

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2023

Dear All,

Some of our children and families recently completed an Active Lives survey in an aim to find out as much about the active habits and wellbeing of the children in our school. It showed that the vast majority of our children are happy and healthy but that there is room for them to be more active outside of school time. There are lots of excellent activities and sporting clubs in the local area that children at our school get involved in. From Archery to Gymnastics, and from Football to Dance, there are plenty of clubs and classes your child could participate in. If you know your child has a particular interest in a sport or activity but you don't know where to pursue it then talk to us as we can usually point you in the right direction.

Extra activity can be as simple as walking, scooting or cycling to school. We know we are not the most accessible school but why not park lower down the hill and walk from there? However, as the clocks go back, and our evenings get darker it is important to remind ourselves to be visible and wear bright or reflective clothing if we are out and about. We know children love being active but sometimes need a gentle nudge to get going. That is why we have Y5/6 sports leaders running activity clubs every lunchtime. Please encourage your child to take part so that we can all be healthy and happy this winter.



Paul Wilde, Headteacher

Term Time Holidays

The Highfields cluster of Primary Schools has a consistent approach towards requests for leave of absence. The contents of this article mirror that consistent approach throughout Matlock's Primary Schools.

In September 2013 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 came into force. These regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term-time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively.

We will continue to consider any absence requests in accordance with these regulations and only approve leave in 'exceptional circumstances'. Any requests for absence should be on the official school absence request form and handed into the school office for consideration prior to any leave/holiday arrangements being made.

You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996.

The fixed penalty notice is currently £120 per parent (reduced to £60 per parent if paid within a specified time period) and/or face court action.



Parking is always a contentious issue—every one wants to park close to school so that they can collect their children as quickly as possible. Please remember when parking your vehicle to be respectful to others, including our local neighbours. When parking on the main road please park above the church gate—parking below the gate causes issues for other traffic users especially when a bus is at the bus stop. Parking in front of the plantation entrance causes visibility issues for those wanting to cross the road safely. Thank you for your continued support.



John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends".



Pause for thought.... *'Blessed are you pure of heart, poor, broken, sad, bereaved or wrongly accused. You who are meek, persecuted, and hungry are of worth and value. Blessed are you all indeed. You are blessed for showing mercy and for wanting peace and righteousness.'*

These words are heard often in the month of November; sometimes at Services of Remembrance on or near the 11th November to remember all who made the ultimate sacrifice in wars, conflicts or peace keeping. It is also used in funeral and memorial services. Since I was ordained 23 years ago (*you're right, I don't look old enough!!*) I've always had an annual service to remember those whose funerals we've taken in the last few years. Having said this, everyone is welcome to come and remember their loved ones (full details are available on our website). Another element of this service is to raise money through a collection for either Marie Curie or Macmillan Charities.

Some find the use of the word Celebration in regards to funerals very difficult to understand. To explain it in a few words we celebrate a person's life, love, action and simply who they are. Sadly in this past year we've hosted funerals for the greatest age span: from babies to people over 100 years old. Everyone person, no matter what age, is a precious child of God. We know from the Bible that Jesus wept for the loss of his friends, people he cared for, his stepdad etc. God weeps for our loss. We all go through a spectrum of feelings when we lose a loved one. Everything from deep anger at God to feeling numb and lost. When you come to one of our churches or one of the chapels at the Crematoriums you are not forgotten, nor is your loved one. Our congregation hold you in our prayers.

I purposely never give advice at funerals as everyone's grief and loss is theirs; it is unique and precious to you. But, I would say never keep your grief locked inside. Don't repress or suppress your pain, for it will certainly eat you up like cancer.

There are many reasons why people don't go to church from laziness (This was me for years) to being hurt by a church community or by feeling unloved. This November why not try coming to church again? Not simply to make up numbers – but to teach us from your story. And, to realise a church is a group of sinners who are trying to live a better life in the love of God. But most of all come to the church which should be a place of respectful inclusion and feel the deep love of God for you and all your loved ones, living and dead.

Finally, my philosophy has always been everyone is welcome and everyone has something to offer our Community and everyone is deeply precious in the Sight of God.

Remember you and your loved ones this November.
Stephen Monk (Revd)



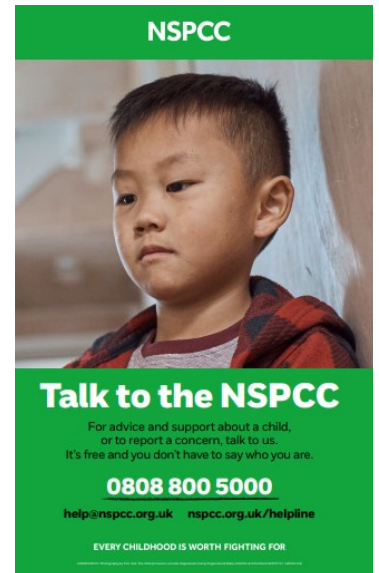
Services are held in St Mary's Church on the 1st Friday in every month (Celebration) and the 3rd Tuesday of every month (Family) and normally start at approx. 9.10am. We look forward to seeing all the children and parents there!

Our value this term is



We will be thinking about:

- The Old Testament story of the friendship of David and Jonathan
- How friendship can be a treasure of more value than material possessions
- How the friendship of Jesus and Peter was tested during the events of the crucifixion
- The New Testament story of the group who went to great lengths to help their friend to see Jesus



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Could you be a school governor?

Successful schools need effective governing bodies. There are about 370,000 governor places in England, making them the largest volunteer force in the country.



A position for a co-opted Governor at South Darley CE Primary School is available, and you may want to consider yourself for nomination.

