Dear Parents,

It seems a long time since Christmas as so much has been going on and even the look of the school is different with the majority covered in scaffolding due to the re-roofing project. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. Hopefully it will be all completed in time for Easter; in fact whether it is finished or not, work will have to stop from April to October due to evidence of bats in the roof.

This term has also seen the remarkable success of the visit of Miss Gill and Mrs Maynard to Kolkata. Children and their families thoroughly enjoyed looking at the blog and I think we all felt much more connected when reading it every day. Please take time to read the Kolkata supplement written by Mrs M as it vividly portrays the experience. If any of you would like to visit Kolkata then the diocese are trying to organise a parents and community visit in October and it would be a further opportunity to cement our links with Hastings School. Just let us know.

Easter will be upon us extremely quickly as the next half term is unusually short – a fact that is putting me in a mild panic as it means our school show of Mary Poppins is not far away! I hope you all have a jolly holiday and we will see you on Monday 26th February.

Paul Wilde  
Headteacher

World Book Day—1st March 2018. Are you a budding Harry Potter or a Horrid Henry? Or do you see yourself as Dennis the Menace or Mr Tickle of the Mister Men? Maybe you are Alice in Wonderland, Tracey Beaker or Matilda! This year we are participating In World Book Day and pupils can dress up as their favourite book character. Although not essential, we are encouraging anyone dressing up to bring in the accompanying book for their costume on the day.

A Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious performance coming to South Darley soon!

This year South Darley Primary School pupils are proud to be bringing you a performance of ‘Mary Poppins’. With songs such as ‘A Spoonful of Sugar’, ‘Lets Go Fly A Kite’ and ‘Chim Chim Cher-ee’ its sure to have everyone singing along in enjoyment. With 3 performances taking place over Tuesday 20th March (2pm and 7pm) and Wednesday 21st March (7pm only), tickets will be available to purchase after the February half term.
A Thought

The Season of Lent began last Wednesday. Some churches used ashes to mark people; reminding them that they come from dust and one day they will return to dust. This image sounds stark and negative but if one looks at it from another point of view it's amazing. The Earth, the universe, all living things are made up of carbon. Or dust. Look at the 'dust' around us in the beauty of the landscape. Look at the 'dust' which helps to make us people; that's truly amazing dust. What the scriptures mean by saying 'remember thou art dust and unto dust you shall return' is that we are finite, we are human, we are fragile and limited etc. But we are also the children of God. We are dust that can learn, adapt, grow and love. We are rational animals and we are truly amazing because a Christian view of the world is that we are created and loved by God. In Lent we continue to look at the reality that we are also sinful, needy and broken. Jesus came to redeem us to allow us to be the people God saw we could be. A bit like when a teacher puts lots of work in with a child because they see something in that child. Lent is about looking at ourselves and seeing in us the people God thought we could be. We are all sinners but we can be so much more. We are all broken but we can be made whole. We are loved and we try to express that love in a life giving way. So in Lent we fast not to punish our bodies but to be aware that food is a gift and there should be enough for all. We pray more because we want to build up our relationship with God and we give to charities because as a French philosopher said, "No one has the right to be happy alone." Please don't let the amazing gift of God's saving grace pass you by this Lent and Easter. Because God who created all the dust and chemicals in the 'Big Bang' also created you. But God is more than just the creator; he's also the redeemer - the one who allowed His only son to die for us because he wanted us to once more know the love of God. To be reunited with God - one amazing but diverse family. Please pick up the parish Magazine which will have the Holy Week and Easter Services in. This year on Easter Sunday our main service will be 10am at St Helen's. The Methodists and other churches of our United Benefice will be joining us to celebrate God's Redeeming love. There will be lots of things for the children to do during the service. Take time this Lent to get to know God once more or even for the first time. For God loves you so very much.

With Kind Regards and every prayer. Rev'd Stephen Monk

Have you seen......the special edition Newsletter on Kolkata? Please ask in the school office if you have not received your copy.

Audited Private School Accounts

South Darley C.E. Primary School runs a Private School Fund. This is organised separately from the main school budgets and is used to support the school in a wide variety of ways, including the supply of extra resources for our children.

The account is externally audited annually and approved by the Governing Body. Parents/Guardians are welcome to ask to see the audited account in order to promote accountability and transparency within our schools. Please contact Mrs. Manning for an appointment should you wish to see the accounts.

