

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter

Summer Term 5 2021

Dear All

Recently our children were considering what it meant to persevere and never give up. This has been demonstrated by so many people worldwide during the pandemic and we now finally begin to see light at the end of the tunnel and a return to normality. Every school year has milestones such as a Nativity, School Show, Leavers Service etc. but this year these events have even more poignancy as by doing them we get back to normal and remember the reasons why they were so important to us in the first place. One such event is our residential visit by Y5/6 to Whitehall Outdoor Education Centre. Even though we couldn't stay overnight, just getting away for the first school trip in a year and a half felt like a great liberation for all. The children had a fantastic time, as you will be able to see in the WhiteHall Special Edition Newsletter (due out after the half term), but also showed great skills in perseverance and determination in activities such as abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing and zip wire. They also showed a desire to help and encourage each other to overcome difficulties. In fact it was the helping of another boat that led to the capsizing of the canoe containing Alfie, Kyle and myself! There is a great deal of coverage in the media about what children have lost during this pandemic but I think we should celebrate the skills and qualities they have developed instead. A resilience to adapt to new situations, an appreciation of friendships and fun, and an understanding of what matters most in life are just some of these which I hope will stay with our children for many years to come.



Paul Wilde, Headteacher

Your copy of 'Dates for the Diary' should arrive alongside this newsletter.

Please make sure you keep a copy to hand and remember that it is updated at the end of every half term.

A lot of our dates this year are provisional and may have to be rearranged or cancelled at short notice due to the rapidly changing Covid-19 pandemic situation. A new calendar will be issued at the end of each term.

You can also find a copy on the school webpage by clicking on the latest news tab.

Results from the recent Governing Body Parent Elections.

Following elections in May of this year we are pleased to announce that Richard Barton has been appointed as Parent Governor. Many of you will already know Richard from the school pickup as a parent of 3 children here, from Oker Travel and from his work as Chair Person of the South Darley Village Hall. His term of office now runs until May 2025. Of his appointment, Richard said 'I am delighted to be joining such an experienced team and look forward to making a contribution to our excellent school.'



June Thought

As parents, teachers, other staff, and grandparents we're living in a new reality. It can seem overpowering as we don't know if things will kick off again. Covid, we all know is still very much around, we only need to look at India or Brazil, and although we live in this beautiful part of Derbyshire we are very much part of the 'global village'. As a priest, I've seen the effects of covid on those who have lost loved ones and those who have been affected mentally by Covid. In South Darley and this area, there are still many who suffer from mental health issues.



I'm not sure if you've ever been afraid. If you've ever been worn down by the events of daily life or an imbalance of chemicals in one's body. Often after a crisis when people's adrenalin dissipates depression, anxiety, a blue mood, etc can hit you. Let's remember that this is sadly true for our young people as well as adults. None of these things are 'caused by a lack of faith or because you're not Christian. My first simple comment is: God does not punish us. God loves each one of us. Down the ages of the Church men and women and young people have died professing this truth. Sainly people are and always have been on the front line in caring for people hit by disease, famine, natural disaster, etc.

Let me make a second simple comment - Christians, both new Christians and old ones, suffer from mental health problems. This I've seen in the past is called a lack of faith, and immaturity in faith, even having the wrong Christian tradition!! Let me be clear this is absolute rubbish! Everyone at some time in their lives has a mental health crisis. If you don't you are very lucky. Pre Covid this was a serious issue in our rural areas of Derby Diocese. But during and post-Covid mental health issues, faith crisis, and physical and spiritual and mental breakdowns are prevalent. Below I include a list of symptoms and consequences of long-term fear include fatigue, depression, and PTSD (PTSD isn't simply a soldier's illness). Shortness of breath, chest pressure or pain, A feeling of overwhelming fear, Feeling of going crazy or losing control, Feeling you are in grave danger, Feeling you might pass out, A surge of doom and gloom, An urgency to escape, Dizziness, Palpitations, Trembling, Sweating, Panic Attacks, Turning pale, Burning skin, Feeling detached from reality, Weak in the knees, Pulsing in the ear, Burning skin, Stomach upset, nervous stomach, Pins and needles, Hot and cold flushes, Can't pray or take to people, etc, etc, etc...

