



Southmead Primary School

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9th October 2026

Hello everyone,

I hope you have had a good week. The weather at the end of this week has certainly been challenging. Hopefully we will enjoy some brighter weather over the weekend!

Reading and Phonics Workshop

A reminder that our **Reading and Phonics Workshop** will take place on **Monday 19th October at 2.30pm in the school hall**. The session, "What is Phonics and How We Teach It at Southmead", will be led by **Mrs Wynn, Mrs Dupuy and Mrs Fryer**. We look forward to sharing how we support children in developing their Reading skills and hope many of you can join us.

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

A reminder for Year 6 families that applications for **Secondary School Admissions 2027** must be submitted by **31st October 2026**. Please ensure applications are completed on time to maximise your child's chances of securing a preferred school place.

Harvest Festival

Our **Harvest Festival** will take place at **St Brannock's Church on Wednesday 14th October** and will be led by our **Year 5 children**. All children will attend. However, due to limited space, we can only invite **Year 5 Parents and Carers** to join us. If attending, we kindly ask that you sit towards the back of the church. We are also collecting **food donations** on 22nd October. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

Learning This Week

Pre-School

This week, the children have been re-telling the Hungry Caterpillar using the props. They have been practising cutting skills, when cutting out their symmetrical painted butterfly prints. Also, we have been exploring our lemon scented tuff tray making lemonade involving scooping, squeezing and pouring with the real lemons.

Year 1

This week, in Maths we have been matching same and different. We have been learning about seasons and comparing night and day. Also, we have been working on forming the letters "c" to "o" to "a".

Year 2

Year 2 have been finding onomatopoeias within our Jack and Beanstalk story, then acting out different ones for partners to guess. Learning about responsibilities in PSHE and comparing two world sailors - Christopher Columbus and Ann Davison.

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/



Year 3

Year 3 have been introduced to column addition in Maths, they have explored why not all coins are magnetic in Science and learned about temptation through the story of Adam and Eve.

Year 4

Year 4 have been learning about a forgotten pharaoh, Hatshepsut, in History; exploring materials to see which are conductors and insulators in Science and rounding to the nearest 10s, 100s and 1,000s in Maths.

Year 5

Year 5 have been writing their Hansel and Gretel stories in English, using Talk for Writing tools. In Maths, solving problems using addition and subtraction. The children have been practicing very hard for the Harvest Festival too!

Year 6

Year 6 have been looking at different methods of addition, learning about World War 2 evacuations and all about Fair Trade chocolate bars!

This Week's School Dinners

Monday

- Beef Bolognese
- Vegetable Bolognese

Tuesday

- Cowboy Casserole with Sausage and Beans
- Cowboy Casserole with Vegetarian Sausage and Beans

Wednesday

- Roast Chicken
- Broccoli and Cauliflower Cheese Bake

Thursday

- Barbecue Chicken
- Cheese Wheels

Friday

- Crispy Southern Chicken
- Breaded Vegetable Burger

School Visits

We have welcomed many prospective families into school this week and it has been a pleasure to meet them.

Due to the national decline in birth rates, particularly noticeable across Devon, we currently have places available in most year groups. If you know families who may be looking for a school place, please encourage them to contact us and arrange a tour.

Roadworks

We have been informed that roadworks are due to begin next week and are expected to last for approximately two weeks. Affected areas include:

- Caen Street
- Chaloners Road
- Exeter Road
- South Street

Please allow extra time for your journeys to and from school.

Next Week...

Year 5 Watersmeet Trip on Tuesday.

KS2 Harvest Festival on Wednesday.

Steven Shields Cross Country on Friday.

SFA School Disco will also take place on Friday. Don't forget to sign your child up: <https://forms.gle/i7DyEsycm3ubXtpr7>

Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for parent and carer volunteers to support school life. Whether you can help on **school trips**, come in to **read with children**, or support with other activities, we would love to hear from you.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to support our children and school community, and even a small amount of time can make a big difference. If you are able to help in any way, please let the school office know.

Parent Coffee Meetings

I am keen to continue meeting with parents and carers to hear your views and gather feedback about school life.

We regularly listen to our pupils' opinions and would also like to hear yours. Our previous meeting was held in the morning; the next meeting will be held at **2.15pm** once I have returned.

Topics I would particularly like to discuss include:

- Online Safety
- Our Curriculum
- Reading
- Your priorities for the school

Your feedback helps shape our discussions as a staff team and supports our ongoing development.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr Nick Plumb

(I am hoping to be back as soon as possible.)