



Southway Update

2018-19
Academic Year

'Keeping you informed'



Dear Families

We have had another busy and exciting year at Southway.

I have lost count of the number of experiences our children have had and the opportunities staff have presented to them. From visits to Hampton Court Palace, and the Amex Stadium in Brighton; from Chessington for our year 6 children to Drusillas for our year 3s. Recently we canvassed the opinions of our year 6 children to find out what they thought about their experiences whilst being at Southway. Typical comments included *'I will miss the staff because all of them are kind, caring and helpful'* and *'Everyone works together'*. In fact all children mentioned the teaching staff as one of the things they will most miss.

We are extremely proud of the fact that our children took their SAT tests in their stride and were so well prepared. Our results were the best ever and continue a three year trend of improvement. In the words of one of our parents *'We are particularly impressed with how well prepared the students have been but at the same time, SATS have not dominated the curriculum'*.

We say goodbye to some staff who are moving on to new adventures and we wish them all well. We also welcome some new members of staff who will bring a range of experience with them and will no doubt push us on to greater things. I remain ambitious for the school and your children and I would like to thank the numerous parents who have supported us this year. Your positive comments, emails and cards are much appreciated.

If you are moving on I wish you and your family the best of luck in the future. If not I look forward to seeing you in September. In the meantime I hope you have a lovely summer holiday .

Best regards

Mr P Newbold, Headteacher



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Year 3

This term, Year 3 have been learning all about their local area. We were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Town Mayor of Burgess Hill, who outlined the exciting new changes coming to the town centre. Following her visit, we created information leaflets, which we posted to nearby houses.

After the half term, we moved our study to habitats around the world. We kicked this off with a 'flight to South Africa' to explore the wonders of the desert. We also enjoyed an exciting trip to Drusillas zoo, where we learnt about animal adaptation. We even got to stroke a snake!

Year 3 have delved into the depths of 'Scoundrels at Sea' to learn what life was like at sea. On the first day of term, all the children dressed as pirates and we went on a thrilling treasure hunt around the school. One of the highlights from the term was floating the pirate boats the children created on the school pond. Thankfully, all of the ships successfully floated!

To enrich our science study of the human skeleton, we visited the Booth Museum, in Brighton. Subsequently, we created our own model skeletons and enjoyed hosting some of the animal skulls from the museum in our classrooms!

This term, the children immersed themselves in all things Roman. As they returned to school, following the Easter holidays, the children discovered a letter from Emperor Claudius asking them to join the Roman army. Following this, they undertook a series of tasks to learn about life as a soldier and to see if they had what it took to join!

To discover more about Roman life, we visited Butser Ancient Farm. Activities on our trip included: jewellery making, archaeology and mosaic making.

Year 4

Year Four have had a truly out of this world experience this term learning all about outer space. All the children and staff dressed as astronauts on our Immersion Day, learnt about life in a space station and discovered whether they 'had what it takes' to become an astronaut. We had a very informative trip to the South Downs Planetarium in Chichester, where surrounded by the stars, the children were shown the constellation figures and observed how the stars and planets move. They have created marvellous art work in the style of the artist Peter Thorpe, developing their skills using oil pastels to create different effects. In writing we focused on writing science fiction stories. The children could let their imaginations go wild, describing exciting adventures to other worlds, perilous situations for brave astronauts and aliens, both friendly and menacing. As the term finished, the children have explored changing states of matter in science and observed this happening when they designed and made their own ice cream.

They are all ready for the next exciting year at Southway Junior School.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Year 6

As their time at Southway comes to an end, the children have been studying 'Blood, Bones and Body Bits!': a learning journey designed for the children to find out about themselves through portrait art and learning about the human body. The children have been immersed in the book 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman, a story which has had the children hooked and inspired some excellent debate and writing. Alongside this, there has been a mini 'Stone Age' topic and to start it all off we had a visit from the 'History Man', who led an extremely informative, engaging and fun workshop. To celebrate all the children's hard work over the year, we enjoyed a trip to Chessington World of Adventures. This was a fantastic day out in which all the children challenged and pushed themselves. Finally, to end the year, the children have worked extremely hard to put together a wonderfully entertaining production of 'Aladdin Trouble' in three performances to parents, friends and family.

We wish them all well in their new secondary schools as they continue their educational journey.



Year 5

Year 5 travelled back in time to 1939 to discover what it was like to live in Britain through World War 2. This included a visit from the historian, Sir Teach A Lot, who inspired the children with hands-on experience and real life artefacts. The children arrived at school dressed as evacuees and considered what it would be like to be separated from their loved ones, to be looked after by strangers. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning songs to keep their spirits and hopes high. We ended the topic with a fantastic VE day where children made a picnic, using only rationed food, sang 1940s songs and played games.

The children have also been learning all about life in Ancient Greece, the advent of democracy, Greek warfare and Gods. They created some excellent monsterology fact pages, using clues from some mysterious sightings here at Southway!

