



Dear Parents,

5th October 2015

We have experienced our usual busy start to the year and September has just sped by! Trips to Newhaven Fort, Southwater Country Park and the Tower of London have provided both learning opportunities and enjoyment. Year 5 got into the swing of their topic with a very musical Ghana Day and Miss Lush is promising that the children will be flying back from Ghana at the end of the term! The signing up on line for Parents' Evening has gone very smoothly and the teachers are looking forward to meeting with you and sharing information about your child's learning. Also – thank you for the vital part you play in this by listening to your child read, practising spellings, helping with maths and generally supporting with the homework. It is invaluable.

It has been an incredibly positive start to this academic year. Our Year 3s have settled really well and are readily coping with new routines. As anticipated, they made themselves very much part of the Southwater Community from day one! Many of our older children become leaders, particularly in Year 6. They serve as a role model both for their peers and the younger children in the school. You will find reference to our librarians, colour captains and PE monitors in this newsletter. Their dedication to their roles is impressive. I will refer to our other leaders in a subsequent letter.

The conker season is nearly upon us and the traditional 'Academy Conker Championships' will be taking place before half term under the careful supervision of Mr Dudeney. More information will follow. I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming class visits, Harvest celebrations and Parents' Evenings.

Warmest wishes

Anne Ratsey

Christ's Hospital / Windlesham House Maths Competitions

On Thursday 24th September, four Y5 pupils went along to Christ's Hospital to participate in this year's Maths Challenge. They competed in pairs against schools from all over Sussex. During the



course of the afternoon, the children tackled six different mathematical tasks, gaining points according to how many they could complete in eight minutes. The challenges included tangram shapes, number dominoes, train timetables and shopping list solving. Well done to Harry, Lily, Oliver and Tessene for approaching each task with great skill and enthusiasm. Lily and Oliver came second in their half of the competition, whilst Harry and Tessene finished third overall, fantastic results for both pairs.

Following the Y5 success, it was Y6's turn to show their mathematical talent at the Maths Challenge held at Windlesham House on Tuesday 29th September. Competing again in pairs, the children worked together to 'Find the Value' in an algebra round, reach the target number in a Countdown style round and finally attempted to crack twenty mathematical challenges. Each answer had to be verified by the judges and involved much running around the hall by the children, trying to avoid the other competitors on the way back to their chairs! It was clear from all the smiling faces how much everyone enjoyed the afternoon. In the final placings, Caitlin and Tom finished a fantastic second in their half and mirroring the Y5 results, Ed and Harry came an excellent third overall - a whisker away from first place.



In both competitions, SJA were easily the top performing school overall - a wonderful achievement by all the children involved.

Classroom Visits

Our first classroom visits were a rousing success last week and continue this week. Please come to the hall once you have dropped your child off for a 9.10am start in class. You don't need to sign up, just come to the hall on the correct morning. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to see your child in the classroom and spend some time learning with them.

Librarians

The library is open at lunchtimes and on Monday after school until 4pm for those who want to bury themselves in books. The lunchtime rota is Monday and Wednesday Y4/Y6, Tuesday and Thursday Y3/Y5. Mrs Brine and our librarians: Sophie, Amber, Frankie, Katie, Eleanor, Nicole, Jane and Hannah are on hand to help children choose books and give advice.



PE Monitors



Our PE Monitors do a wonderful job helping Mr Showell and the staff to run all aspects of PE. They are dedicated to helping others and prepared to give up their own time to undertake their role. They support at clubs and set up equipment ready for afternoon lessons. They also rise to the challenge of keeping the PE shed tidy! Thank you Jemma, Lottie, Olivia, Georgia, Millie, Chloe, Charlie, Andrew, Oli, Max, Jaime, Gustav and Freddie.

Colour Captains

Congratulations to Georgia and Max who are our blue team colour captains, Alex and Archie who are our red team colour captains, Chloe and Gustav who are our green team colour captains and Chloe and Lewis who are our yellow team colour captains. Their responsibilities at the moment include counting up the team points their teams have scored each week and supporting and encouraging their teams.



Harvest Assemblies



Due to popular demand – we are having two Harvest celebrations this year. Year 3 parents are invited to the Harvest assembly on Wednesday 14th October at 9.30 and Year 4 parents are invited on Thursday 15th October at 9.30. The assembly will take place in the hall and please enter the hall by the door near to the bike sheds. Doors will open at 8.55am. This year we will be collecting tins / non perishable items for the Food Bank for the local community.

