvation Army after the Harvest Assembly on Thursday 24th October. Please send any goods into school with your child to be handed to the class teacher.

I hope that you have an enjoyable weekend.  
Best wishes, Juliette Westwood, Executive Head Teacher



## Reception 2014 Open Days



Tuesday 8th October

9.30am  
11.00am  
1.30pm

Wednesday 9th October

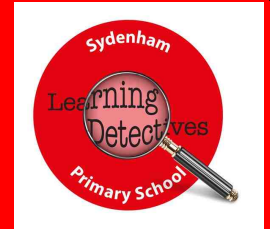
9.30am  
11.00am  
1.30pm

[www.sydenhamprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.sydenhamprimaryschool.co.uk)  
[admin2622@welearn365.com](mailto:admin2622@welearn365.com)  
01926 339138

  
**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
2010 | 2011



# Learning Detectives



## ***What is a Learning Detective?***

Our Learning Detectives help the school's Senior Leadership Team to monitor the learning behaviours of the children at Sydenham Primary School.

## ***How do you become a Learning Detective?***

You can write a letter of application to Mrs Westwood, explaining why you would like to be a Learning Detective, and what skills you have that will help you to do this important job.

## ***Is there any training for Learning Detectives?***

Our Learning Detectives receive a day's training to look at how children learn best, and what to look for in a lesson. The training focuses on looking for effective learning.

## ***How do the Learning Detectives gather evidence?***

Our very first Learning Detectives designed their own evidence gathering form. We set protocols for what the Learning Detectives should do before, during and after evidence-gathering sessions.

## ***When do the Learning Detectives do their monitoring?***

They observe lessons in pairs, for approximately 10 minutes, with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Their evidence-gathering sheets track the observed children's learning behaviours. The Learning Detectives look for positive learning behaviours. Following the lesson, the two Learning Detectives have time to discuss their findings with a member of the SLT.

## ***What happens next?***

The Learning Detectives give verbal feedback to the children in the classrooms where they have observed. Sometimes, their evidence is shared at staff meetings or emailed to all teachers.

## ***Is their evidence shared with anyone else?***

Sometimes, the findings are shared with the school's governors and with parents and carers on the school newsletter or website. Also, the Learning Detectives occasionally lead whole school assemblies.

## ***What is the impact of the Learning Detectives (What difference have they made)?***

There is significant impact of the work of the Learning Detectives at several different levels.....

Firstly, the teaching staff have heard the feedback from the pupils and have made changes to the way they teach children (their pedagogy) because they have listened to the children saying what helps them to learn.

Secondly, the other pupils in our school, who hear the feedback at the end of the evidence-gathering lessons, have a deeper understanding of learning, and a greater sense of responsibility for their own learning (as well as supporting others' learning!).

Thirdly, the Learning Detectives themselves understand and are able to unpick learning. They are able to discuss their understanding of themselves as learners, and the personal skills they have developed as Learning Detectives. They appreciate the leadership opportunity and responsibility.

## ***Guiding Principles:***

We have two principles we *must* always follow:

1. We only look at learning and learners, not teaching.
2. We focus on positive examples of great learning.



# Learning Detectives' Rules for Gathering Evidence in Lessons:



## **Before the lesson:**

1. Be prepared; make sure you have pens, pencils, logbooks, Learning Detective identity badge, sash etc.
2. Check with the teacher that they know you are coming, introduce yourself (the day before) and ask for 5 minutes at the end to give feedback to the class.
3. Inform your class teacher that you will be missing some of your own lesson, and ask her about catching up on the work you will miss.
4. Make sure you look smart (correct and smart uniform).
5. Arrive in good time, a couple of minutes before start of lesson.

## **During the lesson:**

6. Go in with an open mind, don't be biased.
7. Always record positive evidence ... never write down negatives.
8. Be polite to everyone in the lesson and treat everyone in the room with respect.
9. Don't draw attention to yourself and do not interrupt the learning in any way.
10. Pay close attention to the children and their learning ... don't get side-tracked by the lesson or the teacher!
11. Remember that you are there as an observer, and try to sit where you can see the learners' faces.
12. Remind the teacher that you need to talk to the children and then give clear and helpful feedback.

## **After the lesson:**

13. Thank the teacher for having you in the lesson.
14. Enter and leave the room with a smile.
15. Write a thank you letter to the teacher.



# Talk Partners



## Why do we use Talk Partners at Sydenham Primary School?

The use of 'talk partners' as a strategy means that all children get the opportunity to think, discuss and express themselves orally.

Some children may feel more confident when expressing their ideas in a paired situation, rather than to the whole class, when the fear of getting a question wrong may actually restrict their learning; the shared responsibility for an opinion or view which comes with this strategy can raise children's self-confidence and encourage their engagement. It also gives the teacher more opportunities to ask higher order questions which require more thought, reflection and exploration, and it gives children time to think.

The use of talk partners can really take children's learning on further, and what's more, it's fun. All research shows that when speaking and listening is well developed and encouraged it has a positive impact on children's learning.

