



Dear Parents,

8th September 2016

Welcome back! The year has got off to a fantastic start with all classes being quickly focused and there being a purposeful, calm and cheerful atmosphere across the school. I want to extend an especially warm welcome to Year 3 and new children and families joining us in other year groups. We also welcome to the lower junior school team: Miss Rhodes, Mrs Short, Mr Purdew, Mrs Masterson, Mrs Mirza and Miss Andrews - and to the upper junior school team: Miss Evans and Mrs Rumsey. I know you will all very soon feel part of the SJA community.

We have another busy and exciting year ahead and as always, we have many inspirational events planned. Trips are planned for Hampton Court, The Planetarium, The Imperial War Museum and Southwater Country Park. As in previous years, children across the school will again have the opportunity to sing at the O2 in London and The Hawth in Crawley; and for the fifth consecutive year, we are planning another stunning Year 6 finale at the Capitol Theatre in Horsham. Look out also for the revival of 'Dance Time'.

2015/16 was another phenomenal sporting year with an exhaustive list of successes. This year is also looking exciting with even more competitions which will involve even more pupils.

The updated curriculum has now been in place for two years. We were delighted with pupils' achievement last year and how they rose to the challenge of higher expectations, while still enjoying their learning. Our pursuit of Artsmark Gold means we are looking to introduce more arts based learning and experiences. We continue to be cutting edge with our updated computing curriculum. Minecraft, which was a huge attraction for the Computing Club, will be rolled out across the curriculum. All other subjects continue to be updated and adapted where necessary.

Parents' meetings for all year groups are booked in - see date sheet below. Please come along to one of the 'Welcome to Year 3/4/5/6' meetings where you will have the opportunity to find out about the curriculum, expectations and events in your child's year and ask any questions you may have. It will also provide a platform to allow you to discuss Academy and topical issues.

If you have any questions about the year ahead or anything else which you want to share, please don't hesitate to contact me either by email or see me in the playground. You can always speak to the class teacher or Year Leader as well. Here's to another happy and successful year working in partnership.

Kind regards
Anne Ratsey

Holiday Clubs



Our summer holiday clubs were extremely well attended with well over 200 pupils attending the clubs. Pupils had a fantastic time playing dozens of different sports everyday with their friends, and with other pupils who they wouldn't normally get the chance to play with! Our clubs will return in October half-term.

Don't forget to give us a "like" on Facebook. Our PE and sports page can be found at www.facebook.com/SouthwaterPE, or follow us on Twitter @SouthwaterJA_PE.

Club Letters



We continue to run a wide range of clubs at SJA. Letters have gone out this week; please return by Thursday 15th September. It is essential you get all applications back as soon as possible as the clubs are massively popular and there are only a limited number of places so it is done on a first come



-first served basis. Alongside all our regular clubs we are introducing two new ones: board games and colouring. The majority of clubs start week beginning the 19th September but please note that Drama will start on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th September.



Football Fantasy League

This year we are running our Football Fantasy League again. Last year we had over 30 entrants into the competition, including current and ex pupils, parents, family members, teachers and friends, with parent Matt Ayling winning the league in the end. Teams must be entered ASAP to ensure maximum points, however anyone joining later will still score points. To join the league, please go to www.fantasy.premierleague.com, once you have registered and selected your team, head to join a league, select Private League, and the code for our league is 887484-248861.

Reading at SJA



We continue to be hugely committed to encouraging our children to read, both for knowledge and for pleasure and are constantly on the look out for books which we know will interest, engage and excite the children. Some of the teachers are even competing to see who can have the best reading corner! Your support with listening to your child read regularly is of course of paramount importance in helping the children to accomplish reading skills.



Classroom Visits

During the first two weeks of October you will have the opportunity to spend a lesson in class with your child. Please see below for exact dates. Please come to the hall once you have dropped your child off in readiness 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 him/her.

Attendance

Over the last academic year we achieved an attendance percentage of 96.6%. Our target for this year is 97% and above. Regular school attendance is important in giving your child the best possible start in life. Children who have high attendance rates (95% and above) are more likely to enjoy school, have secure friendships and go on to achieve well.

Attendance below 90% can lead to children achieving less well than their peers and experiencing problems with developing social skills. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to come in and see us. With your support, we feel our target for this year is very much achievable.

