



Southmead Primary School

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Hello everyone,

I hope you have all had a good week. We have!

MCAS – School Dinner Payments

We have now moved over to MCAS from ParentPay. All existing balances on ParentPay will transfer over to your MCAS account.

However, we are aware that families are currently unable to pay for school dinners through MCAS. We have been assured that this is being resolved as soon as possible.

In the meantime, children can continue to order school dinners as usual. We will add the dinners they have had to your account once the payment system is available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this is being sorted.

Welcome Meetings – Next Week

Our Welcome Meetings are taking place next week. Please see the schedule below:

- **Monday:** EYFS
- **Tuesday:** Year 1 and Year 5
- **Wednesday:** Year 2 and Year 6
- **Thursday:** Year 3
- **Friday:** Year 4

We recognise that a small number of families may be double-booked, for example those with children in both Year 2 and Year 6. We will share the presentation slides afterwards, and teachers will also be happy to speak with you separately, if needed.

As a school community, we value kindness and respect in all communication.

Staff aim to respond to emails within 2 working days, as they are prioritising supporting pupils throughout the day. Thank you for your understanding.



*We process your personal data in line with data protection legislation, for more information on this processing please see our Privacy Notice on our website:
www.southmead.devon.sch.uk/documents-and-policies/*



The Welcome Meetings are intended for **general information and discussions about the year ahead**. If you have specific questions or concerns about your child, please arrange a separate meeting with their class teacher so that there is enough time to discuss these properly.

SFA Great Big Uniform Giveaway!

The Southmead Friends Association will be giving away **free second-hand school uniform** after school on **Wednesday 23rd September**.

There will be uniform in a range of sizes, including **PE kits, shoes, trainers, football boots and wellies**. Come along to pick up spares or larger sizes for growing children.

If you have any **clean, outgrown uniform** to donate, please bring it to the school office by Wednesday morning.

If you can volunteer to help, please let our Office know.

Help us reuse, reduce waste and keep our planet green!

EasyPeasy App

The **EasyPeasy app** is now available **free of charge** for parents and carers of children aged **0–5 in Devon**.

The app provides practical advice, activities and ideas to support your child's early learning and development through everyday play.

Topics include:

- Wellbeing
- Sleep and bedtime
- Nutrition
- SEND
- Speech and language
- Mindfulness

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/free-parenting-app-now-available-parents-of-young-children-devon/>

School Clubs

Our clubs have now started.

If your child no longer wishes to attend a club they have signed up for, please let the club leader know. This will allow us to offer the place to another child.

Thank you for your support.

School Dinners

Monday - Beef / Vegetable Bolognese

Tuesday - Cowboy Casserole with Sausage/Veggie Sausage and Beans

Wednesday - Roast Chicken / Broccoli and Cauliflower Bake

Thursday - BBQ Chicken / Cheese Wheels

Friday - Crispy Southern Chicken / Breaded Vegetable Burger

Census Day – Thursday 1st October 2026

Census Day is an important day for schools across the country, as it helps determine school funding for the year ahead.

For children in **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2**, having a school dinner on Census Day helps us secure funding for free school meals for the year ahead.

If your child does not have a school dinner on Census Day, but has one on other days, we unfortunately do not receive this funding for them.

To encourage children to have a school dinner, we have changed the menu for this day to a **special: Chicken**

Nuggets and Chips! 

Please encourage your child in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2 to have a school dinner on **Thursday 1st October**. They could even **try a school dinner alongside their usual packed lunch**.

Thank you for your help in supporting our school funding for the future!

Learning This Week 

We have been busy learning and exploring this week!

Preschool

We have been getting to know our friends and staff. We enjoyed scooping and pouring dried lentils and rice using different tools and funnels. We also explored making playdough cupcakes using cutters, knives, pizza cutters and rolling pins.

EYFS

We have been learning the routines of school, practising how to hold a pen and use scissors, and having lots of fun! They even went to the Library Bus - did they say?

Year 1

We painted backgrounds using watercolours, explored creativity through independent play and started our Science learning by discovering and classifying different materials.

Year 2

We started our History topic on **Explorers**, thinking about what we would like to find out. We also made beautiful Christmas cards for parents and carers to order and have been using our **Inner Superheroes** to help us develop positive attitudes towards learning.

Year 3

We explored how we find out about History and began learning about the **Stone Age**. In PE, we explored different movement speeds, and in Science we tested whether different objects were magnetic.

Year 4

In History, we compared the lives of the **Celts, Romans and Ancient Egyptians** using 3D software. In Maths, we have been representing numbers up to 10,000, and in Science we learned about electrical circuits.

Year 5

In Science, we tested the hardness of different materials. In Maths, we played fun games to consolidate our number knowledge. In Music, we have been singing the classic Bon Jovi song '**Living on a Prayer**'.

Year 6

We have been working with number lines in Maths, enjoying some chocolate tasting as part of our English learning, and completing our first **Play Leader training** this week.



Coffee Morning

We know that mornings can be difficult for some families, so we will be offering meetings and drop-in sessions at **different times throughout the year** to give everyone an opportunity to come along.

We hope to see you at one of our future sessions!



School Photos – Thursday 24th September

Our school photos will take place on **Thursday 24th September**.

Individual photos will be taken during the school day.

If you would like a **sibling photo**, please come to the school office from **7.30am**. Sibling photos are only available before school.

We look forward to seeing you!

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all again next week!

Mr Nick Plumb