

Southill Primary School

'Happy Confident Prepared'

Dear Parents & Carers

We are very proud of this little book that you are now holding in your hands. If it's possible to boil a school down to a small number of words and some pictures, then we think we've done a pretty good job. We believe that someone new to our school would get a good idea of the exciting opportunities and wonderful experiences available to all our children at this fabulous school.

But we can only tell part of the story in a book. There's our website too, of course, full to the brim with stories and reports of children achieving fantastic things at school. Above all else though, we hope you are able to visit; to feel the Southill 'buzz' of learning; to talk to our children – each of them a fantastic ambassador for our warm, friendly and caring school - and to see how our brilliant staff bring learning to life every day.

If you can't experience Southill first hand, don't worry. Just be reassured that up here, tucked away in our little corner of Weymouth, special things are happening. Our school encourages children to be happy, to be confident and to be ready for whatever the future will throw at them. It's a great place to be. Why not come and join us?

Please get in touch if you have any questions at all. I'll be delighted to speak to you.

Paul Mason, Headteacher - p.mason@southill.dorset.sch.uk



Organisation

Small is beautiful...
We are a one form entry primary school with places for 218 pupils aged between four and eleven years, with an extremely dedicated and enthusiastic teaching and support staff. Children begin school in our self-contained and well-resourced EYFS classroom from where they are gradually introduced into the wider school. Our other classes are organised into pairs, or 'units' around our central hall, with their own shared teaching areas, toilets, cloakrooms and entrances. It's a great system that works very well.

Inclusion

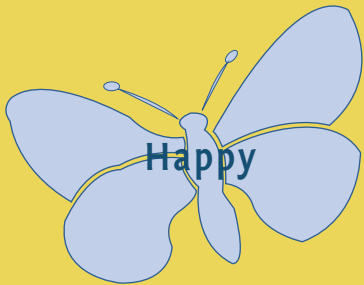
Everyone's welcome at Southill...
We pride ourselves in providing a caring, friendly and inclusive environment where it is possible to know all our children and their families. Our dedicated SEN co-ordinator leads the staff to plan for all the learning needs in school. We are especially proud of the achievements and progress of our children with special educational needs. We believe that every child has the opportunity to achieve and do well at Southill.

Parent Partnership

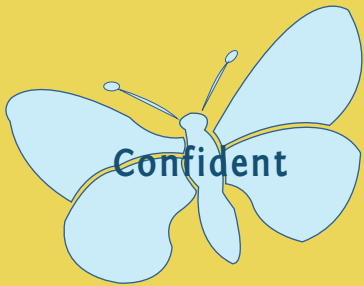
Understanding and respecting each other to ensure children do well...
Children learn best when the adults around them support and encourage them in a consistent way. It's all about good communication and this is something we work very hard on, from thinking about how we report children's progress to parents, to planning together for specific learning needs and to seeking views on different aspects of the school. Together with parents, we consider ourselves to be partners in children's development.

Aims

Southill is a school that aims to provide every child with the best possible education in a happy and safe environment, developing skills to participate and succeed in a global community by working together to create:



- Happy children who:
- love coming to school
 - thrive in a safe, secure and caring environment
 - are proud of their achievements
 - find learning fun, purposeful and challenging
 - leave school with fond memories
 - build positive and rewarding relationships.



- Confident learners who:
- can work independently and with others
 - enjoy learning through a creative and challenging curriculum
 - embrace learning with resilience and enthusiasm
 - are encouraged to be creative and to find their own way
 - learn from failure and aren't afraid to ask questions.



- Prepared citizens who:
- are aware of worldwide issues
 - understand their rights and their responsibilities towards others
 - make choices based on an understanding of their actions' consequences
 - are kind and caring
 - believe they can effect change and make a difference
 - adapt to a diverse and ever-changing world
 - benefit from being in a school with close links to parents and their local community.



Reception Class (Foundation Stage)

A great start to school life

Here at Southill we know that the first year of school is vitally important in laying the foundations for a lifetime of learning. We want our children to love coming to school so we do everything we can to make it exciting for them. We work closely with parents so they know their children are safe, happy and making great progress in their learning every day.

Our classroom is bright and friendly and is designed to help the children become active, independent learners. We make sure everyone feels safe and valued as an individual. We find out as much as we can about the children, their motivations, personal preferences and learning styles and we plan our topics around what we think they'll love to learn about.