Class Charter – Academy Values

You will find a separate copy of our Academy charter with this newsletter. Each class has a copy of the charter on a wall, which is discussed with the children. We talk to the children regularly about how they treat others and we have a strong emphasis on the need for the whole school community to be kind. Other values that we are particularly embracing are 'hard work' and 'resilience. You will be hearing more about this in future newsletters.

Library

The library will be opening at lunchtimes and on Monday after school from Monday 19th September. Parents and children are encouraged to visit the library on a Monday, from 3.20pm to 4pm when our librarian Mrs Brine will be on hand to give advice about your choice of books.

School Shop

The school shop will re-open the week of 26th September; it will be open every Tuesday and Thursday and be based in Miss Rumble's classroom. The shop is run by the school council. Items on sale include pencils, pens, rubbers, rulers, revision guides and table tennis bats. All are very reasonably priced.

Southwater Junior Club (SJC)

SJC has rapidly made itself comfortable and at home in its new base which is now a dual purpose music and SJC room. The club is at present full; however we are operating a waiting list so please speak to one of the club leaders or our Business Manager, Lindsay Stott if you would like to reserve a place for your child when a vacancy becomes available. If there is a one off occasion where you need childcare – either before or after school, it is worth speaking to us to see if we do have a space due to someone not being there.

Snacks / Nuts

In our aim to encourage the children to be healthy, we do request that they eat a nutritious snack at break times such as fruit rather than biscuits or crisps. Please can I also remind you that we are a nut free school as we have several children and staff members who have allergies, so products containing nuts should not be brought into school. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Please see the following information sent to us from Horsham District Children and Family Centres

Free support with returning to work

With the start of the new term, parents who are looking to return to work are often at a crossroads when their youngest child starts school or nursery. This is where our Parent Volunteer Programme offered by WSCC through our Children and Family Centres can give employability support to families.

What is on offer?

Our Parent Volunteer Programme offers the following to any parent who is seeking to return to work and has a child aged under 11:

- Help with cvs, job applications
- Support with honing interview skills
- Support with job searching
- FREE training through the WSCC Learning Gateway – both courses and online learning
- FREE training through the Early Childhood Service training programme for those looking for a career working with children
- Arranging volunteer placements within Children and Family Centres to gain confidence, relevant job experience and skills for inclusion on a cv
- Arranging external volunteer placements – tailored to the career aspirations of the parent, again to give relevant job experience and skills for inclusion on a cv
- Regular support from a Parent Volunteer Coordinator including creating an action plan and identifying next steps towards obtaining employment
- Signposting to other organisations who can help eg National Careers Service, Job Centre Plus

If you are looking to return to work but would value some support, please contact a Parent Volunteer Coordinator for an informal chat to see how we might be able to help you – Julie Dutton (Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk or 07872 420500) or Maria Maloney (maria.maloney@westsussex.gov.uk or 07834 444416)

Autumn Term 2016



Monday 5 th September	INSET –School priorities; Child Protection
Tuesday 6 th September	INSET – Teaching of Maths
Wednesday 7 th September	First day back for children
Friday 9 th September	2.30pm Reading volunteers’ meeting
Tuesday 13 th September	2.30pm/6pm Y6 Parents’ meeting
Wednesday 14 th September	9am Reading volunteers’ meeting 2.30pm / 6pm Y5 Parents’ meeting
Thursday 15 th September	2.30pm / 6pm Y3 Parents’ meeting
Monday 19 th September	2.30pm / 6pm Y4 Parents’ meeting; 6pm Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 23 rd September	Y3 to Southwater Country Park
Friday 30 th September	Y5 Decades Day;
Wednesday 28 th September	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2016 10.30am
Friday 30 th September	Y5 Decades Day
Thursday 6 th October	9.10-10am Y6 Parent class visit
Friday 7 th October	9.10-10am Y3/Y5 Parent class visits
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
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
	Half term
Monday 31 st October	Inset Day;
Wednesday 2 nd November	Y6 Evacuation Day
Thursday 3 rd November	Individual/ SJA sibling photos
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need
Thursday 24 th November	SIA/SJA Open morning for children starting SIA/SJA in September 2015 10.30am 6pm Full Governing Body meeting
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