As a United Benefice, we have always taken this seriously. But as we continue to move forward I want us to be aware and be gentle with each other as we never know what's going on in people's minds. In June we will look at how we can serve each other and also our local communities. If you have an idea on how we can support both the younger members of our communities and also our adults please let me know. Mental Health is serious. It's affecting our Spiritual life and our physical life. Let's remember some words from the Bible.



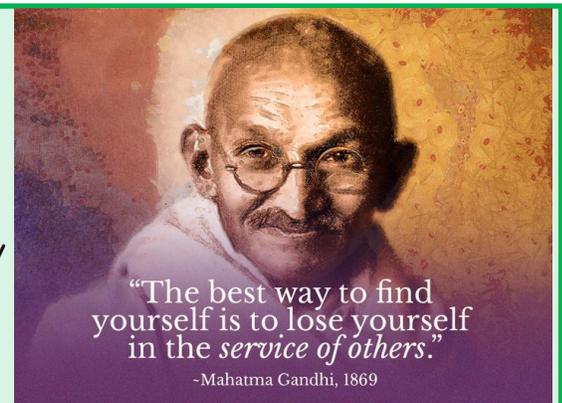
1 Peter tells us: Casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you. John 14 tells us: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

If you're not ok, that's ok but please talk to someone. May the Holy Spirit help you move from the place of darkness and depression to the place of God's amazing grace and wonderful love. In our Benefice, we hold you all in our prayers.

As Ever Yours. Revd. Stephen Monk

Our Value next term is: 'Service'.

We will be finding out about Hannah Senesh, a Jewish girl who served God and others through very difficult times; the courage of Queen Esther in service to her people; how our country recognizes the service of individuals through the OBE, MBE and CBE awards; the famous story of the Dutch boy who stood with his finger in the dyke to save his village and thinking about ways we can serve our local community.



Use your God-given gifts to serve others: 1 Peter 4:10



During summer months please ensure your child has appropriate sun/skin protection. Staff are not able to apply sun cream to children so please ensure you apply sun cream to your child at the start of the school day. There are a range of all day use sun creams available at most supermarkets or chemists..

As part of the school uniform children require a red legionnaire hat with the school logo on which must be worn when outside on sunny days. FOSDS kindly provide all children with a hat upon entry to the school – if your child's hat needs replacing please order a new one at www.myclothing.com.

Infants hats are kept in school whilst juniors are responsible for their own hats. It is a year 5/6 privilege to wear their own hat so long as it has a peak and doesn't contain inappropriate slogans or images. As always, please ensure all hats are named so that we can return lost or misplace items!

Water bottles.....part of the school uniform?



Yes—they are! All children should bring a named water bottle into school every day—a hydrated child is a much happier healthier child! When we are thirsty, mental performance including memory, attention and concentration can decrease by about 10%. Drinking adequate water during the day can protect health and contribute to well-being. Please fill bottles with water only. Juice leaves a sticky residue on tables, chairs and carpets (as well as staff cars when they are transported) when spilt and often stains uniform. The school has a water cooler where pupils can top up their water bottles during the day—plastic cups for the cooler aren't environmentally friendly, are expensive and don't last very long when water bottles are not brought in! Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school every day. Thanks.



Please help us reduce the spread of Covid-19 within our community. If you, a member of your household, your support bubble or your child test positive for covid-19 over the half term period please let the school know so that we can instigate test and trace within our school community and make sure our school bubbles know they need to protect their loved ones by self-isolating. All results will be kept confidential. Please e-mail

headteacher@southdarley.derbyshire.sch.uk if you need to inform the school of a positive result. Thankyou.

60-Second Vegtastic Lunchbox Hacks

Vegetables and fruit are a key part of a healthy diet but it can be a real struggle to get children to eat enough of them. Adding an extra portion or two to their packed lunch or morning snack will help to up their intake.

