

South End Infant School Newsletter

December 2020



We have come to the end of what has been a challenging Autumn Term for us all but I am pleased to report that the children and staff have excelled themselves – yet again! There is so much to be proud of at SEIS.

We are grateful for the continued support of our families, Governors, FOSEIS, local charities and councillors, who have helped us to make school as normal and safe as possible, whilst dealing with their own challenges outside of the happy bubble that is school. It is definitely 'beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!'



Amazingly, in spite of the current situation, Friends of South End Infant School (FOSEIS), have continued to raise

money for the children with special letters, Christmas cards / mugs & coasters and an extremely successful Raffle – especially for Miss Burge, who is now the proud owner of a giant sized teddy!!

In total, the letters raised £390 and the raffle £1060, every penny of which will go to directly benefit our children. Thank you to anyone who bought a ticket or made a donation but particularly to Sally Hunt, Anna Brewster and Jo Allan, who have worked unbelievably hard on our behalf to think up ways round the restrictions of a global pandemic and raise a massive amount of money!

There is going to be a FOSEIS meeting via Zoom on:

Tuesday 12th January at 7pm

This year is an ideal one to express an interest in helping or even just share your ideas. New members with any ideas are always welcome, but especially when things have to happen so differently. Call the Office if you want to find out more.

Thank You & Well Done!
We raised £307.45



Local Charities & Donations

All the children will soon be bringing home a Christmas colouring book that has been kindly donated by **The Swivel Club**, as well as a Nativity Book that has been donated by **Park Road Baptist Church** – local groups giving back to local children!

The children have also been watching a wonderful Assembly by Rev. Phil Hearson from **The Wes Church**, which has brought into school some of the happy sparkle we usually feel when singing in town around the tree and in church – something we are determined to do again next year.



We were lucky enough to be contacted by Sarah Maltby-Smith from Denfield Park Primary School whose son Jack plays for Northampton U12s and has been inspired by Marcus Rashford to help provide meals for local children. His Just Giving page [Jack's Just Giving](#) was the start of his campaign and, as a result, he became noticed by DHL who committed to helping him.

We optimistically requested 43 food boxes and were absolutely stunned and delighted to receive all 43 from DHL yesterday so we are busily giving them out to nominated families.

All we can say is a huge 'thank you' to Sarah, who thought to contact us and to her son Jack who is an absolute credit to her and his local community.

School Dinners We would like to be able to provide our children with a more varied lunch – particularly now the weather is turning colder. With this in mind, we are looking to re-introduce hot lunches.

Part of the reason for the delay in doing this has been the significant time we have had to take in ensuring that all children have a lunch each day - either from home or pre-booked in sufficient time from Kingswood.

It is crucial that you always order any meal you require (packed or hot) on the Kingswood website by the Wednesday before the week in which you want that meal provided.

You have to provide a packed lunch for any day not booked with Kingswood in advance.

Due to social distancing and use of Year Group Bubble toilets, not all children can go to the hall for lunch. Children eating in classrooms will have their hot dinner taken to them in a reusable food box. Those in the Hall will have dinners served in the usual way.

Reception children will always eat in classrooms. Years 1 & 2 will eat in the hall on alternate weeks. The range Kingswood are able to provide is limited so please do look at the menus carefully when booking and involve your child in choosing – we have a lot of tears and wasted food if they have what they perceive to be unwelcome surprises!!

Please also remember that Kingswood do not provide a drink with that meal, so a named water bottle is essential for all children.

Advance Booking is Essential:

Week beginning 4th January – **packed lunches only** – place orders by **Wednesday 30th December**

Week beginning 11th January – **hot lunches available** – place orders by **Wednesday 6th January**

We do not have the facility to make any child a lunch on site or provide one should they come without, so please ensure you are well prepared in advance.

Free School Meal Holiday vouchers for children in receipt of Pupil Premium are currently being organised and will be with those families by the end of the week.

Please keep checking if you are eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium by checking on the Northamptonshire website: [Pupil Premium](#). Please remember that you need to apply for each child, so do not assume that your child is benefitting from this funding in school just because older siblings are.

We believe that significantly more children could be eligible for this funding which benefits them greatly in school, so please take a look just in case.



School is still not the way that we would like it to be and the rigorous cleaning, distancing and adjustments to curriculum

to address gaps in learning continue in order to keep everyone safe and learning. We had a very successful visit from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) earlier in the term, who were happy with all arrangements and risk assessments and so we have continued in the same way.

As time has elapsed, the children have found it increasingly difficult to concentrate and learn when seated in rows. Given the fact that we work in class bubbles and classrooms are small, we have decided there

is no benefit to remaining in rows and so after the anticipated post-Christmas spike has receded, we will be reverting to groups in classes where teachers feel it would be more beneficial to children's social skills, well-being and learning.

Schools have received some money for post-COVID catch up learning. Mrs Ireton is in charge of this spend, but so far, we have committed to:

- Increasing TA support hours in classes
- New phonic reading books
- Bug Club to support reading and comprehension in school and at home
- Numbots & TT Rockstars to support Maths, again in school and at home

During the holiday, please clear out children's book bags of anything they have magpied away! They must not bring small toys, keyrings etc. into school. They can however bring back their **PE kits, to remain in school until February half term.**

Home Learning Books should be kept at home in case you have to self-isolate, in which case learning can be found on the website to do in the books.

Self-isolation rules: 10 days after first symptoms or after a positive test for an asymptomatic person. See the full rules at: [Self-Isolation Rules](#)

If self-isolating, whilst they are well, all children are expected to engage in Home Learning using the Home Learning books and the website.

Attendance & Punctuality: Children are expected to be in school each day (minimum 96% of the time) and at the time dictated by their staggered start / finish times. We are experiencing an increasing number of children that are late to arrive or be collected, so please, if this applies to your child, review your arrangements for after Christmas.

Schools are still expected and obliged to submit information for Test and Trace during the holidays.

If you have to self-isolate during the holiday or receive a positive test, please ensure we know by emailing the school on: contactus@southendinfant.com

STAY SAFE
THIS CHRISTMAS!



**End of Term:
Friday 18th December**

**Children Return:
Tuesday 5th January**