

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2017

Dear Parents,

Well it has been another busy term and I know everyone will be ready for the Christmas break. Even so, it is lovely being in a primary school at Christmas time, and this was highlighted for me by the excellent nativity service which I honestly think was one of the best yet. It also showed the lovely community we have here at South Darley and we think about them at Christmas, especially those families closely associated with the school who have sadly lost someone this year. We know it is difficult for them this Christmas and we always open our hearts to them.



In many ways 2017 has been an eventful year in the school. In Mrs Hardy, Miss Falconer and Mr Sanderson, we have 3 new members of staff and we also have a new Chair of Governors, Kevin Dean. We are very lucky that they have fitted so well into the ethos and community of our school and I am sure they will continue to contribute a lot during 2018.

At the end of the year it is a great opportunity to thank those who have volunteered their time to help us over the course of the year. From driving to sports events, reading with children, or organising fundraising events, we really appreciate everything you do for us and our school would not be the place it is without your contribution. Thank you.

There is so much to look forward to next year. The infants will be starting an active music session weekly, Year 5 will be taking part in a 'First Taste' charity project working with the elderly at Ivonbrook Care Home, and the whole school will be performing Mary Poppins. We will be attempting all this whilst the school roof is replaced. It might seem like a bit of a challenge but as our school motto states: Enjoy Learning, Embrace Challenge. 2018 here we come!!

Happy Christmas

Paul Wilde Headteacher



Morning Clubs. The advanced payment option for regular morning club users is now available through Parent Pay. Rates remain at £10 per child per session for the entire term or £1.00 per child per session paid on the day of the session. This payment option will remain open until Friday 12th January 2018. Please ensure that any outstanding balances for Autumn Terms 1 and 2 are also paid in full by Friday 12th January 2017. Morning clubs operate between 8am and 8:50am and any child is welcome to attend. Please do not leave your child unattended in the school play ground or in the school building before the morning club supervisor is ready to start at 8am.

What has been our vocation in 2017? Have we built people and our community up or have we been negative and life denying? Have we brought forth joy and care or sorrow and selfishness? St Teresa said; "I have found my vocation, my vocation is to Love!!" This is true for all of us. When one uses the word Vocation in a church context often people think of clergy. But everyone has a 'vocation' some are called to be parents, some to be workers in a certain field, some to be prophets of justice and truth, some to challenge the values of society; every job can be a vocation. I've met many people in the NHS who only stay in that profession because they have a sense of



'vocation' or people in the field of education, again to teach our children is not just a job it's a vocation. Concerning vocation Pope Francis said the following. "let us recognize our truest destiny, our deepest vocation: to be loved, to be transformed by love, to be transformed by the beauty of God." As we enter a new year with new possibilities and new challenges and times to discover our vocations, We are called to be people of love. People of love in our families, in our communities and in our world. 2017 could in many ways be seen as a year of fear so may we all work hard in our small way to build up a society of love and fellowship, caring for other



people and valuing others and ourselves. If adults do this then our children will be given an example which will set them up for life. Rooted in love and care may I wish you and your families and all connected with South Darley School a very Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year. May the light of faith and love dispel the darkness of intolerance, hate and bigotry. May our lives shine forth in the darkness and so may we all be better people as we work and live together in mutual respect, generosity and love. May the God of love bless you all and please in 2018 be very much assured of the prayerful love of all who worship at St Mary's Church.

With my love and prayers. Revd. Stephen Monk

Our Value for the term is

PEACE

We will be exploring:

- ◆ Finding peace in scriptures such as Psalm 23 'The Lord is my shepherd...' Making peace when we have quarrelled;
- ◆ Jesus as the Prince of Peace and the story behind the famous 'Christ of the Andes' statue;
- ◆ How St Francis of Assisi lived at peace with the world;
- ◆ Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize such as Betty Williamson and Mairead Corrigan.



Use of booster seats when transporting children



The government has recently changed its guidance on the use of booster seats in cars, stating that children under 135cm should have a high-backed booster seat. Derbyshire County Council has also therefore changed its policy for its employees, including staff at South Darley, ensuring that they follow these new guidelines. The safety of your children, and that of the staff is of paramount importance, and we will follow these

guidelines. If your child needs to be transported by car to e.g. a sporting event, then if necessary we will provide a high back booster seat or ask you to provide one.

The greatest impact of this new guidance will be felt by after-school club users and we have already put new arrangements in place; those affected should have received details about this in a separate letter—Twilight After School Club and Oker Travel will now be working together to provide transport for pupils who require after school care.



The new guidance also sets out additional information that the school will require from our registered parent drivers and further information regarding this will be issued to those affected in the new year.

The return to Kolkata 2018

It's already January and my next visit to India is suddenly very large in the window (at the time of writing it's 17 sleeps to go!). I can't wait to see all the cheerful faces of the children at Hastings School and their teacher, Mrs Gupta, as well as Rig and the other Cathedral Relief Service staff. I hope that they are excited too, and that they know that we have been thinking about them during the year. The new team, including of course Mrs M., have met several times and we've got some fantastic things planned, building on the work we did last year. The children in the CRS



schools desperately need to learn English if they are going to escape the poverty in which they live. So, we're going to do lots of work with the teachers on how to teach phonics and we're putting together a rucksack of resources to help them to do that back in their own schools. Two South Darley families have very generously funded a set of reading books for all 15 CRS schools and another has bought the actual rucksacks. And then there are all the masses of blanket squares that you've been knitting and that ladies of the parish are sewing together as we speak- thank you so much to all of you, you're amazing!

