

Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Sports Days

We had a wonderful, sunny KS2 Sports Day on Monday, but sadly had to postpone the Infants' day because of bad weather. We are provisionally booking it for Thursday 5th June 10.30-12.00. We will confirm this after the holiday when we have more of an idea about the weather.

Results of KS2 Sports: 1st: Newbold 285 points
2nd: Brook 275 points
3rd: Victoria 266 points
4th: Jephson: 249 points

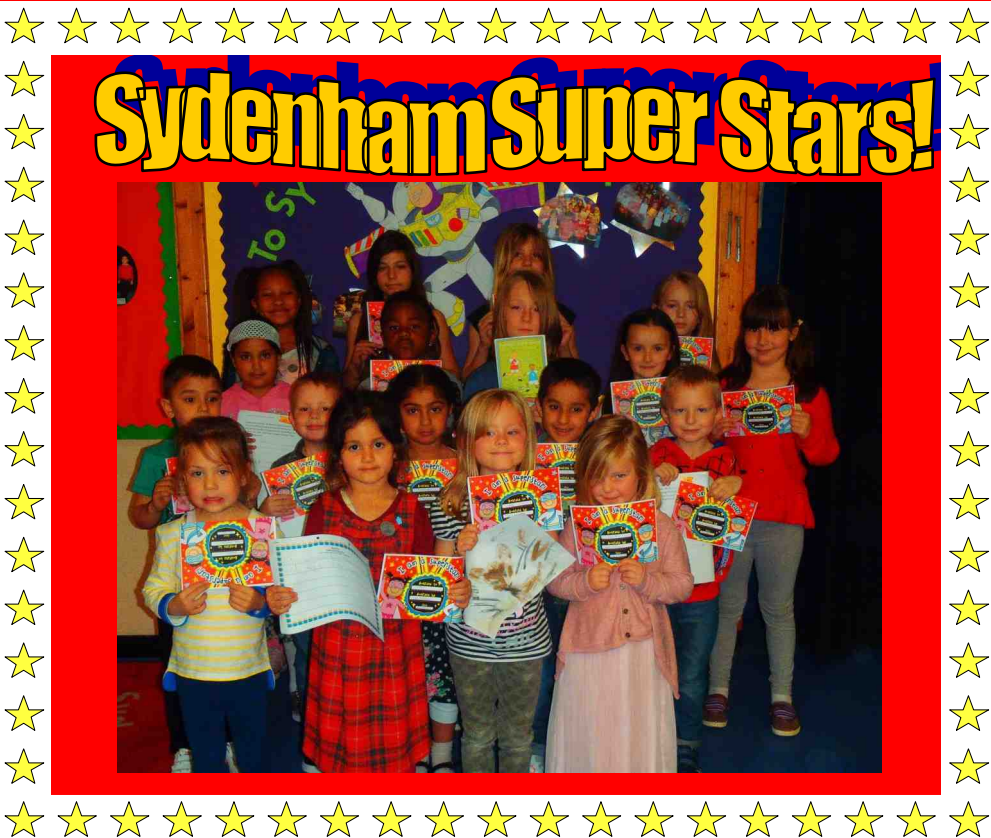
Well done everyone.

Staff Changes for September 2014

After 14 years at Sydenham Primary School as an excellent Early Years and KS1 teacher, **Mrs Katy Hill** has decided to have a lifestyle change and work part time. Mrs Hill will be developing her career by coaching and mentoring new staff and part-time teaching. We are delighted that she will still be with us in September.

Since her brother emigrated to Australia last year **Miss Lisa Clifton** has had itchy feet and she is off to travel the world with her partner, James and meet up with her brother in the far East. Miss Clifton joined us first as a teaching assistant and, after qualifying as a teacher, came back to us. She has been a fantastic year 1 teacher for the past 4 years. We look forward to following her adventures and hope that one day she will find herself here again.

Best wishes for a relaxing half term,
Juliette Westwood and Carla Matthews



Attendance Stars

Our whole school attendance target is 97% this academic year. We can't achieve this without your support!

This week's attendance:

Class R MB: 88.9%

Class R AH: 95.8%

Class 1 LC: 97.7%

Class 1KH: 97.8%

Class 2: 99.4%

Class 3: 94.4%

Class 4: 93.9%

Class 5: 96.2%

Class 6: 96.7%

Overall Attendance:

Congratulations to Class 2

New teaching Staff for September 2014

As a growing school (in September we will have two year 2 classes for the first time), we needed one new member of staff. The staff changes already mentioned meant that this grew to three.

We were delighted to appoint the following to join our team.

■■■■■■ Chris Goodwin is currently teaching in London. He is looking forward to returning to his home town with his family.

■■■■■■ on Lee is a former Sydenham pupil and member of the local community. Mr Lee came back to Sydenham several years ago to do some voluntary work connected with his sporting interest.. He is currently teaching in Coventry.

■■■■■■ enifer Rowan Lancaster is currently teaching at Lighthorne Heath Primary School. Ms Rowan originally worked for us as a teaching assistant before leaving to train as a teacher. She has recently been back at Sydenham and already knows many children here.