In Reception Class children begin to build their 'Learning Power'. With the help of our fun and colourful mascots, we develop children's creativity and thinking skills by helping them understand what it is to be a good learner.

In Reception Class children begin their journey to becoming confident and articulate talkers, readers and writers. Our children love learning letters and sounds because we make it so much fun. We develop their imagination and inspire them to write by choosing exciting stories and themes.

Maths is taught every day through practical, play based games and activities. Children develop as mathematical thinkers by playing with numbers and shapes, looking for patterns and solving problems. We make the most of our outstanding outdoor environment and children are given the opportunity to play and learn outside every day. We go on weekly 'Welly Walks' and lots of trips to help us find out about the world around us.



Years 1 to 6

Onwards and upwards

From Reception, our children move into unit bases. Our teachers plan using the National Curriculum and creatively add their own twists and turns to maximise children's interest. In fact, when a new topic is coming up, the children are asked for their own ideas about what they'd like to learn about. This makes for some very interesting lessons. A Southill day is never dull!

Reading, writing and maths are taught every morning, with the afternoon taken up with lots of other subjects, including PE, art and music.

Curriculum plans are sent home at the start of every term so that parents can help. On these, home-learning tasks are provided so parents can enjoy learning together with their children. There is always scope for children to follow their own lines of enquiry though, as many of them become engrossed in their topics. This is something we like to see!

Each class plans trips out (or visitors in) to support and complement the children's learning. Sometimes, we suspend our regular timetable and spend a day learning about an artist, or Great Britain, or ways to make the world a better place.



Learning Environment

The great outdoors. Children who come to Southill are very lucky in many ways, but one is the fantastic environment provided for them to play and learn in. Classroom and shared areas are bright, colourful and clean but it is perhaps the outside environment that is our most surprising aspect. Hidden away behind the school is a glorious expanse of space for the children to enjoy. We have two large playground areas, both with trim trails and tyres to play on. There's a grassed area, too, as well as a pond, outdoor classroom, wildlife trail, gardening area and a large playing field. So much space!

Safeguarding

Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children. We recognise that the safety of our children is our most important priority. All our staff are fully trained to care for children in a vigilant and proactive manner and are backed up by a comprehensive set of policies and procedures.

Learning and Achieving in Teams

Phoenix, Griffin, Dragon and Pegasus. Children belong to one of four teams. They wear differently coloured t-shirts in PE lessons and compete in different school events (like sports day) together. We sometimes work together in a large group which gives us chance to work with different people from those in our class, and of different ages, too.

Clubs

Something for everyone. Our dedicated staff also run lots of interesting after-school activities. These could be: art and crafts, football, gardening, cheerleading, lego, netball, Zumba, choir, coding, tag-rugby and tennis. A popular one is Film Club where children stay after school on a Friday to watch a film altogether in the hall. Great fun!

FOSS

Friends of Southill School. All our parents are automatically members of FOSS, our vibrant parent teacher association. The committee plan and run lots of fun events for the children (and their parents). Not only does this bring much-needed funds into the school, providing an opportunity for parents to get more involved, to meet and to socialise together. Full of lovely people, FOSS is a real benefit to the school.

Building Learning Power

Prepared for the future

We can't know what knowledge and skills children will need when they leave school, but we can get them ready to deal with whatever challenges they will face.

At Southill, we are committed to building our children's learning power; the qualities that children will need to learn - whatever the situation. Just like going to a gym to develop physical fitness, pupils at Southill develop their learning muscles.



Southill learners are:

1. **Resilient:** What do we do when the going gets tough? Learning is hard work – perseverance and the ability to bounce back are vital to success.



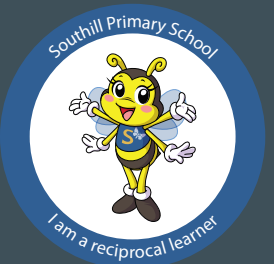
2. **Reflective:** What are we going to do? How can we make things better? Children learn to think about their learning and to consider how to improve. They need to be able to know their own strengths and weaknesses.



3. **Resourceful:** What do I know that could help me? Where could I look to help find answers? Good learners are ready to learn in different ways and are good at finding things to help them.



4. **Reciprocal:** How can I learn on my own or with others? Reciprocal learners are empathetic and listen well, they take turns and pick up ideas from others.





SOUTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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