Mrs M. and I have started an India blog so that anyone who is interested can follow our preparations and our antics while we're away. Do have a look and feel free to comment or ask questions and we shall do our best to answer them- hopefully it will help the South Darley children to really feel part of the experience!

<https://missgillandmrsminkolkata.wordpress.com/>

This lovely lady, who everybody calls Nanny, lives next to Hastings School and comes in the middle of every morning to bring tea for the teachers- some things are the same the world over!

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE Online



As a parent governor I recently attended an online safety course thinking I would know most of it, but came out realising I didn't! With Santa potentially delivering devices and children increasingly becoming 'connected', I thought I'd share some of the content of the course. Apps were the main focus, many of which I hadn't heard of before. Some apps include interactive games aimed at children as young as 7 that on the whole are great fun, but could potentially be susceptible to strangers befriending them. Others

enable users to self broadcast (which showing my age, I couldn't understand!), or accurately share your location. Even YouTube has had issues with inappropriate children's videos and comments. The training reinforced that we all want our children to grow up enjoying the benefits of a connected world, but also how important it is to inform our children how to use apps safely, and to ensure settings are configured to suit their age. There are some useful resources at www.southdarley.derbyshire.sch.uk/onlinesafety



With thanks to Parent Governor James Beeston for this article.



An Updated Dates for the Diary has now been published and should have reached you via Parent Pay.

As always, most dates are subject to change but we will endeavour to let you know of any changes at the end of each term by issuing a new calendar.

Ideas for a healthy lunchbox

Lunch is an important meal for children and research suggests that a healthy lunch impacts on their education in a positive way. We know that many of you do not want us to tell you what to feed your children. We respect that and agree with you!

What we would like to do is to describe what a healthy packed lunch looks like and let you know about a couple of things that we would not expect to see in a packed lunch.

The key to a healthy packed lunch is getting the right balance and a wide variety of foods.

- Different breads and other starchy foods
- Use brightly coloured fruit and vegetables.
- Add salad to sandwiches and chopped vegetables to salads.
- Try a variety of different drinks, water, yogurt or milk drinks.
- Having a healthy lunch does not mean giving up on all the foods children enjoy. Foods like a slice of malt loaf or banana bread, a fruit scone can be included from time to time for variety.

A healthy packed lunch should include:

- A good portion of starchy food – wholegrain roll, tortilla wrap, chapatti, pitta bread, pasta or rice salad
- A portion of lean meat, fish or alternative – chicken, ham, beef, tuna, egg, beans or hummus
- Fruit and vegetables – apple, satsuma, cherry tomatoes, carrot sticks, tub fruit salad or box of raisins
- A portion of dairy food – reduced fat cheese, yogurt or fromage frais.
- A drink – bottled or tap water is recommended. The more water is offered the more readily children will accept it. Sugary or sweetened drinks often have no nutritional value, contribute to weight gain and can cause tooth decay.

Break time snacks.

Fruit and vegetables are a good source of the nutrients that children need and form part of a healthy balanced diet. It's recommended that children – like adults – eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. But research shows that on average children in England eat only about three portions, with many eating fewer.

Infant children are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable at morning break each day under the School Free Fruit Scheme. When children transfer into the Junior class, responsibility for providing break time snacks for pupils transfers to parents. We ask that you to send your child in with a piece of fruit to encourage them to continue eating healthily.

Please do not send your child to school with nuts, chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks.

School Meal payments

Payment for school dinners for the Spring Term 1 is now due. The total cost for the Spring Term 3 2018 is £66.00 per child. School meals must be paid for in advance as the school budget has to directly fund any outstanding debts. This therefore directly affects the amount of money available to provide education to all our pupils

Schools Meals are no different to any other business in that meals have to be paid for by someone. Free School Meals are available for parents who meet certain criteria including the receipt of state benefits. Anyone who may qualify for Free School Meals should contact the school office for further information. Free School Meals are a statutory right and it is important that all parents/carers who qualify take up their child's entitlement so that they can receive a School meal each day.

Information on the entitlement to free school meals and an application form can be found on the Derbyshire County Council's website:

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your_child_at_school/meals/school_meals/default.asp?VD=freeschoolmeals

Where a school dinner debt of £20 arises, parents will be asked to provide their child/children with a packed lunch to prevent further arrears and options to reduce the debt will also be explored.

If the debt exceeds £30 for a family and/or action proves unsuccessful in securing dinner money arrears, the School will inform the local Safeguarding Team and formally write to the parent/carer, explaining that the School is not obliged to provide a school dinner where advance payment is not forthcoming or where authorisation for free school dinners has not been received.

Further information on school dinner money can be found in the Dinner Money Policy available on the school website or by asking in the school office.

