



Dear Parents,

17th November 2016

One of the highlights of the term so far has to have been the class visits. If we were in any doubt of how valuable these visits were, the feedback would have massively reassured us. It was truly wonderful to see so many of you learning alongside your children and to receive your opinions on the provision we provide at SJA. It is certainly something we will continue to offer. Many of you requested seeing other subjects as well. This is something we will consider. We show English rather than maths as the English is always taught by the class teacher, whereas maths could be a different teacher.

It was good to see so many of you at the PTFA Fireworks. The weather was kind to us this year and remained predominantly dry and not too cold. We are still awaiting a final result for how much was raised. This is money which goes towards buying those extra things which the school budget would not necessarily stretch to. Our grateful thanks to the organisers, and those who helped on the night. The next event to be supported by the PTFA will be on Saturday 3rd December when they will be manning the tombola stall at the Village Fair in Lintot Square. In order for the PTFA to have lots of prizes for the tombola and raise lots of money, there will be a 'dress down' day for children bringing in tombola items on Friday November 25th.



We are delighted to be sending out **Scholastic** brochures again. We, like Scholastic, want to inspire a life long love of learning. By buying books from Scholastic, you not only get the books at a good price but also facilitate more books to be bought for the Academy.

Preparation has already started for the Christmas productions and we eagerly anticipate the delights in store for us which are guaranteed to put us in the Christmas spirit.

As always I am grateful for your support and you being such a dedicated group of parents.

Warmest wishes,
Anne Ratsey

Governors' Corner

It's been a busy few months at the Academy and we wanted to update you on some of the activities we've been working on.

To ensure we are offering the best possible experience for all pupils at SJA, it is important that the Governors and Leadership team work collaboratively to build and deliver the aspirations of SJA. With the children at the centre of all of our decisions, we need a clear vision, with action plans and goals that support this delivery.

At the recent Inset Day, Governors and Staff met to review and agree our strategies and future goals. It was a great session, where we agreed that our Vision of "Learning for Life" is core to everything we do and remains unchanged. Our Mission as an Academy is to have pride in ourselves and our school. We want every child to reach their full potential as an individual, be independent and confident. We embrace opportunity and thrive on challenge.

Over the coming weeks we will be exploring our Values with the children, focusing conversations around 'Working Hard, Resilience and Kindness.' There will be more to come on this!

Within our own community we continue to support the West Sussex 'Worth Less?' Campaign and will continue to provide regular progress updates. We are always open to receiving your ideas – contact can be made through the school office.

Lastly, in the run-up to Christmas, may we take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you for the Christmas break.



Coats

As the weather is now so much colder, we do expect the children to bring a coat to school as they will be outside at break and lunch times. Thank you for your support with this.

A Plea from the Office

If your child is off sick, it is really helpful if you could ring the office before 9am. Please don't ring the office with a message about your child's home time arrangements at the end of the day unless it is an emergency. The staff will always do their best to pass on any messages but at the end of the day it is difficult to guarantee the message will get through.

Y5 Trip to Chichester

On Friday 14th October, Year 5 went to Chichester to participate in a two part trip. For half the day, they carried out geographical fieldwork in the city centre and explored who uses the city centre, what they use it for, and how they travel to get there. The children were very enthusiastic about asking as many people as they could these questions and will be analysing the data they collected after half term. The other half of the day was spent at the South Downs Planetarium where they spent an hour and a half in the star dome looking at the stars and learning about the planets. They were also treated to learning about what it is like to live in space whilst they ate their lunch. Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and the children had a fantastic time.



SEND Update

West Sussex Information, Advice and Support Service - We are delighted that The Information, Advice and Support Service has awarded the Academy with a certificate in recognition of the school's good practice in engaging and supporting parents and carers of children with special needs. In order to receive the award, the school had to demonstrate that it was committed to following the principles, aims and objectives in the Education Partnership Protocol. A detailed response to a questionnaire was written by the school and several parents confirmed our positive relationship and engagement with them. Thank you to all who supported this.



Dyslexia Aware Schools Award - The special project for Special Educational Needs at SJA this year is



the re-accreditation of the West Sussex Dyslexia Aware School Award. This is a challenging award that demands a whole school approach to specific learning difficulties, with a focus on dyslexia-type differences. Such differences can impact on a child's learning in school in a variety of ways. The Academy has adopted the Rose Report 2009 definition for dyslexia:

'Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed. Dyslexia occurs across the range of intellectual abilities. It is best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and there are no clear cut-off points. Co-occurring difficulties may be seen in aspects of language, motor co-ordination, mental calculation, concentration, and personal organisation, but these are not, by themselves, markers of dyslexia. A good indication of the severity and persistence of dyslexic difficulties can be gained by examining how the individual responds or has responded to well-founded intervention.' (Rose Report 2009 p.30-36)

Over the course of this academic year, the school community, children, parents, all teaching and support staff and Trustees will participate in developing our portfolio. If you would like to know more about the award, please contact the SENCo, Mrs. Burke, via the school office.

