



Southmead Primary School

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Hello everyone,

I hope you have all had a good week. We have. It has been very positive and everyone has really tried hard all week. I cannot wait to share some of the things we have been learning about with you.

School Equipment After School

Children love using our playground equipment during the school day, and it is carefully supervised at lunchtimes. However, at the end of the school day, children should not be playing on the school equipment.

We kindly ask families to leave the school grounds promptly after collection. This helps us secure the site safely and allows our after-school clubs to begin on time, as many children are waiting in classrooms before heading outside.

Our skate ramp remains available for community use after school until **6:00pm**. For safety, anyone using the ramp should wear a helmet and always have another person with them who can raise the alarm if needed.

PE News

Next week is **The Great Southmead Run**, and we are looking forward to seeing all of our pupils taking part. Please can children come into school wearing sportswear and appropriate footwear.

This week, we hosted a **Year 6 Volleyball Festival** at Southmead, with local primary schools joining us for a fantastic afternoon of sport. The children showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship, and everyone had great fun.

Military Families

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/*



If you are a member of the Armed Forces community and have not yet informed the school, please let us know as soon as possible.

Sharing this information helps us ensure that we receive any additional funding and support available for military families, enabling us to provide the best possible opportunities for all of our children.

Thank you for your support.

Transition Events

Park Open Mornings

- Tuesday 29th September
- Wednesday 30th September

These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to visit our school and see Southmead in action.

Census Day - Thursday 1st October

Please note that there will be a **special school dinner menu** on Census Day:

Chicken Nuggets and Chips

School Census Day is extremely important as it records our pupil numbers and helps determine school funding for the year ahead.

For children in **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2**, who are all entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals, funding is linked to the meals taken on this day. If your child usually has a packed lunch, we would be grateful if you could encourage them to try the school meal on Thursday, even if they only have part of it alongside their packed lunch.

Thank you for your support.

Swimming

Top-Up Swimming begins on October 1st for pupils in **Years 4, 5 and 6**. We are excited for the children to continue developing their confidence and water safety skills.

SFA Update

Final weekend for Cauliflower Christmas Cards and Gifts orders: Please return artwork to class by **Tuesday 29th**. Every order helps raise funds for the school, so don't forget grandparents and get ahead with Christmas presents!

Autumn Disco: Friday **16th October**. Please complete the Google Form (that will be sent out early next week), and make payment via the office or BACS to secure your child's place.

Volunteers Needed: If you'd like to support the SFA, please contact the school office. Your help is vital in enabling us to run fun events for the children.

Learning This Week

Preschool

We have been busy getting to know our friends and staff whilst settling into our routines. The children have enjoyed scooping and pouring dried lentils and rice through funnels into mini teapots, developing their fine motor skills and curiosity. They have also explored playdough using a variety of tools, including cutters, knives, pizza cutters and rolling pins, creating their own playdough cupcakes.

EYFS

This week, the children have been learning school routines and expectations. They have practised how to hold a pencil correctly, use scissors safely and confidently, and most importantly, have had lots of fun whilst learning together.

Year 1

Year 1 started History and the topic of 'Flight', learning about the Wright Brothers. In English, Talk for Writing, focusing on the story of The Three Little Pigs. In Maths, learning how to use number lines count up to 10 and back and finding missing numbers on the line.

Year 2

Year 2 have been flexibly partitioning numbers in maths, looking at different habitats in science and using drama to act out Jack and Beanstalk in English.

Year 3

Year 3 have been ordering History dates into chronological order, estimating on number lines to 1,000 and created their inclusion posters in PSHE.

Year 4

Year 4 have been comparing the lives of the Celts, Romans and Ancient Egyptians using 3D online software in History. In Maths, they have been representing numbers up to 10,000, and in Science they have been learning about electrical circuits and how they work.

Year 5

Year 5 have been meeting the witch in his Gingerbread house, ready for our English topic of Hansel and Gretel, rounding to 10, 100, 1,000 and even 10,000 in Maths and testing materials in Science to see if they are thermal insulators.

Year 6

Year 6 have been looking at place value with larger numbers in Maths, reading some crucial Goodnight Mr Tom chapters and have started a new English topic, Incredible Edibles!

*Please note that there are Year Group Curriculum Overviews sharing what your child will be learning this year available at our School Office.

Beavers at Southmead!

1st Chivenor Scout Group is looking for new members aged **6-8** to join their Beaver group, which meets at Southmead School. They are also looking for a few **adult volunteers** to help run sessions and enable more local children to take part.

For more information, please contact **Sarah Cooke** at sarahc@chivenorscoutgroup.org.uk.

Harvest Festival Collection

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we will be collecting donations for the **Freedom Centre, Barnstaple**. Their most-needed items include tinned meals, tinned fruit, rice, coffee, pot noodles, cereal bars, chocolate, juice, baking ingredients, cooking essentials, washing-up liquid, and toiletries such as men's deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Please do not send: tinned soup, pasta, spaghetti or tea, as they currently have plenty of these items.

They will be collecting on Thursday 22nd October 2026.

Thank you for your generosity and support for local families in our community.



Wrafton Road speed limit petition — please sign & share

Some of you will already know about this, but for those who don't: there's a petition to get the speed limit lowered on Wrafton Road, which two schools sit on (including ours).

A pedestrian hit at 20mph is far more likely to survive than one hit at 30mph+. Right now, the limit on Wrafton Road doesn't reflect that, and it's our kids walking that route every day.

It takes 30 seconds to sign, no donation needed:



change.org/p/twenty-s-plenty-lower-the-speed-limit-on-wrafton-road

It's at 292 signatures — the more we get, the harder it is for the council to ignore. Please sign and pass it on to other Southmead families. 🙏

A Message About Respect

Our staff are here to help and support all of our children and families. We kindly ask that all members of our school community treat staff with courtesy and respect at all times.

If you have a question or concern, please speak to us. We will always do our best to help and work with you positively to find a solution.

Thank you for helping us maintain a respectful and supportive school environment for everyone.

It just leaves me to wish you a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mr Nick Plumb