



GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of this first term back we would like to thank you all for your continued support of Southway. Your children are an absolute delight and it has been wonderful being back in school and seeing how happy and settled your children are. The transition up to Year 3 was unlike anything we have had to do at school before and your children coped brilliantly, slotting straight into school life and embracing their new surroundings. Our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your children, alongside delivering an interesting and effective curriculum.

Buildings and Premises

The biggest project that we have undertaken on our premises so far this year is to install a new learning area by the lake. We now have a fit for purpose outdoor space with decking, benches and fencing right alongside the lake. Your children have had the opportunity to have lessons there already and absolutely love it! We now have many outdoor learning areas, which enable our pupils to make their curriculum come to life...being inspired by the great outdoors to produce wonderful writing and witness science and nature first hand.



We also have a new hygiene room and a new accessible toilet at Southway, which are really high spec and vital for our pupils with complex needs.

Next term will see the installation of a new trim trail and clamber stack (adventure playground) for your children's use. We can't wait to see them finished and ready for playtime!

Staff

We have had a few changes of staff at Southway this term. Miss Whitman has just started her maternity leave. Mrs Tullett, Mrs Tubbs and Mr Jones have moved on to have new adventures. We wish them all the best of luck.

We have recently been joined by Mrs McDougall, Miss Jones, Mrs Cann, Miss Driscoll, Miss Imray and Miss Pierce, who are all doing a brilliant job in their new positions at our school.

Governors

We have also had a few changes in our board. Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to Kieron Woodland, who has stood down as Chair, after 5 years of being a governor at Southway. Isobel Carpenter has also moved on, alongside Linda Tullett, our Clerk of 4 years. They have all worked so hard to support the school and we wish them well. We have recently been joined by Judy Groome as our Local Authority governor. Judy has a background of teaching in primary schools in London and is a real asset to our governing body, providing an insight into teaching and learning.

thank
you



We also have a new clerk, Claire Morley, who is already doing a fantastic job of supporting us. Ceri Williams has been elected to Vice-Chair.

We have been meeting regularly and have been able to return to in-school monitoring, enabling us to carry out our duties thoroughly. We have a real mix of skills and experience on our governing body, meaning that we can actively support our senior leadership team and work on the strategic development of our school.

Curriculum and Activities

Our pupils have had a full curriculum since their return to school in September. They have been able to make the most of their outdoor learning areas growing lots of fantastic produce in the market garden, pond dipping in the small pond, having adventures in the woods and going on lots of trips and residential. Year 6 spent the day in Brighton eating chips and flying on the i360, whilst Year 5 had a wonderful time at Hampton Court Palace, Year 3 monkeyed about at Drusillas and Year 4 had fun with the Rainbow Theatre Company. We are so grateful to our staff for providing such an interesting and varied curriculum, incorporating traditional learning alongside these amazing adventures.

This is an extract from a recent monitoring report by Judy Groome, "The school has an 'active learning' ethos where children are empowered to discover and acquire knowledge for themselves, thus developing skills so that they see themselves as learners." It really captures how children are taught in Southway, with a focus on independent learning and growth.



Support and Guidance

As a governing body we are privileged to be a part of the leadership at Southway. We put a lot of thought and care into providing dynamic strategic direction and supporting our staff. Seeing the impact that our work has on your children is a pleasure. Releasing funds to pay for projects, buy resources and enable the curriculum to be delivered is part of our role. We are always greatly impressed by the high standard of behaviour that we witness whenever we are at school. We hope that you are as proud of our school as we are.

A huge thank you to Mr Newbold and all of the staff for ensuring another safe and exciting term at Southway. They have worked so hard to make our school function seamlessly throughout the obstacles that Covid has provided. Thank you to you all for supporting your children so brilliantly too.

Stay safe, be kind and take care. Have a fun-packed Christmas holidays and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Kind regards,

Helen Lewis

Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body