Mark Chorley (Burgess Hill's answer to Bear Grylls) showed Year 5 the wonders of our school grounds and helped us identify different mini-beats. We have also hatched (and named) our very own Painted Lady butterflies and watched their incredible life-cycle develop.



Sports Day

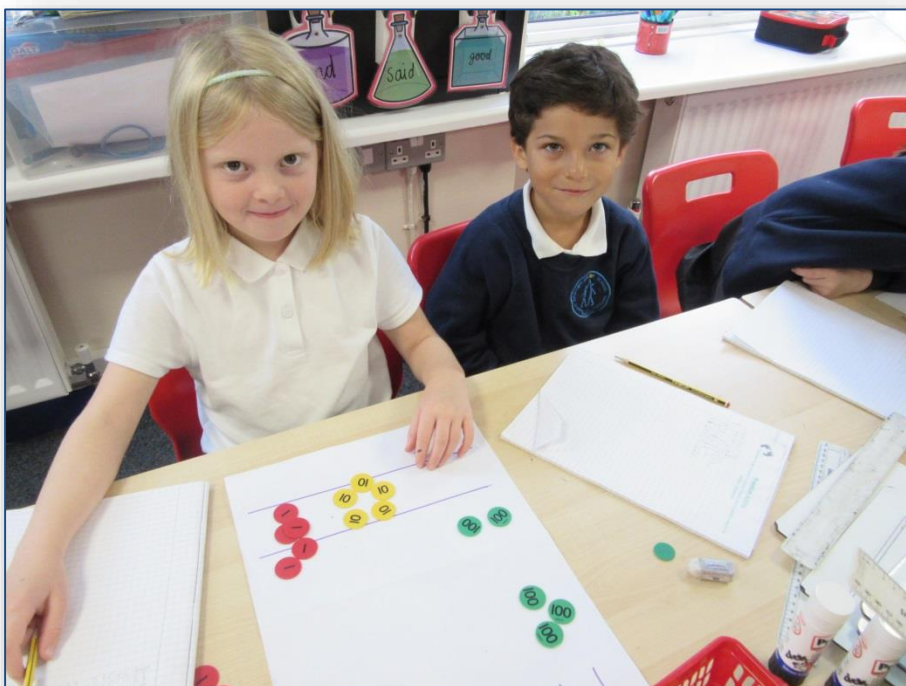
As always our sports day event was well attended by parents, families and friends. The sun shone for us and a fantastic picnic lunch was enjoyed afterwards by all. Well done to the winners of the day: Cliff House!

Focus on Mathematics:

This year we have made the exciting transition to teach in mixed attainment pairing and groups. This was a next step for Southway after Caroline Clissold (a Primary Mathematics Consultant) worked with Miss Spring. There is overwhelming evidence that suggests that labelling pupils places limits of their learning and their own mindset. Over the year, this new way of teaching and learning has boosted standards and the pupil's self-esteem. Pupils at Southway see themselves as confident mathematicians who can tackle any challenge that comes their way!

Mathematics has also been celebrated with an additional termly 'Times Table Award'. This award runs alongside the current writing, reading, maths and golden awards. One child from every year group is selected for this award in recognition for their outstanding effort related to learning their times tables.

A 'Problem Solving Day' was introduced this year with great enthusiasm! Pupils worked in teams to create their own zoo and theme park. They were given a budget and had to design their projects thinking carefully about costing and advertising. The pupils developed skills that are crucial in our everyday lives and had lots of fun doing so!



Focus on Reading

This year saw the start of the termly 'Reading Award'. This award runs alongside the current writing, maths and golden awards. Children have earned the award in recognition of their contributions to guided reading; their comments in their reading journals; and their challenge in choice of reading books and texts.

The '100 Book Challenge' was also introduced, with 100 books for children to work their way through, earning certificates as they go.

To further celebrate reading, a monthly book raffle was announced. Here, children can earn raffle tickets during reading time in class, then once a month a winner from each year group is drawn in assembly and those children will win a new book.

Focus on Writing:

This term, Southway has collaborated with The Gattons Infant School to create a writing project. It all began when a series of unusual discoveries were made in and around the Southway 'lake' which the children then went on to investigate. As a result, both schools produced a wide range of fantastic writing, from news reports, non-chronological information pages, stories, diaries and wanted posters.

Writing has also continued to be celebrated with the termly 'Writing Award' presented to children for their hard work, creativity or progress.





Southway Junior School vision

At Southway, we want all our children to

Be happy

Be confident

Respect others

Achieve personal success

Respect the world in which they live and

To develop an enthusiasm and thirst for learning.

Southway Junior School aims

We aim to provide a learning environment which is child centred, creative and challenging

We aim to ensure our children are happy, engaged, hard-working and enthusiastic learners

We think of the school as a community of learners

We recognise the importance of developing individuals' sense of self-worth and self-respect, as well as respect for others, to help them succeed and achieve

We have high expectations throughout the school and aim to foster children's independence as they develop their different skills and have fun whilst learning

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Have a wonderful summer holiday and see you in September!

