



22nd January 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016 and a very warm welcome to all the new children who started in January. As you can see from the date sheet the spring term is as busy as ever with music, sporting events and school trips. The website is updated regularly so please keep an eye out for any new events.

As part of our New Year resolutions we reminded ourselves of the things which are really important to us at SJA. We did mention all the health kicks which many embark on at this time of year plus how important it is that we work hard and make every day count. But as well as aiming to make ourselves healthier or more successful, we have also been thinking about how we can make life better for others. Kindness has been key to our ethos for some years now and we are starting to think about integrity and how our honesty affects others.

There has been a fair amount of time travel already this term with Y3 going back in time to the Victorian age and Y5 experiencing some of the intrigues of the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. It is always delightful to see Y3s dressed up in their Victorian outfits and how well they cope with the strict discipline and uninviting food that the day offers. Y5s started their day being Decade Detectives and went on to experience some of the culture of the times. Their turn to dress up will come at the end of the term. Y4 are working towards their Superhero Day at the end of the term and the Y6s will go into mountaineering mode with the climbing wall testing their agility and resilience. And of course, we all get to dress up on World Book Day at the beginning of March.

The staff and I are looking forward to welcoming you to our Parents' Evenings at the end of February but as always don't hesitate to contact us before then if you have any concerns.

Kind regards,

Anne Ratsey

Awards

As is our custom, on the last day of term we held our termly awards' ceremony. It is always a very difficult task for the Y6 teachers to choose a small number of recipients, from a talented and deserving year group. Awards are given out for a variety of reasons - all round performance, sport, music, endeavour, teamwork and consideration. Congratulations to this term's winners. We are immensely proud of them.



Esprit de Corps - Awarded to the children who have made an extra special contribution to the life of the school. Autumn 2015 - Eleanor and Ed

Moulden Trophy - Awarded to the children who have made outstanding contributions in sport. Autumn 2015 - Millie and Andrew

Standing Trophy - Awarded to the children who have made outstanding contributions in music or the performing arts. Autumn 2015 - Ed and Caitlin

Rivendell Cup - Awarded to the child or children who have shown endeavour. Autumn 2015 - Leo and Chloe

Triple C Trophy - Awarded to those who have displayed Consideration, Cooperation and Communication. Autumn 2015 – Nicole and Oliver

Iggy Cup – Awarded to the 'Red Team' for the Autumn Term. This cup is for children who are asked to do something extra like an intervention group, to help them with their learning. Points are earned individually for effort and achievement and collated into colour teams, to find the overall winner. Well done to all for their hard work and perseverance.



Dads' Day - Not Just Another Day at the Office



On Friday 14th January, The Southwater Junior Academy hosted its third Dads' Day – an annual event that is a firm favourite with staff, parents and pupils.

The children were all very excited to welcome their dads (or grandads) into the classroom to experience what it is like to be a child at the school. With lessons including poetry, literature, drama and creative writing on the timetable, and a range of interesting and engaging activities on the agenda, both adults and children were inspired to learn together.

The response to the morning was overwhelmingly positive as it provided an opportunity for dads to become involved in their children's learning. Dads commented, "Great to see the children involved in a happy and diverse environment"; "Excellent as always. Very interactive and great fun. Good atmosphere in the class"; "As usual very enjoyable – SJA is always a pleasure – professional but friendly – all good".

The morning was very successful, and these enthusiastic dads are looking forward to coming back into school soon. Thank you to the PTFA for their assistance with refreshments.

Governors' Corner

Firstly, we'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a 'Happy 2016'. Reflecting back on the autumn term, we would like to thank Mrs Ratsey and her team for the fantastic start to the academic year.

As the Governing Body, we want to share some areas of our focus and to recognise how the Academy continues to move forwards, ensuring the children and staff remain central to our plans and decisions. We are committed to developing excellence in teaching and learning, our financial security and investments, and our partnerships with parents, carers and the extended community.

We are delighted with the result of our recent investment in the building infrastructure. In the warmer weather, our children have made excellent use of the refurbished areas at the front of the school and in the central courtyard. We are equally pleased with the take up of the wrap-around care offered before and after school, through the recently launched 'Southwater Junior Club'. This has been very successful and more popular than ever. Thank you for your support in this venture.

You will be aware of the planned housing developments local to the Southwater area. This is something we are actively working on, as it clearly has a direct impact on our class sizes and intake groups per year. Our actions are to ensure we have a voice in the decisions that impact on us and we benefit from any potential investment as a result of the development. We will keep you informed as we progress.

We strongly support the recently launched "Worth Less?" campaign and thank you for your active and continued participation. Heads across West Sussex are in active dialogue with MPs, supported by their governing bodies. We are closely following this debate with interest; please take a moment to learn about this on our website.

We are very proud to see The Southwater Junior Academy going from strength to strength academically, as well as across our specialisms in sport, music and computing. The pride and commitment that the children exhibit is fantastic, thanks to you all for your continued encouragement!

Ideas and feedback are always welcome; you can reach out to us through Lindsay Stott at: lstott@southwaterja.co.uk. If you are interested to learn more about the Governing Body, who we are and what we do, please look on the school website.