A Message from Southwater Junior Club (SJC)

The Breakfast and After School Club is going from strength to strength and once again we would like to thank you for your continued support. With the autumn season upon us SJC has arranged for some indoor activities alongside outside charities to visit us, e.g. Domino's Pizza, The Dogs' Trust, the fire service and the police. Our 'Muddy Boots' gardening club is now underway and we have been clearing the Eco garden. In January we will be receiving our potato growing kit from the Potato Council. The children can hopefully look forward to endless jacket potatoes! Don't forget we are also open to ad hoc bookings subject to availability. You can book via SJC or the front office. The parent feedback forms are showing just how popular the club is!



School Shop

The school shop is now open every Tuesday and Thursday break time in Mrs Gale's class room. The shop is run by the School Council, with all profits being used to buy equipment for the playground. Prices are the same as the last two years!

OPENING TIMES:

TUESDAY BREAK TIME

THURSDAY BREAK TIME

ITEM	PRICE
POCKET POSTERS	£1.50
PENCILS	10p
SHARPENERS	10p
ERASERS	20p
RULERS	20p
HIGHLIGHTERS	45p
HANDWRITING PENS	25p
WHITEBOARD PENS	30p
GLUE STICKS	£1
TABLE TENNIS BATS	£2.00
TABLE TENNIS BALLS	20p

Flyers for Special Educational Needs Events

Flyers advertising Special Educational Needs Events for parents will be displayed on the outdoor noticeboard on the Year 3 side of the building, by the yellow bench. If you have any questions about these events, please contact Alison Burke, SENCo, via the School Office.

Parking

Parking continues to be a cause for concern for many of the residents around the Academy. Please park responsibly and give thought to the local residents and also to the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

Research Homework

As parents have asked for help with research based homework, here are some helpful tips from Mr Dudeney and Mr Whetton:

Research skills are extremely important and often called upon for school homework tasks. Luckily we have the internet! However, the internet is only useful if we use it effectively. Here are a few tips for using internet search engines to research:

- **Before you start, be sure what the focus of your research is. Have a clear idea about exactly what you are trying to find out.**
- **Think about your subject and ask yourself what are the most important words (keywords) that are linked to it. For example if you have been asked to research *What the Victorians ate*, the most obvious keyword would be *Victorians* but for a more accurate search you could try adding *Victorians* and *food* to your search.**
- **If your search does not give you web pages that are useful, try different keywords. For the example above you could try *Victorians* and *cooking* or *recipes*.**
- **Tip: add the words *for kids* to a search item and you are more likely to find a child friendly website.**

- When you find a useful website, **do not copy and paste** the information straight into another document.
- Remember to always check the reliability of the information. Make notes about what you have learnt from a useful web page and then look at other sites to see if they match (corroborate) your information or provide new information.
- Finally, turn your notes into full sentences and paragraphs about the information that you have researched. In doing so, you will be presenting the information in “your own words.”

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

Parent:

Name of child:

Class:



Autumn Term 2015

Tuesday 6 th October	9.10-10am Y4/Y6 Parent class visits
Wednesday 7 th October	9.10-10am Y4 Parent class visits
Monday 12 th October	Bikeability – all week 6DM/6RC Parents’ Evening 3.40pm- 7pm
Wednesday 14 th October	9.30am Y3/Y4 Harvest Assembly – Y3 Parents invited Parents’ Evening 3.40pm – 7pm
Thursday 15 th October	9.30am Y3/Y4 Harvest Assembly – Y4 Parents invited
Friday 16 th October	Y3 - Brazil Training Day
Monday 19 th October	Bikeability – all week 6JK/MD
Tuesday 20 th October	Y3 to Croydon
	Half term
Monday 2nd November	Inset Day – NB Change of date as advised in previous newsletter
Thursday 5 th November	Individual/ SJA sibling photos
Saturday 7 th November	Southwater Firework night
Sunday 8 th November	Remembrance Sunday – Y6 at Lintot Square
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need - Pyjamas
Thursday 26th November	Joint Parent Forum with SIA 2pm and 6.30pm – NB Change of date
Thursday 26 th November	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2016 10.30am 6pm Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 27 th November	Y3 Brazil Day; Y4 Stuart Day
Saturday 28 th November	Y6 Singing at Lintot Square
Thursday 10 th December	Y5 Christmas Performance 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Friday 11 th December	Sparkle Disco
Tuesday 15 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Wednesday 15 th December	Y3/4 Christmas Performance 1.30pm / 6.30pm
Friday 18 th December	Break up