

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back and an especially warm welcome to all of our new Reception and Nursery parents. We hope that you had a fantastic Summer. It is nice to see the building full of children again after the long break. All children should now have a new jumper with our updated logo. If you have not received one, please ask at the school reception.

As this is the first newsletter of the academic year we have included as much information as possible about key dates as well as an up to date staffing profile and information about homework and coffee mornings. We have a range of themes and we hope that you will find these useful. We are always open to new ideas for coffee mornings, so please let us know if there is a theme or subject you would like to see included during the year. Parents in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 are invited to stay and read with their children on Friday mornings. We provide books, so you can come straight into class for the first fifteen minutes to share a story. We are also inviting Dads or other significant male family members to join classes on the morning of **Tuesday 25th September**.

At the end of last term we were pleased to receive our Key Stage 2 results which again place the attainment and progress our pupils make at our school significantly above other schools nationally, including a high number of children who achieved above the expected standard. This is down to the hard work of pupils and teachers but also very much due to the support that you give from home by making sure that children read every night, learn times tables, complete homework tasks and come to school on time and ready to learn. We are very much committed to ensuring that children receive a broad curriculum including weekly music and Spanish tuition as well as chess, debating and the many exciting trips and artistic projects that we subscribe to. There is always so much happening at Southwold, so as well as reading our fortnightly newsletter, please also follow us on Twitter or take a look at our website which has been updated and includes up to date news and key events. We hope you like the new look!

Thank you for all of your support

Mr Stephen O'Brien
Headteacher

Mr Stephen Hall
Executive Headteacher

WELCOME BACK!



At the end of the Summer term, we held our first ever Viridis Federation Music Festival at Hackney Round Chapel. There were a range of musical talents on display, including a Samba Band, Orchestra and our Federation Choir. It was a fantastic success. All children have the chance to learn a musical instrument in our school, with some children also taking up the opportunity to have specialist lessons in the piano, guitar, drums, flute and violin. If you would like your child to benefit from learning an instrument, we subsidise the costs of lessons and can also lend instruments for practise at home free of charge. Please ask more in our school office or by emailing adminsouthwold@vs.hackney.sch.uk

HOMework DIARIES

By now you should have received a new **home school diary**. Please make sure that comments and page numbers are recorded in this every day and that the diary is cared for and signed weekly. There is information inside to help in knowing what to ask and write after reading with your child, including some helpful questions. There is also a times tables square to help practice these. Knowing times tables off by heart makes maths much easier! **Homework** is sent home every Thursday and is due back early the following week so that it can be marked. Your help with making sure that tasks are completed is very much appreciated!



BE ON TIME AT FIVE TO NINE! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON TIME SO THAT CLASSES ARE NOT INTERRUPTED.

OUR TEAM IN 2018/19

Mr Stephen O'Brien Headteacher		Mr Stephen Hall Executive Headteacher	
Ms Keisha Nelson Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)		Ms Alice Larkman Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion)	
Ms Jennifer Chiu (Assistant Headteacher)		Ms Catherine Holley (Acting SENCO)	
Year 6	Kestrel Class Ms Lorna Ward (Phase Leader)	Hawk Class Mr Peter Storey	
Year 5	Osprey Class (taking Starling) Ms Jennifer Chiu / Ms Madison Greer	Mallard Class (taking Eagle) Ms Katie Morris	
Year 4	Eagle Class (taking Sparrow) Mr Paul Milner	Starling Class (taking Kingfisher) Ms Rose Clark	
Year 3	Sparrow Class (taking Owl) Ms Samantha Ridout	Kingfisher Class (taking Swift) Ms Catalina Silva	
Year 2	Swift Class (taking Woodpecker) Ms Catherine Holley / Ms Seda Mertdjan	Owl Class (taking Swan) Mr Yav Durak	
Year 1	Woodpecker Class (taking Jay) Ms Rachael Warrington	Swan Class (taking Magpie) Esme Moira	
Reception	Jay Class Ms Ivita Grodze	Magpie Class Mr James Mulvany	
Nursery	Robin Class Ms Sangeeta Kerai (Phase Leader)		



Children have now settled into their new classes and are back into a routine. All staff attended two days of induction and training at the start of September so that we could hit the ground

running but we know that it sometimes take children new to school a little while to settle in and will do everything we can to support this.

A big welcome to the new members of our teaching team who joined us in September. Not shown here, but also working with us are our Spanish teachers Madame Alexander-Joseph and Ms Perdomo with Ms Eskulics continuing as our full time music teacher. Our new apprentice teachers have started in Year 5 and in Year 2, and they will share responsibility for the class. We hope that you had a chance to meet your child's class teacher at our meet the teacher events.

DROP IN SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

As well as our **Friday morning stay and read** sessions for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, parents are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the flexi space on the ground floor at 9:15am. These are an opportunity to meet with other parents as well as learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 14th September	Reading: Supporting reading at home
Friday 21st September	Numeracy: Be in the know! Learn new methods to solve maths problems
Friday 28th September	Phonics (for EYFS, Y1 and Y2): A toolkit to help your children learn to read and write
Friday 5th October	Spanish: Learn Spanish with your child
Friday 12th October	Developing Enquiry Skills: Asking questions about the world around us
Friday 19th October	Family Team Building: Take part in games and activities you can play at home
Friday 2nd November	Play Pod: Experience the creative opportunities at play time
Friday 9th November	Spelling Strategies: How to support your child
Friday 16th November	Celebrating Life Experiences: Create a scrap book to document special time together
Friday 23rd November	Science: Exciting experiments in the home
Friday 30th November	ESafety: Keep your children happy and safe online
Friday 7th December	Music: Learn to play an instrument with your child!
Friday 14th December	Parent Reading Assembly for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 (time to TBC)

Key dates

Autumn Term 2018

Half Term Holiday

Monday 22nd to
Friday 26th October

Children Return

Monday 29th October

Parents Evening:

Thursday 29th November

End of Term Finish Date:

Friday 21st December at 2pm

Spring Term 2019

Start Date:

Monday 7th January 2019

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd
February

Staff Training Day:

Monday 25th February

Children Return

Tuesday 26th February

Parents Evening:

Thursday 29th November

End of Term Finish Date:

Friday 21st December at 2pm

Summer Term 2019

Start Date:

Tuesday 23rd April

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 27th May
(Bank Holiday) to Friday 31st
May

For more news you can also
follow us on Facebook &
Twitter!