Music



Following the huge success and enjoyment of last year, nearly 70 of our Y6s are once again preparing for the Young Voices Concert at the O2 later this month. Our Y4 choir are also practising for their appearance at The Hawth in May when they will be taking part in the Horsham Schools' Music Festival.

Sport

This year we are once again collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Last year we were able to buy some fantastic new equipment, used by every single child, and we would love to be able to do the same thing again this year. Please send any vouchers in with your child and leave them at the office, or give them to Mr Showell.



On Wednesday 13th January, our victorious Year 5/6 football team travelled to Uckfield College to take part in the Sussex finals, after qualifying as Horsham schools' champions. We took on six other excellent teams from areas such as Crawley, Brighton and Eastbourne. The team played well throughout the tournament, and ended with three draws and three losses. The boys should hold their heads up high, because despite not winning any games on the day, they were the first team from Southwater to qualify for that tournament in 10 years.

Max (C), Sammy, Melvin, Toby, Archie, Frankie, George, Harry, Keylan, Jaime.

The Table Tennis team became West Sussex champions on Wednesday 20th January, by defeating Kingslea 8-0 on the day. Unfortunately, due to late notice, the tournament was only contested by SJA and Kingslea, but our team have now qualified for the zone finals at Tower Hamlets school in London on Saturday 30th January! Well done boys! Harry, Finn, Evans and Sammy



Our Netball B team enjoyed their first wins of the season on Wednesday 20th January by beating North Holmes and Plaistow and Kirdford 6-1 and 9-0 respectively! Well done to all who played!

Ruby, Chloe, Caitlin, Elsie, Finley, Oli and Francesca.

Elephantastic and the PTFA

We are delighted to welcome back our family of elephants which were designed and decorated by Miss Briggs and her last year's class. We are not entirely sure where their permanent home will be in the school yet. We eagerly await the next animal trail as we are quite looking forward to generating our very own psychedelic safari park! The elephants originally were purchased with money raised by the PTFA.



SIC

Our before and after school club has been so successful that we have had to take on extra staff. This now means that we have more availability should you need wrap around care for your child. The children are looking forward to welcoming the Dogs' Trust in soon and have many other exciting experiences on their agenda. If you have any questions about the club either speak to one of the leaders or Lindsay Stott in the Academy Business Office.

Parents' Evenings/Reporting to Parents

Parents' evenings are during the week of the 29th February (Monday and Wednesday) and you will be able to sign up online for an appointment. At the appointment you will receive a report showing your child's attainment and effort in each subject and targets for reading, writing and maths. The targets will relate to specific things which your child needs to work on to achieve the standard expected by the end of the academic year.

Absence

I have a plea from the office staff regarding absence. If your child is not going to be in school because of illness / medical appointments etc. please ring the school before 9.15am. Thank you.

Charity Stalls

These are in the diary for the 7th and 14th March. This year's charity stalls will be held in aid of Sports Relief and Young Epilepsy. Further details to follow.



Spring Term 2016

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| Friday 22 nd January | 3LW Class Assembly - 2.45pm |
| Wednesday 27 th January | Netball @ Collyers |
| Friday 29 th January | Y6 choir singing at the O2; Y4 Music Festival Rehearsal @ Kingslea |
| Tuesday 2 nd February | Y3/4 Sportshall athletics 10am -2pm |
| Friday 5 th February | Governors in assembly – Question and answer session; Hockey tournament 4-6pm Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm |
| Wk beg 8 th February | Y6 Mock week; Y5/6 Sportshall athletics 10am -2pm |
| Tuesday 9 th February | 3LW to Preston Manor |
| Wednesday 10 th February | 3CE (am) and 3CC (pm) to Preston Manor |
| Friday 12 th February | 5IT Class Assembly - 2.45pm; Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm |
| Half term | |
| Monday 22 nd February | First day back for children; Kurling Festival 2-5pm |
| Friday 26 th February | Y4 Music Festival Rehearsal @ Kingslea; Hockey Tournament 4-6pm; Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm |
| Monday 29 th February | Parents' Evening |
| Wednesday 2 nd March | Parents' Evening ; Swimming gala – 12.20 -3pm |
| Thursday 3 rd March | World Book Day – Dress up as a character from a book; Cross Country 1-3pm |
| Friday 4 th March | Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm |
| Wk beg 7 th March | Y3-5 Assessment Week; Charity Stalls |
| Wednesday 9 th March | Netball @ Collyers |
| Thursday 10 th March | Gymnastics Tournament 10.15 – 1pm |
| Friday 11 th March | 5PW Class Assembly - 2.45pm; Y5/6 Football and Hockey Tournaments 4-6pm Table Tennis B Team 4-6pm |
| Monday 14 th March | Charity Stalls |
| Tuesday 15 th March | Y6 SATs Meeting -6.30pm; Tag Rugby Festival 1-4pm |
| Wednesday 16 th March | Netball @ Collyers |
| Thursday 17 th March | Basketball Tournament 4-6pm |
| Friday 18 th March | Y4 Music Festival Rehearsal @ Arunside; Y3/4 Football Tournament; Table Tennis B |
| Monday 21 st March | Climbing Wall |
| Wednesday 23 rd March | Sports Relief |
| Thursday 24 th March | Y5 Decades' Day; Y4 Superhero Day |