



Dear Parents,

11<sup>th</sup> November 2013

In this month's newsletter I thought I would carry on reviewing our fantastic music provision.

### Did You Know...?

This year, out of the 315 pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 at Southwater Junior Academy, 160 children are learning to play an instrument in school, and more pupils are learning to play instruments privately outside school. That's a fantastic result - with over half our pupils having the opportunity to enhance their musical skills through playing an instrument of their own choice.

### Singing

For those children who love to sing, there are various choirs throughout the year – Autumn Term - Lower Junior Choir, Spring Term – Yr 5 Music Festival Choir, Summer Term – a Whole School Choir and Yr 6 Production Singing Focus. There are also weekly singing sessions for both the Lower Junior and Upper School pupils. During these sessions the children work together as a team towards one of the many performances throughout the year.



We are very proud as a school to have been recognised for the quality of our singing and performances – and to have been nominated for, and awarded the prestigious National 'Platinum Sing Up Award.' We were the 69<sup>th</sup> school in the country to have been awarded 'Platinum' status, which put us in the top 0.3% of schools in the country. A fantastic achievement!

### Performances

Last year the children had opportunities to perform in:

Lower Junior Harvest, Upper Junior Christmas, Lower Junior Christmas, the Lower Junior Choir sang at The Christmas Fayre, pupils enjoyed the Candlelit Carol Service in Lintot Square, The Horsham Schools' Music Festival at the Hawth, the Whole School Choir performed in The Bandstand in Horsham, The Year 6 pupils 'wowed'

everyone with their sell-out performances of Scheherazade in the Capitol, and also their final performance at their Leavers' Service.

At the moment in school the Upper School children are working on a West Sussex 'Virtual Choir' project to celebrate the famous composer Benjamin Britten's centenary...

So, we are all working very hard and we look forward to performing to you again soon!



If you have any questions about music provision at SJA please do ask Mrs Kear

Alexis Conway

## **Lower Junior Harvest Service**

The children had a fantastic time working towards their Harvest Service celebration with Years 3 and 4, performing to a hall packed full with parents, relatives and friends.

In their efforts to raise money for the charity 'Shelter', the pupils learnt about the fantastic work that the charity does, and we are very pleased to have raised £337.49 through the kind donations from those who attended the service.

The children sang a wide variety of songs superbly, and read their readings with confidence.

Forty-five Year 4 children performed brilliantly on their recorders and a percussion group really rose to the challenge they were set in accompanying the piano and the trumpet in the 'Harvest Samba' song. Pictured here are some of the very able recorder players, the hard-working percussion group and some of the superb readers.



The whole service had a lovely atmosphere. Southwater Junior Academy would like to thank Kath Jones and Angie Choat for joining us for our Harvest Celebration – and also the parents, relatives and friends who attended the service, for taking part in the singing and for being so supportive of all the children.

## **Classroom Visits**

Thank you to all of you who visited your child's classroom earlier in the term. We had so many positive comments about how valuable you found the experience and how much you appreciated the time in the classroom with your children. We also had numerous comments about the calm, focussed, engaging classroom environment and how impressed you were by the high expectations in place. Thank you to all of you who came to visit.

## **Back to school for Dads!!**

Thank you to the 200 or so dads who come to visit on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November. We were overwhelmed with the number of dads (and granddads, step-dads, grandfathers and carers) who spent time in the classroom. Thank you all so much for the positive feedback. Many dads commented on how the session opened their eyes to what goes on in today's classroom and how it has given them a valuable insight into the high quality teaching that goes on at SJA, as well as giving them a better sense of how they can work with their child at home. An immense thank you to all who came.



## **Conker competition**

Well done to all those children who competed in the conker competition. It was interesting to see how many children had never played conkers before, but everyone took to the game very quickly and had a great time trying to smash each others' conkers to pieces!

## **Drop off / Pick up time**

Please can parents take care at drop off pick up time when using the layby outside the school. As we all know it gets very busy with cars and pedestrians. Please take extra care if using the layby, including when opening car doors onto the path.



## Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all of you who filled out the parent questionnaire at Parents' Evening. These have now been analysed and are on the whole very, very positive with a noticeable increase in the percentage moving from agreeing to strongly agreeing (about 10% higher compared to this time last year).

<b>Top 5</b>	<b>Likes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Improvements</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Comments from Mr.Conway</b>
1	Staff: High standard of teaching by a friendly, approachable and interested staff	101	Hot dinners	23	Issue re space and clubs using the hall at lunchtimes. Questionnaire to be sent to parents re hot lunches
2	Good extra- curricular provision including clubs	54	Swimming lessons	10	Discussed at Parent Forum. Main issue time taken from the rest of the curriculum to get to and from pool.
3	Well balanced and rounded learning experience	30	Communication	10	Eighteen parents mentioned it as a positive but we understand we can improve. Electronic payment and authorisation for trips coming soon.
4	Leadership	30	Smaller Classes	9	Mainly from Y5/Y6 parents where class sizes are smaller than in Y4/Y3
5	PE and sports focus	28	More clubs	4	Suggestions welcome for additional clubs

The full returns can be found below and on the website, under Parents /questionnaire.

<b>2013 Parent Questionnaire</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>		<b>Agree</b>		<b>Disagree</b>		<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
	<b>no.</b>	<b>%(2012%)</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>%</b>
My child enjoys school	155	64 (64)	84	35 (35)	2	1(1)	1	0(0)
The school keeps my child safe	172	71(64)	58	28 (35)	2	1(0)	0	0(0)
The school informs me about my child's progress	102	42 (36)	139	57 (62)	2	1(2)	0	0(0)
My child is making enough progress at school	100	41 (36)	138	57 (61)	4	2(2)	0	0(0)
Children behave well	104	43 (32)	135	56 (68)	3	1(0)	0	0(0)
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	102	42 (31)	139	58 (68)	1	0(0)	0	0(0)
The school is led and managed effectively	144	60 (43)	98	40 (57)	0	0(0)	0	0(0)
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, a problem or a complaint	159	66 (50)	80	33 (49)	3	1(0)	0	0(0)
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his/her best	173	71 (56)	69	29 (44)	0	0(0)	0	0(0)
Staff treat my child fairly	143	59 (50)	99	41 (50)	0	0(0)	0	0(0)
The school seeks the views of parents, their suggestions and concerns	119	49 (37)	49	50 (61)	3	1(2)	0	0(0)
Children have a wide range of activities to take part in after school and at lunchtimes	165	68 (53)	68	31 (45)	2	1(2)	1	0(0)
Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school	162	67 (57)	78	31 (43)	1	0(0)	1	0(0)

Whilst the returns are very positive, there is always more to do and there is no room for complacency on the part of SJA. We have a very clear focus on areas we intend to improve further over the coming terms and years.

Whilst the questionnaire is an annual process parents are welcome to join me at our termly parent forum to discuss the above and any other issues, or just to find out about future developments.

### **Nut Free School**

Please remember that we are a nut free school, that includes peanut butter. We do have a number of children with severe allergies to nuts and would ask parents not to send nut products into school. Thank you for your support.



### **Football Match**

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Southwater Junior Academy hosted Castlewood Primary in 3 competitive football matches. All three teams played some fantastic free-flowing football, with some brilliant goals scored. While the matches were very competitive, they were all played in the right spirit, and the behaviour and attitude by all players was excellent. The year 5/6 team, captained by Toby Woods won 10-0. The year 3/4 A team, captained by Max Fitzsimmons won 5-0, with the B team winning by 6 goals to 1, captained by Gustav Madum. Full match reports written by the captains can be found on the sports' notice board. Well done to all players! Mr Showell.

### **Christmas Fair**

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 we are holding our joint Christmas Fair. For the three Fridays before the fair children can come into school wearing a Christmas accessory. They can wear Christmas socks, have tinsel in their hair, wear a Christmas hat etc.

