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BOOK REVIEW



A boy and a bear in a boat by Dave Shelton

Reviewed by Ronnie Bourne

How does Dave Shelton do it? 'A boy and a bear in a boat' is by far the best book I have ever read. And I mean it. The storyline follows a boy and bear who go out to sea aboard 'The Harriet', with nothing but a suitcase, ukulele and a foreign comic book. They must face dastardly story seas, a foul sea monster, and...THE VERY LAST SANDWICH! Will 'The Harriet' survive?

I rate this book 11 out of 10, and I never wanted it to end. Recommended for everyone.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, as I mentioned in my newsletter item, we had a visit from the Local Authority in the form of two senior advisers. I would like to share the headlines from the visit report with you.

Behaviour and safety

Pupils say that they feel safe and know who to talk to if they need help. Younger children say they are enjoying Junior School – and that there are more clubs and activities. Pupils are unfailingly polite and courteous. They behave very well in and around the school. Pupils treat each other with care and respect, and the school is a warm and welcoming environment. Relationships between adults and pupils are particularly strong, with teachers modelling very effectively qualities such as good humour, patience, care and high expectations. In lessons, established routines mean that pupils are already moving between activities quickly, efficiently and with the minimum of fuss.

Teaching

The curriculum is rich and broad, with a wide variety of exciting experiences and pupil choice to make learning more real. For example Yr 4 enjoy meeting 'Queen Victoria' where pupils engage with an adult in role; the teacher then uses the opportunity to reinforce a grammar and speaking and listening focus. This is purposeful and sets learning in context.

Teaching in subjects such as Art, Geography, Science and PE is good quality and teachers' expectations remain high.

*Pupils make good progress in lessons and over time thanks to teachers' careful planning, and well organised and differentiated activities. Work is well pitched and pupils are able to access work at the right level, often with an element of choice. In a Yr 4 Maths lesson, one boy comments: "I love Maths! I am **so** good at this!"*

Pace in lessons is good and teachers have high expectations of the quantity and quality of pupils' work. A higher attaining pupil says: "The work is challenging but we're able to do it with effort, so I guess it's about right".

Learning environments are good, including the outside space which has recently benefitted from a bird-hide and a market garden. In classrooms, displays are attractive and engaging, and book corners are well-used with a good range of genres. Pupils are clear about what they are learning and work very well collaboratively, with high quality discussions evident. They can talk about their learning over time and use subject specific vocabulary.

The independence with which pupils work is impressive. For example, in a Yr 3 Maths lesson pupils independently and effectively select the right resources – all well organised and available – to support them with halving even numbers. This means they make rapid progress in this lesson.

Pupils' engagement and motivation for learning are very good, thanks to interesting lessons and very strong relationships with their teachers. Teachers challenge any rare behavioural issue quickly and effectively so that learning can continue smoothly.

The guided reading cycle is well organised and has a significant impact on reading attainment with a 10% rise in level 4+ and a 16% increase in level 5. Pupils follow well established routines and understand expectations within the sessions.

Teacher focus group interactions and questioning are well considered to develop a deeper understanding of a range of text. A particular strength is 'Book Club' where there is a 'Golden Question' to answer. This allows for a collaborative discussion between pupils, whilst working independent of the teacher.

Support staff are well deployed and work harmoniously with the teacher. They provide high quality support.

Teachers are often skilful in questioning which deepens pupils learning further.

There are good examples of 'Talk for Writing' which is helping to organise pupils' thoughts better, extend their range of vocabulary and improve their finished writing.

This school review adds more evidence to support the school's self-evaluation of 'good' in all aspects. Teaching has improved considerably over the past year, with several teachers performing at a good+ level. Middle leaders are a strength of the school despite changes in personnel which further underpins the level to which leadership has been effectively dispersed.

Evidence from this review leads the local authority to fully endorse the school's judgement that Southway is a good school, which is making rapid and sustained progress.

As a school we are immensely pleased and proud of this ringing endorsement about Southway Junior School. We are continuing to make positive and meaningful change and I am looking forward to meeting you at our first Parent Forum.

'Growth is the only evidence of life.' John Henry Newman, 1864

Have a good weekend

Best wishes

Mr P Newbold

Waiting and parking - The Highway Code applies to England, Scotland and Wales and is essential reading for everyone.

Rule 243

DO NOT stop or park:

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing/tramway crossing
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend

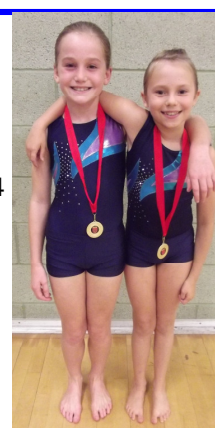
where you would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities **except** when forced to do so by stationary traffic.

Please always be considerate when dropping off & picking up from school. We have very limited parking around the school so would urge you to park your car away from the school and walk down with your child/ren. Whilst we appreciate the gloomy, wet weather is now upon us the safety of our children is of the utmost importance. Thank you.



Barnaby Mendez, Charlie Cartin, Ethan Evans & Samuel Vinall took part in the Renshinkan England Karate School Grading. The boys successfully managed to obtain the requires standard for their next grade belts, a great achievement and congratulations to them all.

Congratulations to Amelia Hill & Maddie Tibbs on your achievement in the team event at the Sussex 2014 Gymnastics Championships at the K2. Another great achievement girlskeep up the hard work!



SENCO - Parent consultations. Mrs Green is running appointments on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd between 3.30pm - 5.00pm. Please email parentline@southwayjunior.co.uk to make an appointment. If you are unable to meet with Mrs Green on those days or feel that you require a longer appointment, please ring to book an alternative date.

