



End of Year School Report



Mr Mason

from

and

Mrs Wood



Friday 21 July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of another very busy year, it's always great to pause and reflect on what has gone well and also to make plans for the year ahead. It has been a very successful year for us at Southill Primary and there is much to celebrate. Our curriculum goes from strength to strength and it was great that this was recognised by Ofsted when they visited in October.

English and the Arts

We are exceptionally proud of our English curriculum and this year it has been jam-packed with reading events, imaginative writing projects and trips to inspire. In the Autumn term, we travelled by train to London to see *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* live on stage as well as being visited by children's author Daniel Morden. Year 1 read a charming version of *The Christmas Show* by Rebecca Patterson as part of the Chesil Reading Project's Christmas Readaloud and we were treated to a fantastic performance of *A Little Nativity* by Reception and KS1.

In the spring term, we enjoyed a very entertaining morning and then writing workshops with bestselling children's poet, James Carter, and we were very proud of our own poet, Cameron Martin, who won first prize in a national poetry competition and went up to London to meet Michael Rosen. We had a busy Book Week, kicking off with *The Big Booky Breakfast*, including author visits, character competitions and lots of book-related fun. Some Year 6 pupils entered the National Literacy Trust's annual Reading Championships and we were thrilled to be the top-performing primary school in the South West.

In the summer term Year 1 visited Monkey World to help them write their information texts about orangutans. Pupils in Year 3 and 4 put on the most incredible production of *The Tempest* and were lucky enough to visit Shakespeare's Globe in London to work with a trained actor to help with their performance. Arts Week was enjoyed by all and finished with an exhibition for parents. Year 6 pupils had an amazing week in St Ives visiting galleries and creating their own tiles at The Leach Pottery.

Once again, our results reflect the hard work and dedication from pupils and their teachers. Our Y6 children did very well in their SATs, outperforming both Dorset and national figures. Our younger children performed exceptionally well in the Phonics Screening Check, setting them up to be successful readers in the future. Thirteen children achieved Word Millionaire status and they were joined on the Ringos trip by other children who impressed their teachers with their dedication to reading. Bedtime stories have been popular throughout the year with many children tuning in to settle down for a bedtime story read by one of our staff. We are looking forward to many more next year as well as another super-duper Book Week, the trip to Harry Potter Studios, *Wicked the Musical* ... the list goes on!

Maths, Science and Project Learning

Our maths curriculum has been very successful this year and children tell us they love learning maths. A flick through the blog entries on our website will give you a brief flavour of the varied and exciting contexts in which maths is taught. Pupils in Year 4 did very well in the statutory Multiplication Tables check. We had a Maths Day in March with some brilliant lessons which had the children enthralled.

Right across the curriculum our projects are designed to inspire children with practical activities that help them to remember the new knowledge they have acquired. As Scientists, Reception Class invited parents in to see their awesome minibeast exhibition. Year 2 grew butterflies from caterpillars, Year 4 visited London Zoo to learn about animals and explored the human digestive system, Year 5 went stargazing and Year 6 dissected hearts to help them learn about the circulatory system. We also had a fantastic Science Day where all the children learned about different elements of the science curriculum in hands-on investigations and experiments.

As historians, there have been many opportunities to learn in a practical way. Year 1 were visited by Poole Museum with a whole host of toys from the past that they were able to play with to help them compare with toys from today. Year 2 visited Portland Castle as part of their Magnificent Monarchs project. Year 3 went to Stonehenge to learn about our neolithic ancestors and became archaeologists at Dorset Museum as they uncovered Roman history in our local area. Year 4 became Viking invaders and invaded New Barn Field Centre to learn all about daily life in Viking times. Year 6 learned all about Weymouth in World War 2.

Health, Wellbeing and Personal Development

At Southill, it's not just our academic curriculum that we are proud of. As a team we are all dedicated to providing children with extra-curricular opportunities and experiences that will contribute to their personal development. Here are just a few that have taken place this year ... Dance Club, Fitness Thursdays, Rock Band, Pop Stars, Sports Week, Stormbreaks, Bike Rides, Fridedays, Netball Club, Football Club, Computer Music, Nature Art Club, Yoga Club, Colouring Club, Art Club, Forest School, Reading Champs, School Council, Eco Club, Southill's Got Talent, Big Walk and Wheel ... not to mention bushcraft at Leeson House, treading the boards at Shakespeare's Globe, canoeing down the River Wye and surfing in St Ives!

In a turbulent and challenging year which began with the Queen's death, a new Prime Minister, a new King and which has seen many school closures due to strike action, we believe that Southill Primary has been a beacon of happiness and positivity, a safe space for all to thrive, to be themselves and have their chance to shine. We want to thank all our staff for their hard work and relentless dedication to ensuring that Southill Primary pupils get the very best education. We also want to thank you, the parents, for supporting your children - reading with them every day, ensuring they have had a healthy breakfast to set them up for a good day's learning and of course supporting all the additional trips and projects we provide. Last but not least, we want to thank our pupils because they really are the shining stars of Southill Primary. They are an incredible bunch of young people and it is a joy to work with them every day.

We wish you all a very happy summer break and look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready for the new term and exciting challenges ahead on Monday 4 September.