## What is the impact of using Talk Partners?

Some of the positive outcomes of using the talk partner's approach are that it:

- provides an opportunity for all children to speak and listen to each other;
- helps children to generate ideas, views and opinions safely;
- provides the opportunity for all children to voice their understanding of ideas, concepts, vocabulary and linguistic conventions;
- enables participation by children who might not be as confident in the whole class situation;
- helps in the rehearsal of words and phrases before committing them to paper or contributing to a larger audience;
- develops thinking, speaking, listening, collaborative and cooperative skills;
- ensures all children are involved in the lesson;
- encourages the involvement of boys;
- enables children to learn from each other;
- provides thinking time;
- encourages extended responses;
- develops coherent thinking;
- develops 'process talk' (thinking through talk);
- provides opportunities for adults to observe, listen to and assess children's understanding

## How do teachers at Sydenham Primary School choose Talk Partners?

All research shows that paired response work such as this works best when the pairing is **absolutely random**, and is seen by the children as being so. Random pairings tend to be seen as fairer by children and if the pairings are changed regularly, children get the opportunity to talk to children that they might not normally have interaction with on an extended basis. Teachers at Sydenham Primary School change the children's talk partners every week. They use various methods of random selection, including a computerised sorting hat.

## Staff at Sydenham Primary School make the skill of Active Listening really important in the classroom by:

- avoiding repeating what children say;
- expecting others to respond;
- devising tasks which require all children to contribute what they know;
- not repeating instructions;
- sometimes speaking quietly;
- insisting children respond to the last speaker;
- ensuring children answer the question they are asked;
- encouraging children to speak audibly.

**Here are some Success Criteria  
to help your child to be a  
successful talk partner:**

*Please support your child's learning by  
modelling this at home.*

**Do:**

1. Look at your partner when they are talking.
2. Look interested.
3. Don't let other things distract you.
4. Let your partner express their views.
5. Listen carefully to what your partner is saying to you.
6. Think carefully about what your partner is saying.
7. Stay focused on the question/task.
8. Try to be clear about what you mean.
9. Say more than one or two words.
10. Be prepared to agree to try and persuade, and sometimes be prepared to agree to disagree.

Here are some ideas for ways  
for your child to respond to  
her / his Talk Partner:

*Please support your child's learning by modelling these responses at home.*

- I think that.....
- It seems to me that.....
- I would have preferred it if.....
- Don't you think it would have been better if.....
- This makes it seem.....
- Perhaps a better way would have been.....
- I think.....because....
- I disagree with that because.....
- What do you think?



# Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

**Onside**  
COACHING.CO.UK

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY Sports & Dance COURSES**

**A FUN APPROACH TO SPORT & DANCE for Primary Aged Girls and Boys**

## Booking couldn't be simpler...

**STEP 1:** Choose your Course, Dance, Multi-Sports or Football or Mix and Match!

### Multi-Sports

A fun approach to sport and includes a variety of games and activities such as: Dodgeball, Cricket Handball, Hockey, Tag+Tall Games, T-Ball, Mini Athletics, Goal-Ball, Sitting Volleyball and many more

Children are taught in appropriate age groups to improve their experience of the course.

Friday is Mini-Olympics with a medal ceremony taking place at the end of the day.

### Football

Children are taught by Level 2 & 3 FA Qualified Coaches. Using up to the minute techniques, the course targets specific skills each day with coaching in the following areas: Dribbling, Passing, Control, Shooting and Goal Keeping.

Each day ends with small sided-games and tournaments.

Friday is World Cup Day with a medal ceremony taking place at the end of the day.

### Dance

Enables children to develop and learn especially choreographed routines to songs from musicals, pop stars and films learning styles such as Street, Jazz, Musical Theatre and Lyrical including aspects of drama and singing. Suitable for all ages and experiences.

There will be a dance show on the final day. To showcase the children's hard work there will be a dance show on the final day, parents are welcome to watch

**OCTOBER HALF TERM**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

from 10am to 3pm  
Early drop off and late pick up available  
at Warwick  
Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick, CV34 6XR

To Book your child's place... visit [www.onsidecoaching.co.uk](http://www.onsidecoaching.co.uk) or call 01926 496 406

also at: Stratford, Stratford School

**STOP PRESS!**

**Bushcraft Courses**  
Booking now live!

We will be continuing to offer Bushcraft every school holiday. Children will learn skills such as shelter building, fire lighting, orienteering and other forest activities. During October Half Term, the course will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 Day £25, 2 Days £45, and 3 Days £60. Places are limited. For full details please visit [www.onsidecoaching.co.uk](http://www.onsidecoaching.co.uk). All courses will take place at our specially designed site at The Warwickshire Leek Woodland, CV32 7QT

**STEP 2:** Choose your dates by booking individual days or full weeks!

Course	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Early Drop Off from 8.30am Late Collection until 5pm Available every day
Multi-Sports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Football	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dance	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	

**STEP 3:** Book via our website [www.onsidecoaching.co.uk](http://www.onsidecoaching.co.uk) or call 01926 496406

### SPECIAL OFFERS

- 5 Days** including before and after care: **£75 - saving £10**
- 4 Days** including before and after care: **£66 - saving £6**



### Things to remember

- Children require suitable clothing for activities, a healthy packed lunch and drinks.
- Shin Pads **ARE REQUIRED** for Football Courses
- Coaches hold an **Enhanced CRB Disclosure**
- Paediatric First Aid Trained Team Members.

@onsidecoaching



Onside Coaching Ltd

For more information visit [www.onsidecoaching.co.uk](http://www.onsidecoaching.co.uk) or call 01926 496 406

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS! We are Ofsted Registered and Inspected. EY4119867