



SOUTHFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Nr. Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 7BZ
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Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Anderton

Newsletter 1

Monday 11th September 2017

Dear parents and carers.

It is our pleasure to welcome you and your children back to school. In particular, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new families joining Southfield as their children start Year 3. We hope that everyone enjoyed a great summer break and you are looking forward to the year ahead.

We communicated at the end of last Term that in the event of Mrs. Anderton remained absent, then Mr. Griffiths would support us in the role of Acting Head Teacher. This is the case, so I would like to hand over to him so that he can introduce himself and convey some key information for the coming term.

Thank you, Matt Ford Chair of Governors.



To those of you I've met so far, thank you for the very warm welcome! For those I haven't yet talked to or for those that don't already know me, I'm Aaron Griffiths, the Head Teacher of Eastrop Infant School. I joined Eastrop a year ago after moving from London and my first headship of a 2-form entry primary school and children's centre which served over 500 children aged between 6 months and 11 years of age.

Alongside my headship at Eastrop, I also carry out some inspection work on behalf of Ofsted and I'm very much looking forward to working with the children, parents, governors and staff of Southfield.

Whole School Project – Roald Dahl

To start the year together, along with the children at Eastrop, the children have been enjoying some of the entertaining works written by the talented Roald Dahl. What's our focus? Writing. By cooking, model-making, painting, coding, filming, sketching and more we will be developing children's writing across the many different subjects of the National Curriculum, acknowledging the children's talents and helping them to improve their skills and interests. I hope you'll agree - a great start to the new academic year.



Meet the Teacher Sessions

Getting to know your child's class teacher and having the opportunity to see and talk to them in school is vitally important. To meet your child's class teacher informally, in a group session in which you can find out more about your child's learning this year, I'd like to invite you to attend the relevant event(s) below:

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| Year 3: Miss Patel and Miss Woolf | Friday 22 nd September, 2pm in the hall |
| Year 4: Mrs. Williams and Miss Alder | Friday 29 th September, 2pm in the hall |
| Year 5: Mrs. Spencer and Miss Gane | Friday 22 nd September, 2pm in the hall |
| Year 6: Mrs. O'Sullivan and Mrs. Tkocz | Friday 29 th September, 2pm in the hall |

If you're unable to make one of the sessions, please don't worry. Information will be shared through the school website, newsletters and Schoop app.

Emergency Contact Details



It is incredibly important that we hold the correct emergency contact information about your child. If your details have changed over the summer, please contact the school office so that your child's record can be updated.

Staff Learning and TD Days

I watched a very entertaining clip on the BBC News app the other day in which parents were asked to guess what teachers get up to during training days. Drinking cups of tea.....yes, eating cake.....yes, having a lie in.....no!

During the three TD days, we enjoyed:

- refining our school vision so that it reflects our current position and the direction in which we wish to travel – further details to follow;
- learning about a new piece of software called *Target Tracker* - a brilliant piece of technology that the staff will use to make assessments about your children's learning and progress;
- getting to grips with Health & Safety rules and regulations to make sure that everything we do is safe and sound;
- working with the school nurse to review individual children's medical plans;
- team planning to design creative experiences that your children will love!
- decluttering and improving the look and feel of the classrooms and shared spaces around the building;

...and we even managed to fit in a shared buffet lunch with the staff at Eastrop, which was absolutely delicious!

Staffing Update

Now that Mrs. Williams, after doing a brilliant job as Southfield's Acting Head Teacher last term, will be based in Year 4 as our Deputy Head Teacher, we needed to find somebody fantastic to provide her with some non-contact leadership time to work with me on all things related to school improvement. I'm really pleased to let you know that none other than Mrs. Oldridge, part-time class teacher at Eastrop, has agreed (and is excited!) to fill that vacancy. She will work with us at Southfield on Mondays and Tuesdays.



In addition, to grow our leadership team, the Governing Body appointed Mrs. Tkocz and Mrs. O'Sullivan as acting Assistant Head Teachers at the end of the last academic year. As Assistant Head Teachers, they each have specific responsibilities related to school improvement that they will each lead on.

Mrs. Tkocz is our English and behaviour support leader. She will also be responsible for ensuring teachers challenge 'more able' children so that they reach the best standards across the curriculum. Mrs. O'Sullivan is our Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disabilities leader who is also leading on the wellbeing curriculum. Mrs. O'Sullivan is also responsible for ensuring that children who need additional support to catch up, or those entitled to Pupil Premium funding, achieve the very best and make excellent progress.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to stop me and have a chat.

At the end of a great first week, I'd like to wish you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes, Aaron Griffiths | Acting Head Teacher



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Terms 1 and 2 - Important Dates for the Family Diary

Future additions and alterations will be shown in red.

All dates will be added to the school website calendar and Schoop app.

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| Meet the Teacher Sessions | Friday 22nd September, 2pm (Years 3 and 5) Friday 29th September, 2pm (Years 4 and 6) |
| Open morning for prospective families (Sept 2018) | Monday 2nd October at 10am |
| Harvest Festival | Thursday 12th October 9.30am – Years 3 and 4 – in the school hall 2.30pm – Years 5 and 6 – in the school hall |
| Last day of Term 1 | Wednesday 18th October, 3pm |
| Half Term | Thursday 19 th October – Friday 27 th October |
| First day of Term 2 | Monday 30th October |
| Parents' Evening for Year 4 and Year 3 (Miss Woolf's class) | Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd November (Times to follow) |
| Parents' Evening for Years 5 and 6 Year 3 (Miss Patel's class) | Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November (Times to follow) |
| Children in Need – Spotacular Day | Friday 17th November |
| Christmas Nativity at St. Michael's | Tuesday 12th December (Times to follow) |
| Last day of Term 2 | Friday 15th December, 1.15pm finish |