We are sure that you will be as pleased as we are with our appointments and look forward to welcoming our new staff.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd June: School starts for pupils

Thursday 5th June: Year R and KS1 Sports Day 10.30-12.00 (subject to weather)

Mon 9th- Wednesday 11th June Y5 and y 6 parents and carers invited for school dinners. Please collect letter from office.

Tuesday 10th June: Welcome evening for new parents (year R September 2014)
6.00.7.15pm

Wednesday 11th June: Bingo night 5.30-7.00 (run by the PTA)

Thursday 12th June: Class photographs

7.30-9.00pm Family Information Service Evening for Polish and Portuguese families.

Friday 13th June: Fathers' Day Lunch @ 12.15. Please book your place in the office.

A collage of ten photographs showing children participating in various sports activities on a grassy field. The photos include children running on a track, playing hopscotch, and other outdoor games. The background of the collage is a blue and white checkered pattern.

Year 3 Sports Day 2014

Year 3 showed real team spirit and sportsmanship during our sports day activities.

They really enjoyed representing their houses and competing in all of the different sporting challenges.

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In year 1 we have enjoyed learning about different types of plants. We took a walk around the school garden to find different examples of plants; bushes, herbs, trees, vegetables and wild flowers. We worked with a partner to try and find all of the plants on our sheet that were growing somewhere in the garden. We learned the names of the different plants; Poppy, Chives, Strawberries, Cowslips, Chrysanthemums and Iris.





SPORTS DAY Y6



It was a beautiful sunny day. Children were in good cheer, and it was the Year 6's last ever Sports Day in Primary School. And what a memorable day it was.

As with the whole of KS2, the Year 6 children demonstrated the values that sport teach us: teamwork, collaboration, respect, honesty and how to have fun!

Mrs Banks





LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME – new regulations

“Evidence shows that children with poor attendance are unlikely to succeed academically and are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training) when they leave school”.

“If children are taken away for a two week family holiday every year and have an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, they will have missed the equivalent of a year off school by the time they are sixteen”.

“There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement”.

(Improving Attendance at School – Charlie Taylor pub. DfE 2012)

Warwickshire Primary School pupils recorded 32,213 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in Autumn Term 2012 alone. This disrupts the learning of all not just those who are away.

Previous interpretations of the regulations where Head Teachers could grant pupils leave of absence of up to 10 days for the purpose of a two week family holiday in term time has been interpreted by some parents as a right to an automatic two week term-time holiday. This is not acceptable and the rules have been strengthened to prevent this happening in future.

For this reason the Government has brought in new guidance tightening up the regulations related to pupils

taking time off in term-time. These new rules come into force on 1 September 2013. **Head Teachers are no longer permitted to authorise absence for holidays taken during term time. They are permitted to grant leave only in exceptional circumstances.** If you think you have exceptional circumstances please talk to us without delay and before arrangements are entered into or money committed.

If exceptional circumstances are accepted the Head Teacher will determine how much absence will be authorised.

We understand that holidays are generally less expensive during term time but this does NOT count as an Exceptional Circumstance.

Parents please note:

Leave which is taken for the following reasons will not be authorised:

- Availability of cheaper holidays**
- Availability of desired accommodation**
- Poor weather experienced in school holidays**

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development and for this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible and we all need to play our part.

Why attendance matters:

- Less than 5 days absence = 98%+ attendance**
- 14 days absence (approx.) = 93.5% attendance**
- 20 days absence (approx.) = 90% attendance**
- More than 30 days absence = 88% attendance**

If a child achieves 80% attendance this means that they have missed approximately 40 days of education over the academic year, averaging 1 day per week. If a child's attendance equates to 80% over their time in secondary school they will miss more than a full year of education.

Be aware: Applications for Leave of Absence must be made in advance and failure to do so will result in the absence being unauthorised which may result in legal action against the parent, by Fixed Penalty Notice.

Applications for leave of absence which are made in advance and refused will result in the absence being unauthorised which may result in legal action against the parent, by Fixed Penalty Notice, if the child is absent from school during that period.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.





Here's a date for the Diary:

Saturday 5th July –all day

The Sydni Centre are organising a grand event to celebrate 50 years of the Sydenham Estate and we have been working with them. There will be more details about this event after half term.

As part of the event memories of people who have lived on the estate are being recorded.

Campion staff are looking for volunteers to talk about their memories and will be coming into school on Wednesday 11th July@1.30pm to meet with any family members who want to share their memories.

Please let me know if you would like to take part.

Thank you,

Carla Matthews

Dear parents and carers of children in Reception and Year 1,

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2
Starts September 2014

The government has announced that from September 2014 all children in Reception, year 1 and year 2 will be entitled to free school meals.

In order to make this change work, we need to plan ahead for extra numbers.

Please could you help us by letting us know whether your child/children will be taking up the government's offer by returning the reply slip below to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

If you would like more information about this please come and talk to me or Mrs Westwood.

Thank you,

Carla Matthews
Associate Head teacher

Free school meals

Please write your child/children's name(s) in the sentence you agree with

My child/children.....will be having free school meals in September

Or

I do not want my child/ childrento have a free school meal.