BURGESS HILL YOUTH CLUB

Fairfield Recreation Hall, Wednesdays 6.30pm - 8.00pm
For ages 8-12

Many activities available at minimal cost
Football, Air hockey, Circus Skills, Arts & Crafts all under adult supervision. Come along for a fun evening
A useful local area website: <http://you-bh.com/>

Diary Dates:

October

14th	Football match home - Birchwood Grove	3.30pm - 4.30pm
15th	Netball Festival, Ys 3&4 (selected) Downlands	9.00am - 12.00pm
16th	HSA AGM - Dining Hall	3.30pm - 4.30pm
16th	Cross Country (selected pupils)	12.15pm - 3.15pm
16th	A&B Team Netball; away - St. Lawrence	3.30pm - 4.30pm
17th	4G Class Assembly	10.00am - 10.20am
20th	Y4 Rainbow Theatre visit- Victorians	1.30pm - 2.30pm
20th	Football Tournament away - London Meed	1.30pm - 4.00pm
21st	Y5 PC Broad visit - Safer choices	
21st	Y6 Parents eve	3.30pm - 5.30pm
22nd	Y6 British Museum Trip	
22nd	Parents eve (except Y6)	3.30pm - 5.30pm
23rd	Parents eve	3.30pm - 7.00pm
24th	HSA Cake Sale	3.15pm - 4.00pm
26th	British Summer Time Ends (clocks go back 1 hour)	
27th - 31st HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED		

Our Year 5 children were recently visited by St.John Ambulance to demonstrate life saving skills. We asked the children for 'silver' to donate to this worthy charity. Marita & Andy, the trainers that came in, have sent in the following thank you:



"The money has been used for the community project, working with the homeless and vulnerably-housed people of Brighton. We can buy 50 pairs of socks from Asda. We hand out approximately 50 pairs of socks weekly; it is one item that they wear 22 hours a day and always appreciate a new pair and we always need more!"

Sadly, due to the current economic climate, we have still noticed an increase in the number of people who are either homeless or vulnerably housed in the local area. As always, we are deeply appreciative of the support we receive."



Year 5 Netball Match Report

By Emily and Elisha

Yesterday, 7th October, Southway played against Birchwood Grove in a netball match. It was the Year 5s first match of the year and it was very tense. Our hands were shaking rapidly, our hearts pounded, and then it suddenly began.

Birchwood Grove had the ball to start but we were determined to win! Unfortunately, after the second quarter, Birchwood had 3 points and we had none. As the whistle blew to start the third quarter, something changed; Southway were catching up and it was 3 all!

Birchwood went on to score one more, once again leading with 4 goals to our 3, but then Danielle scored! We cheered as we were now drawing 4 all and we thought we would be happy with that. Amazingly, in the last 10 seconds of the match, Danielle took a shot... would it get in the hoop in time? The ball fell through the net and the whistle sounded. We cheered; we had won our first netball match!

Year 6 Netball Report

By Anna & Holly

On Tuesday 7th October, the netball girls played an outstanding match against Birchwood Grove. In our first quarter, the girls weren't playing as well as we hoped, but the next three quarters were excellent. We managed to score another six amazing goals. The final scores were seven - three to Southway, which meant we won!



PC Broad our community police officer came in to school to discuss Safer choices. Our children's comments:

"It was amazing and educational and a great moment to learn from. We learnt the punishments and offences for the law and what we should and should not do. It was a great opportunity for telling what you know. I think everyone enjoyed it". Barnaby

"PC Broad came over and taught us how to stay safe and be kind to people by helping them if they are being bullied". Bert

"I learnt that theft is really bad, you could get caught on camera or when you go out the door the machines beep and you could get sent to jail!". Bethany



SOUTHWAY HARVEST FESTIVAL

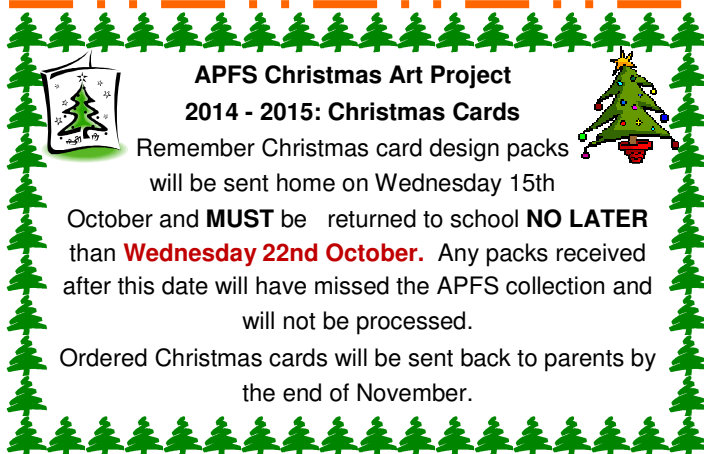


What a fantastic display, thank you to everyone who donated towards this very worthy cause.

The Burgess Hill Community Food Bank were very grateful and have taken your donations away to be distributed to people who are in a crisis situation.



Please return any letter or trip consent form via the class teacher, however if for any reason you do need to drop in to reception please use our new secure Trip Letters & Slips Return Box. It is situated just inside the door next to the reception hatch.



APFS Christmas Art Project

2014 - 2015: Christmas Cards

Remember Christmas card design packs will be sent home on Wednesday 15th

October and **MUST** be returned to school **NO LATER** than **Wednesday 22nd October**. Any packs received after this date will have missed the APFS collection and will not be processed.

Ordered Christmas cards will be sent back to parents by the end of November.