



14th December 2017

Newsletter 5

Dear parents and carers,

What a final week of school it's been! Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst the snow and ice caused a *slight* disruption to the start of the week. Your feedback about our timely decisions and advanced warning was gratefully received and certainly kept us all going. It's never an easy decision to close the school, but one which was made a bit easier knowing that we had your support.

PTA Fundraising

How Christmassy did you feel after visiting the Winter Wonderland last week during the PTA Christmas Fair? I loved the bubble-wrap, snowy carpet which popped as the children walked on it – what a great idea!

As a result of the committee's fantastic and coordinated effort, nearly £1000 was raised for Southfield. I cannot express how lucky the staff and I feel to have this level of support from our community. The time that people give up to run the PTA and organise events is massive and we are truly grateful.

Start of Day – New Arrangements from January 2018

Mrs. Williams and I have taken feedback from parents, staff and children about the arrangements that exist for the start of the children's day at Southfield. From January, the morning arrangements will be as follows:

- ❖ Families are welcome to enter the playground as normal from 8.40a.m.
- ❖ Instead of lining up, the children will be able to enter the school building, via the ramp, which will be supervised by at least 2 members of staff
- ❖ Messages from parents can be left with members of staff on duty who will pass them on to the relevant member of staff
- ❖ Doors will close, as normal, at 8.55a.m. ready for the staff and children to complete the morning register

We are changing the arrangements because:

- ✓ Safeguarding is a top priority and when the children are in the building, they won't be allowed back out until the playground is secured and school begins
- ✓ Children who are in and settled nice and early can kick start their learning with some brain-boosting activities in a calm environment
- ✓ The softer start will enable children to begin their day more peacefully. We know that some children need a bit more time to get organised and ready in the morning and don't respond well to the lining up system and busy corridor environment
- ✓ If the weather is bad, parents and children won't have to wait around in the playground



- ✓ The new arrangements will help parents who need to get going straight away. We know that the extra 10 or 15 minutes will make a huge difference to your start of the day too!

As with all changes, we will monitor how things go and adapt our plans if necessary.

Christmas Nativity

I really am sorry that we had to postpone the Christmas Nativity at St. Michael's this week. The pavements were too icy and the risk of any slips, trips or falls to children and staff were too great to take. Mrs. Higgins will be writing to you shortly with the new plans for a new year Nativity as we want the children's hard work to be recognised and celebrated.

Staffing News

After over 20 years of dedicated service to Southfield, we will be saying farewell and good luck to Mrs. Else, our School Business Manager. After applying for a position in the summer, Mrs. Else has accepted a position with FS4S as the new Schools Finance Manager. Mrs. Else will leave us at the end of January, but will continue to support our school for a day per week until mid-March. I'm sure you'll want to join me in congratulating Mrs. Else for such a dedicated service to Southfield and wish her all the very best in her new role at FS4S.

TD Day

Please remember that both Eastrop and Southfield are **closed on Tuesday 2nd January** as this is a staff training day.

The teaching staff will be working with a specialist maths consultant to learn about new strategies, teaching techniques and a mastery-based curriculum.

The teaching support staff will be working with our School Improvement Partner, Bill Jerman, to learn about maximizing their impact on the children's learning and progress.

School re-opens on Wednesday 3rd January 2018, at 8.40a.m.

Future Dates

In the next newsletter, we will publish dates for the family diary (Terms 3 and 4), as well as the term dates for 2018-9. The TD days for 2018-9 will be shared with governors, for ratification in the next meeting in early January.

Here's wishing you all a wonderful break together. Merry Christmas to all our families and a Happy New Year. Here's to a very successful 2018!

With best wishes - Mr. Griffiths and the staff team here at Southfield.