

Dear Parents/Carers,

After a short, but very packed Spring term, I trust you are all ready for the Easter break. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we wish a fond farewell to Donna Parsons on the 30th April and on behalf of the Governing Body, I am delighted to announce that Sally Cregan, current Deputy Headteacher at Mill Water School, will be joining the team as Deputy at Southbrook from September 2019. Sally brings a wealth of skills and experience in senior leadership and special education and will be coming in to school next term to start to get to know pupils and staff.

In addition to Sally's appointment, we have created a new role within the school, one of Safeguarding Manager, and I am very pleased to report that Bella Lewis, who many of you will know as pastoral lead, will be stepping in to this position when we return from the Easter break. This new role will ensure that the school maintains its very high standard and strong culture of safeguarding and care for all our young people.

NEWS

Paddleboat World War Project – Year 9 - we've been really lucky to have had PaddleBoat Theatre Company in residence at Southbrook again this term, working this time with all of our Year 9 pupils.

In a history-based project, funded partially by The Heritage Fund, children in 9TP and 9NG worked closely with the PaddleBoat team, looking at archive materials and local stories from the Second World War.

Through a series of workshops, our students were introduced to the art of mime and mask work, film making and devising through improvisation. All these new skills enabled our students to create their own short films and plays based on true stories.

The project came to an exciting finale on the 2nd of April at The Phoenix, where our talented Year 9s proudly presented their stories to other school groups involved in the project.

It was amazing to see our students overcome their nerves and step up to the challenge of performing in a professional performance space.

Design and Technology - exciting projects on the way home soon include:

- bird feeders made from recycled wood, metal and plastics;
- individually designed nesting boxes for birds and bats from recycled wood offcuts;
- foot stools/mini seats from reused building materials, branches from the school allotment hedge trimming, and old school sweatshirts;
- global goal superhero puppets using old fabrics and newspapers;
- and treasure boxes from a variety of recycled materials.

As part of our ongoing work in DT we continue to encourage pupils to reflect on how they use different materials and resources, and the effect their consumption has on the environment. Particular emphasis is given to:

- The 6 R's of Sustainability (<https://practicalaction.org/6rs-sustainability>)
- The United Nations Global Goals (<https://www.globalgoals.org/>)

And something to have a closer look at over the Easter break:

- Keep Britain Tidy (<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org>)

First Aid for pupils - all year groups have been completing work on first aid. They have been practicing CPR and the recovery position and all did really well. All year groups will refresh this annually.

Sporting Competitions - the students have been very busy over the past two weeks taking part in a variety of different sporting competitions. A team of 8 Year 7 pupils took part in a sporting event representing the school for the first time. The Inclusion Sports Festival was held at St Luke's where the pupils took part in learning some new games, an assault course and dance. This was a special event where the students got to meet their counterparts from the local mainstream schools.

Southbrook entered a team in the Devon SEND swimming gala where they had some excellent results winning 8 gold and 2 bronze medals. The outstanding performance came from Aiden Beacon who broke the under 17 free style 25 metre record. We also entered two teams in the mainstream Exeter Sports Partnership Table Cricket finals where both teams produced outstanding performances to finish third and fourth.

PARENT EVENINGS

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

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

TERM DATES

Term ends Friday 5th April 2019

Pupils return back to school on Tuesday 23rd April 2019

Half term Monday 27th May 2019 – Friday 31st May 2019

Pupils return back to school on Monday 3rd June 2019

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Year 11 information and key dates – a separate letter will be coming home today to all our Year 11 parents/carers, to remind you of the key dates and opportunities. The leaving date is Friday 28th June 2019.

Curriculum Topics – Summer Term 2019 – we have uploaded all of the Curriculum Topics for next term to our website. Have a look to find out what your children are being taught in each subject next term.

School Dinners – new menu – all pupils were given the new School Dinner Menu to take home last week, and we have updated our website. The new menu will be available from Tuesday 23rd April 2019.

Parent Governor vacancy– one of our parents has expressed an interest in becoming our new parent governor. If you would also like to be considered for this vacancy, or would like more information about the role, please contact Brigitte Hawkins, Clerk to Governors at school by Friday 3rd May 2019.

Recycling Team - Empty Cans / Batteries - Southbrook recycling team are now collecting empty drinks cans and used batteries for recycling. If you could save them and send them into school that would be great.

Happy Maps – A new website for parents on children’s mental health problems has been launched, funded by Health Education England. Happy Maps is designed to help parents find useful resources on behaviour and mental health for their children – from babies to young adults. There is good general information as well as local details on counselling, charities, local CAMHS and parent groups for the South West. Take a look at the website at www.happymaps.co.uk.

Feedback on how to improve Special Educational Needs and Disability system in Devon – Devon County Council are looking for feedback based on the four priority areas identified by the Ofsted inspectors. Any views and support from parents/carers would be most welcome. Please use this link for further information: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/archives/8177>

Devon County Council Weight Declaration survey - We have been asked by Devon County Council to publish information on a survey they would like you to take part in:

‘Food choices we make are influenced by where we live, work and play. Tell us what would help you make healthier food choices by completing our survey. <https://tinyurl.com/ybrdrgbz>’

Many thanks in advance for supporting this survey.

I wish you all a relaxing Easter break.

Bronwen Caschere
Headteacher