



Dear Parents,

5th October 2016

This year has got off to a great start. Year 3 have settled well into their new classes and are readily coping with new routines. There is a calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school with the children engaged and focused on their learning. The year group have already visited Southwater Country Park and we are seeing the results of that visit in their very descriptive writing. Year 5 immersed themselves in their topic with a very vibrant 'Decades Day'. The staff love dressing up as much as the children!

Thank you for supporting us in listening to your child read. We do expect children to read at home at least five times a week, with their reading journals/home contact books signed by you. If the children find a book that they would like to read and we haven't got it in school, they should let me know the name of the book and we will buy it for the school library for their enjoyment and others.

The conker season is nearly upon us and for the fifth consecutive year we will be having our traditional 'Academy Conker Championships' under the careful supervision of Mr Dudeney. Please see the information and permission slip at the end of this letter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming class visits and Parents' Evenings and then – dare I say it – at the Christmas performances!

With best wishes,

Anne Ratsey

Applications for Secondary Schools

All Year 6 applications for secondary school need to be in before 31st October.

Christ's Hospital / Windlesham House Maths Competitions

On Thursday 22nd September, four Y5 pupils went along to Christ's Hospital school to participate in this year's Maths Challenge. They competed in pairs against schools from far and wide and enjoyed watching the marching band before going in to start the competition.

During the course of the afternoon, the children tackled six different mathematical tasks, with an eight minute time limit. They gained points according to how many of the challenges they could master - their brains were tested by a variety of mathematical problems such as Tangrams, Dominoes, Train Timetables and a Broken Calculator. This was followed by a speedy arithmetic round to finish off the proceedings, before going to enjoy the customary delicious tea!

Well done to Ellie, Georgia, Rahil and Thomas for approaching each task with great skill and a huge amount of enthusiasm. Both pairs finished in the top half of the competition. Excellent results for SJA, considering the large number of children taking part.



Following the Y5 success, it was Y6's turn to show their mathematical talent at the Maths Challenge held at Windlesham House on Tuesday 27th 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, Harry and Lily finished a fantastic seventh in their half with Daisy and Tessene ending in fifteenth place, both excellent achievements.



Sports Update

We've had a very busy start to the academic year at SJA!

- 20 pupils attended a brilliant Olympic Legacy Day at Tanbridge House, playing several different sports, and they even got to meet Paralympic Gold Medal winner Dan Bentley, and hold his gold medals!

- Our Year 5/6 football teams have started brilliantly, with the As currently sitting on a 100% winning record. They have played 12, won 12 and only conceded two goals! Our B team will join them in the A league at the final league meeting on the 14th October.



- For the first time ever, we had an inclusive team in the most recent league meeting, with all but one pupil playing their first ever game of football for the academy! They lost all of their games, but had a great time along the way!

- Our Year 3/4 football teams had an incredible start to their season, with the A team finishing in 1st place, and the Bs ending up 3rd in their practice meeting!

- 19 pupils travelled to Broadbridge Heath

Leisure Centre last week, for an alternative sports festival. They took part in new sports: walking football, BMX-ing, disc-golf and ultimate Frisbee. The pupils had a brilliant morning!



- Congratulations to pupils Isla, Daniel, Ellie and Harry who were named our first ever sports superstars of the week! This is a new award that will be given out each week to pupils who go the extra-mile in PE, and always try their best!

- Our holiday clubs will return in October half-term, with five action packed days of sport! Please sign up via the office if you would like your child to attend!

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

Classroom Visits

We are expecting this year's visits to be as successful and enjoyable as in previous years. 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.

Colour Captains

Congratulations to Ruby and Max who are our blue team colour captains, Evie and Harry who are our red team colour captains, Lily and Lucas who are our green team colour captains and Zoe and Reuben 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.

School Shop

The school shop is now open every Tuesday and Thursday break time in the Library Annexe. 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 three years! The main items on sale are items of stationery but it would be good to see the table tennis tables fully utilised during break times again.

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

Research Homework

Last year we sent out the following advice as parents had 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.”**

A Few Reminders to Ensure the Smooth Running of the Academy

SJC – The club opens at 7.35 in the morning. if you want your child to have breakfast, please make sure they are in club before 8.10

Start of the day - We aim to start the school day promptly at 8.45am, with children coming straight into classes to start early work. If you have any messages for teachers, please write them in the Home Contact Book or see the teacher after school. If it is vital that a verbal message needs to be passed on, then please come and see the teacher at 8.30am. Four or five parents wanting to speak to the teacher at the beginning of the day means that lessons do not start promptly or children are queuing up in the playground after the bell has gone. If you need to enter the school, please sign in at reception first. While we operate an 'open door' policy for parents, we also have to be very mindful of

safeguarding the children and we cannot have adults walking through the school without being signed in at the office first. Thank you for your understanding.