Has your child out grown their PE Kit? If so, please consider donating spare or obsolete PE Kit items to school. Every week, there is a child (or children!) that has forgotten an item of their PE kit. Although school holds a few items of spare kit we don't have a vast choice in sizes or sometimes not enough for every child that needs something! It would be much appreciated if spare or outgrown PE kit could be recycled into school so that we have a better range and size of available items. When your child borrows an item please return it to the school office washed, dried and ironed as soon as possible ready for the next child who is in need! Thank you.
As you are aware, safeguarding is given the highest priority here at South Darley. There may be times when adults are concerned about children in the community. If so, then you can contact Derbyshire County Council's Child Protection Department (Starting Point) on 01629 533190.

Please don’t ignore concerns; child protection is everyone’s responsibility.

Following information being shared by other schools in the area we would like to bring to your attention to an engaging app known as Roblox which allows children to build their own worlds, make friends and play on each other’s games. Unfortunately, certain members of the Roblox community are creating games and content that is distressing and inappropriate for children.

We advise all parents to check their child’s devices, to examine their child’s Roblox account and to ensure your child does not have friends on the app that you do not know. Also check the message inbox for any inappropriate messages that your child may have received. Please ensure you are regularly checking their devices and showing a keen interest in their online behaviour. Being interested and curious is the best way to keep your children safe.

Lockdown

It is a requirement of schools that they have procedures in place in case the school ever needs to go into lockdown as a result of a serious incident. We now have a ‘Lockdown Policy’ which will soon be available for you to view on our website. It is expected that schools will practice the procedures at least annually. Of course, we would never wish to alarm our children about dangers they would (thankfully) never consider for themselves so we will practice under the context of if there was a fire outside school we would need to make ourselves safe inside, just as the children already understand that if there was a fire in school we would have to go outside to be safe. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

An Updated Dates for the Diary has now been published and should have reached you via Parent Pay along with this newsletter.

As always, most dates are subject to change but we will endeavor to let you know of any changes at the end of each term by issuing a new calendar.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Psalm 34.14
From 25th May 2018, the Data Protection Act (DPA) will be replaced by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – meaning that the way we manage all data and information within the school will change. The GDPR is designed to strengthen and unify the safety and security of all data held within an organisation.

Keeping consent forms and medical details in filing cabinets, keeping records and databases of student and staff information, monitoring what’s happening day-to-day on the premises through CCTV – today’s educational landscape is packed with data.

Under current legislation we already have a duty of care to ensure that this data is kept safe and secure. And with the GDPR coming into effect we will have an increased responsibility to ensure this information – regardless of what form it’s kept in – is managed in the right way in compliance with this new regulation.

We are taking steps to ensure that we are compliant with the GDPR by the 25th May. We are looking at what information we currently collect, whether that information is necessary or relevant, how we protect and store that data, making sure that data is up to date and ensuring that data remains secure when shared with third parties. Further details will be provided to parents as we make sure we are compliant in time for the GDPR introduction. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Introducing the new Eco Team.

Starting after the half term, Mrs Worth will be working with a group of children to form an ‘Eco Team’. They will be working together to help the school be more Eco friendly. Their first target will be to get recycling bins as, at the moment, school children are putting all of their litter in general waste bins. The members of the team would also like to get a compost bin to make the school more self sufficient. The members of the eco team include; Hugo, Katie B, Nancy, Jacob, Joshua, Lilly W and Martha. If you have any suggestions on how the school could be more eco friendly then please speak to Mrs Worth. Written by Katie B and Hugo E.

Chinese New Year comes to South Darley!

This week, millions of people will be celebrating Chinese New Year and South Darley CE Primary School joined in with the celebrations on Friday 16th February. People from communities all over the world will be enjoying lots of food, fireworks, wearing special clothes and hanging red lanterns to mark the occasion. Pupils Mara and Garin told pupils that 2018 was the Chinese Year of the Dog and gave out small red envelopes containing 10p to the infants—wrapping money in red envelopes is expected to bestow more happiness and blessings on the receivers. Juniors received a Chinese sweet from Garin and Mara. The festival continues for two weeks, finishing with a special lantern festival, which signals the end of the New Year celebration period.

Eco Schools is an environmental award scheme for schools, which aims to promote environmental awareness and positive environmental action. With 9 topics including waste and recycling, litter, energy, water, school grounds, biodiversity, global citizenship, transport and healthy living the topics link to many curriculum subjects, including citizenship, personal, social and health education and education for sustainable development.

The Eco Schools process aims to involve the whole school (pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff and governors) together with members of the local community (parents, staff and local businesses).

It encourages teamwork and helps to create a shared understanding of what it takes to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.