

South End Infant School Newsletter

July 2020

HOME LEARNING

A massive well done to families who have done so much with their children during such unprecedented and challenging times for us all. The work the children have shared with their teachers has been wonderful, as has the insight they have given us into their lives outside school – we are lucky to have such talented children and committed parents.

It is now your summer holiday from schooling! Tapestry and Purple Mash will now wind down so that teachers can also step back and spend time with their families and prepare to welcome EVERYONE back in September – at last!

Activities that have been set via the website are still there but please remember that the website has moved to:

southendinfant.com

and is still under construction so bear with us!



The last couple of weeks have been really exciting as we have had many of our current and new children on site.

New Reception children have met their teachers in Gazebos we put out for sunshine but got wet through! Current Reception and Year 1 children have come to meet their new classes and teachers at Stay and Plays.

Thank you so much to staff and families who have supported these important events and adhered to all safety measures.

On our last day of term we are finally having back our Year 2s which is absolutely brilliant! 😊



We are welcoming back ALL our families and children in September and plans are in full swing to make sure we are able to do this in the safest way possible.

I am aware that the staggered times have caused some logistical issues but unfortunately they are essential to get everyone – Infants and Juniors – on and offsite safely.

Timings are:

Reception 9am – 3.10pm

Year 1 8.50am – 3pm

Year 2 8.40am – 2.40pm

We have tried to make things easier by removing the one-way system, but in doing so, we are utterly reliant on families being patient, maintaining social distances and keeping children close to them so they don't touch anything unnecessarily.



The site movement and timings will be reviewed regularly but please try to be prompt and if you need to speak to a teacher, either phone the office or email in as adults have to distance.

01933 356571

contactus@southendinfant.com

Children need to be in uniform with comfortable shoes as for the first little while we do not want them to bring PE kits.

Book bags and water bottles do need to come in to school but please do not add key rings / soft toys etc. to them as they simply increase the things children like to touch!



Handwashing is essential to keeping everyone safe. We have found that children LOVE bars of soap and wash their hands most effectively with these. If your child has not yet been in school since lockdown, please get them a bar of soap to practise!



Lunches will have to be in the classrooms in September and so we will only be able to offer packed lunches. If you want your child to have a school pack lunch, to which they are all entitled under the KS1 Universal Meals Scheme, you must book them in advance online with Kingswood. The first booking has to be done by **Wednesday 26th August**. You can send your child with a packed lunch but please remember we are a strictly 'no-nut traces' school due to significant allergies.

Medicines such as epipens and inhalers will be kept in classes – please make sure they are safely in date and named.



We want to get the children back quickly into a routine of reading so please return any library or reading books. Reading books only will be coming home at first. They will have been wiped down in school but please feel free to do this at home if you wish. We clean them again on return before putting them back out. Each Class Bubble will have their own selection so choice may be limited.

Families have been living through some incredibly stressful times and coming back to school could raise your anxiety.



If this is the case, please call us and we will do our best to reassure you. If your family has been affected by COVID through lengthy periods of isolation, shielding or bereavement – let us know so we can support you and your child on return.

If the impact has been financial, always keep checking what benefits you may be eligible for to supplement your income:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits>

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/>

Check if you can claim funding to support your child in school via Free School Meals & Pupil Premium funding which is used to support your child's learning:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/pupil-premium.aspx>

We are always here to support you and want the very best for your child. Things will continue to be difficult for some time to come but please do not worry about your child needing to 'catch up'. We want them back safe, happy and confident because then they will be ready to learn and with support from home particularly with reading, we are confident they will amaze us!



We are saying goodbye to Miss Harper, Miss Sansom and Mrs Hurley this week all of whom are much loved and long standing members of the SEIS team. We know we will be keeping in touch but they all bring a certain sparkle to the school that will be extremely hard to replace.

We are also saying goodbye to two of our cleaners, Isobel Harris and Maggie Mc Guirk who are both off to start University next term. Again, we will miss them but are so proud to see them venture off on the next stage of their lives and wish them all the very, very best.



When I arrived in January, I was ready for a challenge - just not quite the one I got!!

It has been an extraordinary time for us all, but I am just grateful to be surrounded by the most talented, committed and supportive staff who continually amaze me and make me laugh every day. SEIS is a very special place.

I also need to say thank you to the Governors who are becoming quite adept at Zoom meetings and particularly Ellen Lee our Chair of Governors who is always at the end of a text message.

Finally, thank you to all the families and children who have been so supportive of South End Infants at a time when you have had to put your lives on hold while schools have been closed. I hope you have enjoyed spending precious time with your children and look forward to seeing more of you, and them, in September. Have a wonderful summer!

Children are back to school on
Wednesday 2nd September

WE NEED YOU



Your Teachers need you:

We need super-star hand washing and hygiene heroes!

Can you wash your hands like a doctor or a nurse?

Can you use a bar of soap and wash your hands for 20 seconds?

Can you blow your nose, put your tissue in the bin and wash your hands afterwards? Catch it, bin it, kill it!

Can you wash your hands regularly/hourly?

Can you wash your hands before and after eating?

Can you wash your hands after visiting the toilet?

If so, you are SEIS stars - We need you! 😊



Wash your hands with soap and water more often for 20 seconds



Palm to palm



The backs of hands



In between the fingers



The back of the fingers



The thumbs



The tips of the fingers