Crossing the field from SIA – Please use the path at the side of the Y6 mobiles rather than crossing the field.

Spelling

Spelling has a much higher profile in the new curriculum than in the previous one. Children across the nation are expected to be able to spell some quite demanding words and to use them in their writing. To help them learn these words, the word lists and animations are on the website and attached to this newsletter. Your help with encouraging your children to learn these words is invaluable.

Anyone for Conkers?

Now is the season for horse chestnuts or conkers! Did you know that the first recorded game of conkers was on the Isle of Wight in 1848 and since then it has become a traditional game played nationally. We will be holding the 5th Southwater Junior Academy Conker Competition next week.

For those who don't know the Southwater rules:

- Each player has a conker hanging on its string. Players take turns at hitting their opponent's conker. (Please note the conker should be 'natural' – no baking, pickling, etc!)
- If you are the one whose conker is to be hit first, let it hang down from the string which is wrapped round your hand. The conker is held at the height your opponent chooses and is held perfectly still.
- Your opponent (the striker), wraps his/her conker string round their hand just like yours. They then take their conker in the other hand and draw it back for the strike.
- Releasing the conker s/he swings it down by the string held in the other hand and tries to hit their opponent's conker with it.
- If a player misses hitting his/her opponent's conker they are allowed up to two further goes.
- If the strings tangle, the first player to call "strings" gets an extra shot.
- If a player hits his/her opponent's conker in such a way that it completes a whole circle after being hit - known as 'round the world' – the player gets another go.
- If a player drops his conker, or it is knocked out of his hand the other player can shout 'stamps' and jump on it; but should its owner first cry 'no stamps' then the conker, hopefully, remains intact.
- The game goes on in turns until one or other of the conkers is completely destroyed.

As you may remember from your childhood, the game, whilst great fun, is not always without injury. We will not be going down the line of using safety equipment (goggles, padded gloves etc.) but the competition will be monitored by adults. If your child wishes to participate, they should come to school with a conker on a string and the returned competition slip on the relevant day. The rule is one conker per child with the string placed through a hole through the centre and tied in a knot. The competition will commence at 12pm for Y3/4 and 12.30pm for Y5/6 by the PE shed. (Please note that conkers should only be played during the competition and at no other time in school.)

Year 3 and 4– Thursday 13 th October	Year 5 and 6 – Friday 14 th October
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Any queries contact Mr Dudeney. **Get Practising!**

I wish my child _____ of _____ (class) to take part in the 5 th Southwater Junior Academy Conker Competition and agree that they take part at their own risk. Signed _____ (Parent or carer)
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Autumn Term 2016



Thursday 6 th October	9.10-10am Y6 Parent class visit
Friday 7 th October	9.10-10am Y3/Y5 Parent class visits; 5ZL Class Assembly – 2.45; 4MP and 4AER to Hampton Court
Monday 10 th October	9.10-10am Y3/Y5 Parent class visits; Bikeability – all week: 6CJ and 6MD
Tuesday 11 th October	9.10-10am Y4 Parent class visit
Wednesday 12 th October	9.10-10am Y4 Parent class visits
Friday 14 th October	Y5 to Planetarium; 4CB and 4PS to Hampton Court
Monday 17 th October	Bikeability – all week: 6DM and 6IT
Tuesday 18 th October	Parents' Evening 3.40pm- 7pm
Thursday 20 th October	Parents' Evening 3.40pm – 7pm
Friday 21 st October	5RF Class Assembly – 2.45pm
Half term	
Saturday 29 th October	Fireworks
Monday 31 st October	Inset Day
Wednesday 2 nd November	Y6 Evacuation Day
Sunday 6 th November	Y6 at Remembrance service
Monday 7 th November	Y6 Assessment week
Friday 11 th November	5PW Class Assembly – 2.45pm
Monday 14 th November	Y3-5 Assessment week
Thursday 3 rd November	Individual/ SJA sibling photos
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Wednesday 23 rd November	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2015 10.30am
Thursday 24 th November	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2015 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