Sports Updates

What an incredible start to our academic year for our sports teams!

- Our Year 5/6 football A team were crowned 7 a-side champions of Horsham, after winning all 16 games in their league meetings, and will now represent Horsham Schools in the next round of the English Schools Competition. Our B team finished very credibly in 4th place!
- Not to be outdone, our Year 3/4 football A team were also crowned Horsham Schools Champions, after winning their tournament as well, without conceding a single goal over the three league meetings! A big well done to the B team, who also finished in 4th place!
- Our Year 5/6 footballers were also crowned Chelsea FC Premier League Tournament winners, after winning all of their games at the recent tournament, and will now go on to compete against the winners of the Chichester, Crawley and Worthing areas. The winners of that will progress to a tournament held at Chelsea FC's training ground.
- Five of our boys enjoyed a fantastic trampolining workshop held at Forest Boys' School recently. Their behaviour and attitude was absolutely perfect on the day!
- Our girls' football teams enjoyed a great start to their year when we played three friendly matches against Kingslea. The Cs won 3-0, Bs drew 0-0 and the As won 4-0. Unfortunately the first league meeting of the season was rained off, but has been rescheduled for Friday 27th January. We look forward to the season starting this Friday now instead!
- Our netball A team got their season underway with two wins and a loss and look forward to their next league meeting on the 23rd November. Meanwhile the B team will start their campaign on the 16th.
- Our hockey teams have had contrasting starts to their seasons, with our Bs losing all three of their matches in the first league meeting, while the As won two and drew two and finished top of their league. Now the leagues have been stranded out after the first meeting, the teams will find themselves playing against teams of similar ability levels, so both should compete well!
- And finally our Table Tennis teams have had a good start to their season. The As unfortunately didn't have a game in the first week, as their opponents didn't turn up, and the Bs lost an incredibly tight game against Kingslea A. In the recent doubles competition, played by sixteen different pairs, our teams finished 6th (Eloise and Krish), 4th (Zack and George GB), 3rd (Olly and George) and 1st (Harry and Finn) well done to all of you!



If you haven't already done so, please give our Facebook page a "like" - Southwater Junior Academy PE and Sports Page, and follow us on Twitter - southwaterja_PE

Charities



Children and staff will be wearing pyjamas to raise money for Children in Need. Bring in a silver coin donation to support this worthy cause.

Then look out those Christmas jumpers for another fund raising event on the last day of term. If you don't have a Christmas jumper, please wear a Christmas hat or hair decoration with the normal uniform.

Sparkle Disco is back!!

Our first disco of the year is on Friday 9th December. The Y3/Y4 disco is 4.30pm to 5.30pm and the Y5/Y6 disco is 6pm – 7.15pm. Entry is £2.50 and includes crisps and a drink.



Christmas Post box and Tree

The post box will be in place from Thursday 1st December. Please ensure envelopes have the recipient's name and class on the front.

The tree will be arriving soon very kindly donated to us by Newbridge Nurseries. They are also advertising Santa's Grotto which will be open at the Nurseries from Saturday 26th December. Proceeds from the visit to Santa will go to Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice.

Dads' Day reminder – January 13th 9.15 am to 10.30am

On Friday 13th January, we would like to invite dads (can be granddads/uncles/friends) in for a classroom visit and to spend some time working with their child in class. This will be the fourth time we have run this hugely popular event. The children love having their family alongside them in the classroom.

Parking

There are frequent complaints to the Academy about parents who park irresponsibly outside the school gates. The comment is invariably along the lines of, 'Do we need an accident to make parents realise how dangerous this is?' We are waiting for the Highways Agency to install the correct signage so that the 'no waiting' on the yellow zigzags can be enforced, but in the meantime it doesn't seem an unreasonable request to ask that you consider the safety of pedestrians, particularly children, when you park or drop off children. Thank you for your consideration.

Autumn Term 2016



Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Wednesday 23 rd November	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2017 10.30am
Thursday 24 th November	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2017 10.30am 6pm Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 25 th November	5JE Class Assembly – 2.45pm
Saturday 3 rd December	Y6 Singing at Lintot Square
Thursday 8 th December	Y5 Christmas Performance 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Friday 9 th December	Sparkle Disco
Tuesday 13 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Wednesday 14 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Friday 16 th December	Break up; Christmas Jumpers
Spring Term 2016	
Tuesday 3 rd January	INSET Day
Wednesday 4 th January	First day back for children
Tuesday 12 th January	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2016 10.30am
Friday 13 th January ?or 20th	9.10am – 10.15am Dads' morning;
Monday 16 th January	6pm Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 20 th January	Y6 choir singing at the O2;
Half term	
Monday 27 th February	First day back for children
Tuesday 28 th February	Parents' Evening
Thursday 2 nd March	Parents' Evening
Friday 2 nd March	SJA World Book Day
Tuesday 7 th March	Dance Festival 2017 - The Hawth
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day