- ◇ salad on a stick. Thread different veg such as cherry tomatoes, cubed cucumber, chunks of pepper or button mushrooms onto a kebab stick to make a fun coloured snack
- ◇ The lunch crunch. Chop a carrot into sticks with a pot of hummus (or their favourite dip)
- ◇ The sandwich slice. Slice 5cm of cucumber and add to a sandwich for an extra portion of veg with minimal input
- ◇ The helpful handful. Add a handful of ready-to-eat snacky veg to a container. Try cherry tomatoes, drained tinned sweetcorn, celery sticks, green beans, cucumber etc.

Remember to keep trying—it may be ignored the first few days but the more the you see it, the more it becomes 'normal'.

Use your God-given gifts to serve others: 1 Peter 4:10

Attendance Matters

Good Attendance Means

being in school at least 95% of the time (between 180 & 190 days)

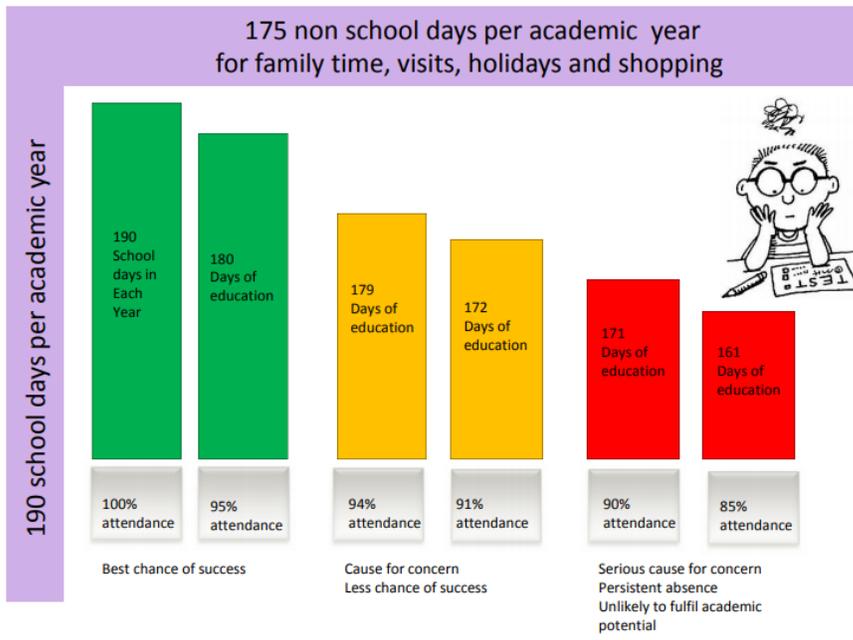
Whole school attendance for the academic year so far has been 98.21% giving us a traffic light rating of **GREEN** against our school target of 97%.

Please remember if your child is ill, you should phone school before 9:30am.

Any child who has experienced sickness or diarrhoea should self-isolate for a period of 48 hrs from the last instance of sickness or diarrhoea.

If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to school about it or alternatively seek advice and support from your local Multi Agency Team via Call Derbyshire On:

01629 533190



Tempest Photography return to school.

After an absence of over 12 months we are pleased to be welcoming Tempest Photography back into school. Their photographer will be here on the morning of Tuesday 8th June 2021 to take individual photographs and a whole school photograph.

Unfortunately Covid-19 restrictions mean that we will not be able to take any wider family portraits but we will be able to take photographs of sibling groups where all the children are attending school.

We hope that the pictures will be available to purchase in time for you to collect by the end of term.

Playground Plans

We finally have some positive news on the refurbishment of our playground. The school has applied under a match funding opportunity through Derbyshire County Council for the refurbishment of the surfaces in the rear playground. This will involve the removal of the Millennium Stone (which, as well as being a trip hazard, is now in need of regular maintenance) and the removal of the gardening beds (because they are located against the rear wall of the school have resulted in a (now resolved) damp issue). We very much hope our funding application for the resurfacing of the back playground is successful and we will let you have any developments as we learn of them. Unfortunately the lay of the land at the rear of the school has made it impossible to install tower play equipment so instead we are pleased to tell you that we are proceeding with work on the front playground. We have sourced two pieces of sustainable play equipment for front of the building (a small climbing structure and associated surrounding safety surfacing and a set of multi use goal posts). We are currently awaiting approval from the Governing Body and hope that we can proceed with installation over the October half term.

