

Southway

Update

End of Year

Update

2020/21

'Keeping you informed'



Dear families

Well this has been a rather unexpected year. Full of twists and turns and an ever changing landscape where, as a school, we have had to adapt and change constantly to keep up with the daily government guidance. However, when all is said and done we have managed it and we finish the year proud of the children and their many achievements.

As a school we have learnt to adapt quickly and efficiently to teaching whole classes remotely as well as having some children onsite, for extended periods of time. I have not heard a single complaint from any member of staff about the extra stress this has placed on them and at times it has been considerable. On the contrary we have pulled together as a team, supported each other and always put the best interests of the children at the heart of everything. I don't believe we could have done anything more and I am forever grateful to the staff. I am also grateful to you as parents for your unwavering support and encouragement this year. There has been a real community spirit shown and this will carry us in to a new year with renewed optimism and vigour.

Despite the challenges we have seen Y4 and Y6 go on their annual residential trips to Lodge Hill and Weymouth PGL respectively and have wonderful, life changing experiences. Making memories that will last a lifetime. We have also been able to provide our Y6 children with as much a normal end of primary school experience as possible with an end of year production of Pirates of the Curry Bean and an end of year celebration party. This is all thanks to our dedicated staff who have seen every challenge set before them as an opportunity rather than a threat.

Amongst all of this we have been able to continue making considerable improvements to our school grounds in order to provide the children with even more opportunities for great learning. These include a wooden gazebo to be used as an outdoor classroom on the lower school playground; a decking and viewing area for children to access the large pond and a 'woodland walk' path. That is not to ignore the amazing murals we continue to commission of course. Future plans include redesigning our current Hub to be a dedicated small classroom and a separate workspace for staff and visitors.

Have a wonderful summer break.

'Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.'

Will Rogers

Mr P Newbold, Headteacher



Year 3

Dear Families,

Firstly, we would like to thank you all for your fantastic support throughout this academic year. It has been quite challenging with the ongoing pandemic and the switch to online learning in January that was successful for us at Southway, largely due to your support again.

Since coming back after Easter we have been fortunate enough to go to Drusillas to reinforce our learning about animal habitats and adaptations. It was lovely to get the children out of the classroom and see them excited about seeing the different animals. They were all very brave when the snake came out to say hello and all the children got the chance to stroke him as well.

The children have also taken part in their first House Day which saw them come in dressed up in their house theme, compete in netball and football competitions and donate money for some very worthy causes.

Throughout this year we have taken the children out to our local area as much as possible and they have loved going to the woods at the end of Povey's close to create Roman settlements or conduct litter surveys. We also have been out looking for evidence of the Roman road that went through Burgess Hill and compared our town to a small village on the Shetland islands.

The children have enjoyed all of the cooking we have done this year, making smoothies, scones, gingerbread and healthy wraps. They have been very creative with all of these activities, coming up with their own ingredients and designs.

Thank you once again for all your support and we wish you a restful Summer break.

The Year 3 Team



Year 4

Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful summer term in Year 4 at Southway and it has been fantastic to see all the children so engaged and excited about their learning – especially with their Space topic.

Over the last few weeks, we have been using our outdoor facilities to enrich our learning. During science, we reacted how particles behave in solids, liquids and gases. We have also visited the pond and our market garden – it was wonderful to see how our vegetables have grown and what new life has appeared in the pond since our last visit. There were many reports of frogs and newts as well as carrots and beetroot ready for harvest!

Year 4 were buzzing with excitement about their trip to South Downs Planetarium. The children enjoyed experiencing the magic of the night sky, they even got to see the difference between Brighton and Burgess Hill. Through the magnificent star projector, the children experienced what life was like on each of the planets and witnessed how the International Space Station was built.

Over the next few weeks we are looking forward to trying space ice cream and making our own as well as spending time getting to know our new classes ready for September.

Thank you for all your support this year, we wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Year 4 Team.



Year 5

Dear Families,

As this academic year draws to a close, we would like to thank you all for your support during what has certainly been an eventful, yet challenging year for the children. Considering the restrictions that have all been living under and the necessity of on-line learning the children have coped remarkably well and should be very proud of themselves.

Lodge Hill

Amazingly, and against all odds the residential to Lodge Hill took place this summer and the children had a brilliant time! Not only was it an opportunity for them to challenge themselves (often out of the comfort zones), it was many children's first time away from home. Activities enjoyed included zip wire, climbing wall, low ropes, archery and crate stacking – children often being required to work collaboratively in teams, which they did with success. Despite an extremely early start on day 2 (5am), the children still had bundles of energy; I'm not sure the same could be said for the staff!



Survival Day

Our topic during the summer term has been Storms, Seas and Survival and to immerse the children further in their learning, children has a go at fire lighting, den building in the local woods, raft making and even tasted some delicious cooked insects!!

Greek salad and Sushi Making

Children have had the opportunity to make a try two very different dishes throughout the summer term. During our mini unit on the Greeks, the children worked in groups to make their Greek salads and many children were pleasantly surprised when they tasted the end result. In the penultimate week of term, the children had a go at making vegetarian sushi – this was certainly enjoyed by many.

We wish you a restful summer, stay safe.

Year 5 Team



Dear families,

The final term in year 6 is both exciting and emotional. Our text, *Pig Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman, inspired the children to write passionately in a range of genres, including a one-sided argument and a video diary. It has been great to see the children write carefully crafted pieces including all the grammar, organisational features and emotive language taught throughout their time at Southway. As soon as restrictions were lifted, we could not wait to have our first post-lockdown trip to Chessington, where the children thoroughly enjoyed the rides and also behaved impeccably. With gusto, they have fully engaged with our production, *The Pirates of The Curry Bean*. Not only has the singing been heart-warming, but it has been a privilege to watch children shine as they have mastered their lines and grown in character. For 74 children, June 14th was the start of an amazing five-day residential to Weymouth, developing independence and resilience while challenging themselves flying along zip wires, sailing in Portland harbour and abseiling down a high tower. Those at school had an equally great time enjoying a cooking-themed activity week that included making pizza and a delicious afternoon tea.

As their time at Southway draws to an end, we could not be prouder of this talented group of hardworking and polite children who are now ready for secondary school. We will miss each and every one of them and look forward to them popping into let us know how they are getting on.

We would like to thank you for your overwhelming support over the four years and in particular during the past 16 months with the unimaginable changes to life and education. **Year 6 Team**



Circus skills and Ice Skating

Spinning plates and the tightrope walking came to Southway. Children had a fantastic afternoon learning different circus skills and tricks. Not everyone gets the opportunity to ice skate outdoors in June, but we gave the children that chance with the sound of laughter ringing in the air as children tried to battle with staying on their feet!



And finally, we wish all the Year 6 children the best of luck as the move to secondary school. We are sure you will continue to demonstrate your positive attitudes to learning.



Have a
lovely
summer
holiday!