We would like the children to bring something in on the following dates:

22 November. Something for the adult tombola - wine/bottles/gifts.

29 November. A jam jar filled with sweets.

6 December. Something for the children's tombola, ie toys, new or in good condition, books, games, gift, toiletry etc.

### **School Shop**

The school shop is open on a Tuesday and a Thursday, it is now in the large group room – enter via the door next to the entrance to the Year 3 corridor. It is run by members of the School Council. Pupils decide how to spend any profit made e.g. new playground equipment etc.



### **Bicycles/Scooters**

We have had a request from Mrs Essex (the Crossing patrol lady) that in the interests of safety, unaccompanied children are to walk their scooters / bicycles across the road when crossing.

### **Performance photos**

With Christmas performances coming up please may I remind parents that we do allow the taking of photos at performances. However photographs are to focus on your child and are only for personal/family use. Photos containing other children are not to be posted online. Thank you for your support in this matter.

### **Mathletics**

Well done to all those children who scored over 1000 points on Mathletics over half term. And to those children who were on the UK leader board.



## Pupil Voice

Congratulations to the new pupil voice/school council children who were elected to their new positions just before half term. The new children are 3LB – Reuben, 3PW – Zoe, 3CC – Joe, 4LM – Dominic, 4SD – Chloe, 4CB – Nichole, 5DB – Henry, 5KO – Gemma, 5JW – Zach, 5ZL – Daniel, 6CD – Devon, 6DM – Kiera, 6CJ - Ella-Rose, 6AER – Kira.

## Charity Event

Jemma Bye and her family would like to thank all the children and parents who visited their understated Halloween Spooky House in Grange Way on 31 October. Through everyone's kind donations, they raised a surprising £50, which has been donated to the SJA school charity. From the stories in school after half term, a lot of fun was had by children and parents, bobbing apples and getting messy in the "Goo Challenge". They will be back next year with more fun for charity – weather dependant of course.



## ICT Gifted and Talent Day

Just before half term Mr Whetton ran a day long session for 16 of our pupils who show a significant talent and passion for computing. As part of our policy to work alongside other schools, we also hosted children from Castlewood and Greenway. The day consisted of using Kodu, a computer programming programme and Makey Makey. The children had to design their own computer game and use the Makey Makey system to turn an inanimate object, such as a banana or sweets, into the controller. All the children amazed us with their talent, passion and enjoyment. Over the next two terms, we are looking at holding music and sport sessions for our gifted and talent children, as well as inviting children from other local schools.

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Do you have any other comments about any information in the newsletter?  
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Parent:

Name of child:

Class:

### **Autumn Term 2013**

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Environment Committee meeting Y3 visiting Croydon
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need / 'Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund' fund raising day 1pm Y5/Y6 Football Tournament 4pm Girls Football League 2.50pm 4CB Assembly to parents
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability for Y6 ( over 2 weeks)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	7pm PTFA meeting
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Stuart Day for Y4. Bring in something for the adult tombola. 4pm Hockey League
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	8.45am Finance meeting Y5 Pirate Day
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	6pm Full Governing Body
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Bring in jam jars filled with sweets. 4pm Girls Football League
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Joint Open Day with SIA, from 10.30am at SJA. pm Sparkle Disco
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Bring in something for the children's tombola
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair 10am – 1pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5 Christmas Concert 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Y6 Christmas service @ Holy Innocents am or pm depending on class
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3/Y4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3/Y4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of school

## Term Dates 2013-14



### AUTUMN 2013



Monday 2nd September to Thursday 19th December 2012

**Inset Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 3rd September- First day back Wednesday 4th September**

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

**Christmas Holiday** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 6th January

### SPRING 2014

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**Inset Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - First day back Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

**Half Term** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21st February.

**Easter Holiday** Monday 7th to Monday 21st April

**(Inclusive of Good Friday and Easter Monday – 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April)**

### SUMMER 2014

Tuesday 22nd April to Wednesday 23rd July.

**(Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday)**

**Half Term** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30th May.

**Inset Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Summer Holiday** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### AUTUMN 2014

**Inset Thursday 4th & Friday 5th September - First day back Monday 8th September**