

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an extremely busy half-term! It is hard to believe we are already half way through this academic year!

**Welcome back to former pupil** - Our assembly on Monday of this week was a fantastic celebration of achievements. We welcomed back former Southbrook pupil Dee Holly Weiner, who delivered an inspirational presentation to all the pupils, sharing with them her passion for inclusion; and her journey in overcoming her barriers and anxieties. Since she last spoke to pupils in October 2017, Dee has represented the UK at the Para-Olympics, and gained her Badminton coaching certificate. It was great to see so many of the pupils inspired by her talk and keen to ask questions. We will be sure to have Dee come back in to school again, and hopefully her talks will become a regular feature.

**Celebrating Achievements** - Our sports teams were presented with their medals on Monday, and a huge well done goes to Connie in Year 9, who, outside of school, was recognised for 'Outstanding achievement 2018 in horse riding'. Please do let us know if your son/daughter is involved in any clubs; or has gained achievements outside of school. We would love to hear about them.

**New classrooms** – We are thrilled to announce that, after a lengthy planning process, work has finally begun on a project that will provide much needed additional space for the school. The modular building, consisting of three classrooms and an office, will be manufactured off site and delivered over a weekend in March, which hopefully will be a surprise for the pupils when they arrive at school on the following Monday! The pupils are excited to see the progress of the work so far, and have been asking lots of questions about the process. We hope the building will be ready for the start of the summer term. A special thank you goes to Gaynor Vicary, our School Business Manager and the Governing Body, in particular Alistair Macintosh, who have worked tirelessly and with tenacity to ensure this project goes ahead.

## NEWS

**World Book Day 2019** - on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March, we look forward to welcoming artist Darrell Wakelam into school, to work with students on a Superhero World Book Day project. Pupils may dress up as their favourite book characters the following Monday (11th March) for a £1 contribution. Further details to follow.

**Ability Games** - Southbrook had two teams qualify for the County Ability Counts New Age Kurling competition held at Barnstaple on 6th February. Both teams played extremely well against rival special schools and competition from mainstream schools. The two Southbrook teams were put in different competition pools with the winners of each pool to play in the final. To everyone's astonishment both teams won their respective groups and played each other in the final. This meant Southbrook won both the gold and silver medals at this event.

**School Council** - Southbrook School Council have been busy this half term. School Councillors put out a vote to the rest of the school to let pupils choose what they should focus on over the next term. The project that received the most votes was to buy netting to put over the football cage to stop footballs being accidentally kicked over the side of the fence. The School Council have begun taking action to investigate how this could be done and how it could be funded. Wish them luck as it is a big project!

## FURTHER AHEAD – FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Pupils may dress up as their favourite book character for a contribution of £1

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – Easter Fayre, 1:45pm – 3pm

## PARENT EVENINGS

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 4pm – 6:30pm – Year 9 & 10

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, 4pm – 6:30pm – Year 7 & 8

## TERM DATES

Half-term – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Pupils return to school – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Term ends Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES

**Year 9 Vaccinations** – please look out for a letter sent to you via email recently regarding the upcoming vaccinations against Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis ACWY. The letter includes an electronic link that you can access by computer, tablet or mobile phone to register your consent for the vaccinations. Consent has to be registered by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the latest.

**Online Safety Newsletter** – we regularly publish the Newsletter produced by [www.esafety-adviser.com](http://www.esafety-adviser.com) on our website. This month's Newsletters covers, amongst other things, 'Parents – scare or prepare', 'Passwords' and 'Fortnite Scams'.

The link to access the Newsletter from our website is:

<http://southbrook.devon.sch.uk/online-safety/online-safety-app-for-parents-and-children/>

**National Citizen Scheme (NCS)** – a letter has been sent to parents and carers of Year 11 pupils inviting them to attend a presentation on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 2.20pm here at Southbrook School to gain more information on this scheme, which is provided by Exeter City FC on behalf of the government. If you are unable to attend, but would like more information, please contact Nick Taylor at school.

**Lunchtime Menu** – just to let you know that the menu on the website has now been updated and is correct. Please accept our apologies for any confusion caused.

## OTHER NEWS

**Missing coat** - A year 8 girl has lost a pink winter coat. We have looked all over school and are wondering if a pupil may have accidentally taken it home. Please could you check any pink coats and let us know if you have an unexpected extra one! Many thanks.

**Goalball UK** - together with key partners Goalball UK are launching a new club in Exeter so are holding free 'have a go' sessions for anyone to attend on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Visually impaired or sighted, young or old, male or female, new or experienced, Goalball is a fantastic, fast-paced inclusive sport that can be played by everyone. For more information and to register your interest please contact Tom Dobson on 07526 169288 or email – [tom.dobson@goalballuk.com](mailto:tom.dobson@goalballuk.com)

Wishing you all a relaxing, safe half term.

**Bronwen Caschere**  
Headteacher