



**Southwold
Primary School**

HIGHLIGHTS

Friday 12th June 2020

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the final half term of the academic year. Last week we welcomed back children in Reception and Year 1 and this week children in Nursery and Year 6. Thank you to all parents who have worked alongside staff to ensure systems for re-opening have run smoothly. Children who are back at school are enthusiastically accessing a full curriculum entitlement in smaller groups. This includes weekly music, MFL and PE sessions, as well as reading, writing and maths each day.

In line with Government guidance, a full risk assessment has been carried out to ensure we are able to create safe provision for the school community. Children are allocated to 'learning pods' which have maximum capacity of 15. There are a small number of consistent adults leading pods and each pod has a designated playtime and space to ensure social distancing from other groups in the school. If your child is in one of the returning year groups, they haven't restarted yet but would like them to, please contact the school office to discuss this.

We are continuing to provide a broad range of planned home learning for all year groups. During weekly calls, many families have commented on home routines which mean children are getting opportunities to learn every day. It is very important that children continue to read daily, rehearse timetables and have the opportunity to write regularly as this will best support them when they return to full time learning in school.

Communication during school partial closure is very important to us. You will still be receiving weekly touch base calls from teachers which is an excellent opportunity to ask questions. In addition, the school office is also open daily. When letters are added to the website, a text message is sent out with the link which can be read on any smart device or through a PC if you have one available. If you receive a text update and you cannot access additional information, please let the school office know and they will arrange for a paper copy to be posted to you.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Mr Stephen O'Brien
Headteacher

Ms Rachel Davie
Executive Headteacher

HOME-BAKING

We often see children in EYFS baking when they are in school, so it has been really nice to see the children baking at home. Jeane in Jay class made apple and banana muffins, whilst Maliya in Magpie baked a Victoria sponge! Did you know that baking has a positive impact on wellbeing, with benefits that include increased mindfulness, satisfaction and sensory pleasure. If you'd like some ideas to get baking, check out the [bbc good food website!](#)



RETURNING TO SCHOOL



Children who have returned to school have had virtual Spanish with Ms Perez; an opportunity to rehearse and practice their Spanish vocabulary.

Children have also had their first virtual music lessons via video conferencing with Ms Esculiks. Each pod has also had their usual weekly PE lesson, keeping fit whilst also ensuring social distancing by playing non-contact sports!



HOME LEARNING RESOURCES ARE UPLOADED WEEKLY TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE!

GARDEN UPDATE



With all the sunshine and rain that we have had the garden is very looking very green. The potatoes have flowered and will be ready to harvest next month, whilst the raspberries are plump and ready for picking! The children in school have been supporting Cassie our school gardener

each week by watering the plants and reporting back how the garden has changed between March and June.



KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

When in school our digital leaders plan, prepare and deliver assemblies on e-safety to both upper and lower phases of the school. They educate the children on the different areas of e-safety and how to keep safe online. This is now even more important at a time when children are accessing the internet more regularly. If you would like to see some tips for staying safe online go to: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



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HEALTHY HANDS

It is important that children learn to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, frequently. The children and adults attending school have been washing their hands every time they come in from outside (including first thing in the morning), before and after eating and at other points during the day too. Children are being taught why this is important protection against all germs, not just the coronavirus.



When children come back to school they will be washing their hands frequently. Please support us by building regular handwashing into your routines at home.

Key Dates

Summer Term 2020

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Children's Start Date:

Monday 1st June

End of Term Finish Date: Friday 17th July at 2pm

Autumn Term 2020

Children's Start Date:

Monday 7th September

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Children Start Date:

Monday 2nd November

Parents Evening:

Thursday 10th December
Finish Date: Friday 18th December at 2pm

Spring Term 2021

Staff Training Day:

Monday 4th January

Children's Start Date:

Tuesday 5th January

Work & Enterprise Week: Week beginning 18th January

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Children's Start Date:

Monday 22nd February

Science & Technology Day (with Science Fair): Friday 19th March

Parents Evening:

Thursday 25th March

End of Term Finish Date: Thursday 1st April at 2pm

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READING ROUTINES

Reading is one of the most important skills that children will learn. Regular reading is essential in making sure that children become confident readers. Here are two top tips for success!

Maintain the flow (new readers): If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow an opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

Talk about the books (experienced readers): There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Take time to talk about the book your child is reading; about the story, plot and theme. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills. There are some useful questions and tips in the reading diaries with the types of questions you can ask.