The role of a school governor is to contribute to the work of the Governing Body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils. This involves:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The individual governor has a responsibility, working alongside other members of the Governing Body, to the staff and pupils of the school and the school's wider community.

Governors must have an interest in our children's future, be willing to contribute and make a difference, respect the need for confidentiality and be able to work as part of a team. Governors must act with integrity, objectivity, and honesty and in the best interests of the school.

We are particularly keen to hear from individuals with a non-educational background with knowledge of marketing skills and public sector working knowledge however people with all skills are welcome.

If you feel you have the right skills and could help raise standards of achievement for all our pupils then please write to the Clerk to Governors, telling us about yourself, your skills and how you could contribute. If you would like more information, then please contact Mrs Manning, Clerk to the Governors.

10 Questions asked of our Governors

Behind every great school is a great Governing Body! School Governors contribute to the work of the Governing Body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils. Governors volunteer their time and expertise to help ensure clarity of vision, ethos and direction for the school. But do you know who our governors are? This time, the spotlight is on our Headteacher, Mr Wilde, who, as Headteacher, is an ex-officio member of the Governing Body. He is held to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and oversees the financial performance and use of the school budget by our Governors.




1. What is the most exciting part of being on the Governing Body? In my time on the Governing Body I have had the privilege of working with a group of high-quality knowledgeable people and I have enjoyed working with every single one of them.
2. What is something you are proud of? I am proud of our school, our staff and its pupils.
3. What is your favourite movie? Lord of the Rings
4. What is your favourite food? Pizza!
5. What is something you find challenging about being a governor? There is so much to keep on top of. I have to be able to answer Governor questions on anything from building condition, HR issues, safeguarding and finance through to pupil welfare and academic performance.
6. Do you have any pets? Yes—sort of. My daughter has 2 guinea pigs, Gadget and Gizmo but I end up cleaning them out so I class them as mine!
7. Have you ever met anyone famous? Yes. I've met Shaun Goater who I consider to be a Man City legend!
8. What is your role on the Governing Body? I am on all the committees and work with all committee members who ensure that I create a positive and appropriate learning environment through the management of the school, deliver a high standard of education to all at the school whilst making sure the school is a safe environment for all. I also ensure equality of opportunity for all, develop policies and practices that set out and monitor standards as well as ensure continuous improvement for the school, its staff and pupils.
9. Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies? I speak some Japanese!
10. What are the 3 items you would want to take with you to a deserted island? A radio, a football and as many books as possible!

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School Communication—Getting It Right

Feedback from the recent parent survey showed that parents were sometimes overwhelmed with information from school. In this ever growing digital world it is important that everyone understands the platforms used by the school so the right message gets to the right person in the right format!

 **Class Dojo** - Used by the school to communicate with parents about classroom work or homework. Teachers and parents can electronically talk to each other directly. Please remember though that teachers may only have limited opportunities to respond when they aren't teaching or are not in school.


Parentpay—Parentpay is our payment and outward communication platform. E-mails can be sent out to individuals or groups of people. Parents can make payments or give consent via Parentpay.



 **School Office/e-mails**—Queries about administration such as PE or sports events, school dinners, Parentpay, absence requests and permission forms should be made to the school office via **email** (amanning@southdarley.derbyshire.sch.uk) or **telephone call** (01629 732240). During school holidays please use **email** as email will be monitored, albeit only once per fortnight. The school utilises 'out of office' if a staff member is unavailable. Sickness/absence notifications or anything else classed as urgent **MUST NOT** be sent by e-mail as we cannot guarantee when they will be read/seen.


Telephone—Sickness/absence notifications need to be reported by **telephone** before 9.15am. Please also **telephone** the school for anything classed as urgent or essential (e.g. who is picking pupils up) so that you can be assured that messages are received in a timely manner.



 **Facebook**—School utilises Facebook as a method of promoting the school. The school **Facebook** page shouldn't be used as a communications method to the school or other parents. Thank you for working with us to ensure good communication between all.

Text message service—The school uses a text service, 'Teachers 2 Parents' as an outward facing method of communicating urgent information or reminders.



 **Website**—Our school website is currently being populated with important information. Celebrating our Week, letters and our school diary of events can all be accessed here.

Eazmag —Eazmag is used by Mrs Fletcher for Reception pupils. It is not a method of communication. Mrs Fletcher posts pictures for pupils' early years learning journals. Parents can view pictures and add their own pictures.



Equality and Diversity at South Darley

All public entities, like schools, are subject to the 2010 equalities act. Ofsted also have guidance for how schools should act in regard to this legislation. At South Darley we take these legal responsibilities seriously and welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

To ensure we comply with the public sector duty that schools need to adhere to in addition to the nine protected characteristics as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010, we have:

- * An Equality and Diversity policy;
- * An Equality statement;
- * Equality Objectives that are reported on annually and updated every four years; and
- * A Relationship, Sex and Education Policy with specific reference to PHSE delivery

We will do our best to ensure that there is no discrimination against anyone in school and we will actively attempt to reduce inequalities in our school. To this end, our governors have 3 equalities targets which are reviewed annually. Currently these are:

1. To monitor and take steps to ensure attendance levels are broadly the same for all pupil groups, irrespective of identified differences
2. To monitor and ensure that girls, boys and SEN children have the same opportunities to represent the school at sporting events
3. To ensure the behaviour incidents recording log identifies any discrimination against identified characteristics. This will then be monitored for trends and enable appropriate action to be taken if issues arise.

For the full policy, and equality and diversity statement, please see the school website or ask the school office to see a copy.

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