

South End Infant School Newsletter

September 2020



Welcome back to the Autumn Term – it is lovely to have all the children back even if we can't see them all at once! There has been a lot of change and many things to re-adjust to but thanks to the hard work of staff and families, the children are back happy and learning.

Keep a
safe distance



Site Arrangements

Thank you to the vast majority of families for your adherence to site arrangements which must remain in place in order to keep us safe from close contact. I would like to remind you all of the following:

- There must be 2m social distancing between families
- If this cannot be maintained, please wear a mask
- Keep to the drop off / pick up times
- Do not allow your child to come onto the site unsupervised – gates /doors may be locked
- Collect Junior aged children at their pick up time and keep them with you – neither school will accept any responsibility for accidents while they are unsupervised
- Families in Reception and Year 1 must follow the one way system
- Staff are unable to speak to you at doorways – please keep your distance from them and the building so they can focus on your children – if there is a message please phone the office
- Only one parent / carer on site
- Registers are now kept in line with the attendance policy so lateness must be kept to a minimum

We know that these arrangements can cause difficulties and frustration however it is the only way to keep very young children safe on a limited access site. Transmission of COVID is most likely to happen between adults so please be cautious.

Classroom Arrangements



Many thanks go to the staff who have ensured that classrooms, although very different for the time being, are as welcoming and purposeful as they can possibly be. The children have all settled really well into their 'Bubbles' and are busily adapting to new routines. Doors and windows are always open so please make sure your child is warmly dressed and all clothing is labelled!

We are prioritising core skills as you would expect but due to distancing / Bubbles and so on are having to adapt ways of working which makes things like hearing individual children read or small group work more challenging.

Reading books have to be put to one side for 72 hours after going home which means we have far less opportunity to change books than previously. They will be changed a **maximum** of twice weekly but it would really help if any books taken home at the start of lockdown could be returned.

If you want to do more things at home with your child, please look at the school website for ideas and lessons: southendinfant.com

Should there be a partial or full lockdown again or your family is self-isolating, remote learning will be available in the following ways:

- Signposted through the website
- On Purple Mash / Tapestry
- Work packs delivered home / available for collection
- Oak National Academy: [Oak Academy](https://www.oak-academy.com/)

Parent Consultations

These will be happening just before and after half term and will most likely be phonecalls home as we are unable to meet in person. Please keep watching Parentmail as booking details are coming as soon as we sort the logistics of phone lines!





Guidance on self-isolation can be found at: [NHS: Self isolation](https://www.nhs.uk/self-isolation).

Please remember if or your child or any member of your household has:

- A fever
- Continuous cough
- Loss or change of taste or smell

You must self-isolate as a household, let us know and keep us in touch with test results. The same applies if you are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service.

To give us information or for a message for staff:
01933 356571

contactus@southendinfant.com



We are very lucky to have the supportive Governors that we already have. They are, however, always looking for people who would like to help us shape the future of the school and there are spaces on the Governing Body should anyone be interested.

The National Governance Association has a brief overview of what being a Governor involves at: [Volunteering as a Governor in School](https://www.nga.org.uk/volunteering-as-a-governor-in-school) but you could also ask at the school office what it entails or we could put you in touch with one of our existing Governors.

Governors play a vital role for schools as they bring their own skills, thoughts and diverse backgrounds to fully represent a school community so, if you are at all interested, please get in touch.

Dates for Your Diaries

The School Nurses will be in to do flu immunisations on
Friday 4th December
Any questions, please ask!



The School Photographers will be in to take individual photographs on:

Thursday 8th October.

Thank you, in advance, to Miss Burge who works hard on organising both of these events and many, many other things!

Changes at School

Firstly we need to say a very warm welcome to Mrs Alexis Baker who has taken over as our School Business Manager. It is a very demanding and wide-ranging job but she has already settled in and is proving to be a wonderful member of the Office Team.



Mrs Savage's maternity leave is being covered in the office by Mrs Whiting and it is just as well as her new baby boy decided to come a couple of weeks early! Judging by the photos we have seen he is utterly adorable so many congratulations to her and her family.

Sadly we are losing two long-standing and very valued members of the SEIS Team this month.

Mrs Rachel Cain our HLTA in Reception is leaving on 1st October as a sort of (extremely) early retirement. She is going to come back on a voluntary basis but the Reception Team are going to miss her hard work immensely and as a whole staff we are very sad to see her go.

In October Mrs Sally Harris will be leaving to take up a new position in a Children's Ward in a local hospital. It is a wonderful opportunity and she will be absolutely amazing but, again, we will miss her very much.

We wish them both all the very best in their new ventures.

We will be advertising shortly for an additional Cleaner and a Lunchtime Supervisor to help us meet the demands of this new way of working so if you are interested, please let the Office know. We will also be advertising for an Early Years Teacher to replace Mrs Cain.

Please find attached the Term Dates for 20-21

Thank you for all your support.