



Southway Update

**Autumn Term
2019**

'Keeping you informed'



Dear Families

We have had another busy and exciting term at Southway and I can't believe how quickly the time has flown by.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our year 3 children and families and hope you have had an enjoyable and rewarding start to Southway.

This term I have been genuinely bowled over by the sheer generosity of our school community. Not only did Children in Need raise over £1,600 but our first ever 'Elf' run in aid of a local hospice raised over £2,300 and our Giving Tree was bursting with presents for local children in need. And I haven't even mentioned the food collection on behalf of Burgess Hill Foodbank during harvest. What a remarkable effort and one we are all really proud of.

This term we hosted a visit from the Local Authority who came to inspect our curriculum provision and check our development plans. I am delighted to say that we passed with flying colours and the authority agreed with our current grading of good with many outstanding features.

We have spent a lot of time as a staff redesigning and refining our foundation curriculum. This is all subjects other than reading, writing and maths. Our broad and exciting curriculum is something we are very proud of and we are continuing to find new ways to teach children skills that will serve them well in later life.

We are continuing to improve the facilities for our children and our Learning and Resource Centre (LaRC) is nearing completion. We have also employed an artist to work with our children on creating 3D models for different spaces around the school. I am particularly looking forward to seeing life sized pterodactyls appearing on the ceiling!

Next term we are investing heavily in new books for all classrooms as well as furnishing all reading corners with new book towers and comfy seating. On top of that all classes will visit the new Burgess Hill Library once per term and pair up with another class to 'buddy read' every half term.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all staff at Southway as well as the continued support of our Governing Body. We all remain dedicated to doing the best for your children.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Warm regards

Mr P Newbold, Headteacher



Year 3 – Me and My World

Year 3 have settled into Southway and have been learning all about the world around them. They have completed some geography fieldwork around Burgess Hill, written postcards as Sunny the meerkat from Southway to the Kalahari desert and visited Drusillas zoo to learn all about animals and how they are adapted to their surroundings. They were lucky enough to have visits from the Mayor of Burgess Hill to talk about the job that he does and from an Orca charity to learn about different amazing sea creatures. We used this information to then paint these beautiful creatures using watercolour. We have used the newly finished eco-pond to go pond dipping and worked hard in science to understand how to classify different things.



Year 4 – Victorians



This term, year 4 have immersed themselves in Victorian life. In September, we headed off to Brighton and the children enjoyed finding out about all the aspects of Brighton which hold Victorian heritage. They had a brilliant fun-filled day out and created some fantastic persuasive leaflets based on Victorian Brighton in class. With a visit to Preston Manor to experience the jobs of Victorian servants and a Victorian school day, they have fully embraced experiencing first hand how it felt to be a Victorian. Throughout this term, the children have explored the lives of both rich and poor Victorians, what it was like to work in a workhouse and even enjoyed baking some delicious Victorian sponge cakes!

Year 5 - Power and Palaces



This term we have been learning all about the Tudors, the Battle of Bosworth and King Henry VIII. We reenacted the Battle on the school field on a gloriously sunny day. The children visited King Henry VIII's home, Hampton Court Palace to find out how the Tudors lived. They studied Tudor medicine and looked at how there are still influences from Henry VIII on the coins we use today. We learnt about Henry VIII's six wives and the reformation. The children had the opportunity to design and make their own quiche tartlets and create portraits of Henry VIII in water colour for their art lessons. Some problem solving was required when the children were asked to make a raw egg survive a 3 metre drop – although not many did survive the fall!

Year 6 – Frozen in Time

Year 6's imagination has been captivated this term by exploring with Shackleton on his expeditions to Antarctica. Whilst learning about survival in Antarctic conditions, children have had the opportunity to build shelters and tents, take part in orienteering and scale the climbing wall. Many children took part in our Year 6 residential to Le Pre Catalan in France and had a wonderful time exploring the local area, practising their French, making croissants at a bakery and visiting a local school to see how education in France is different to ours. Other children spent a fantastic week at Southway looking at recycling and hosting a charity bake sale.



Have a lovely Christmas holiday!

