

SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER BACK TO SCHOOL 2025



Happy back to school day! We hope you've all had an amazing summer! It was so lovely to see so many happy, smiley faces at the gate, all excited and ready for the year ahead.

A big warm welcome to all our new families joining us in Nursery and across the year groups – we're really looking forward to getting to know you and working together.

The children have settled back into their routines really well, whether old or new, and we're all excited about a fantastic school year ahead. A bit of rain and no school phone line didn't stop us from having a successful day!

Miss Luke, Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All dates will soon be added to our school calendar on the website <https://www.southdownprimaryschoolbuckley.co.uk/> You can subscribe to the calendar so that you get updates on your phone/email -just click on the subscribe button. You'll also find the monthly school newsletter and term dates.

- Wednesday 10th September Year 3&4 trip to Blue Planet Aquarium
- Monday 15th September Nasal Flu Immunisation (Rec-Year 6)
- Monday 15th September Parents 'Meet & Greet' (3.00-5.30pm)
- Tuesday 23rd September Year 5 trip to Jodrell Bank
- Friday 26th September Individual and Family photographs

- Friday 3rd October Macmillan Coffee Morning (9.15-11.15am)
- Monday 6th October 'Wellbeing Week'
- Friday 10th October 'Hello Yellow Day' (children to wear yellow clothes in support of mental health, no donation required)

- Monday 20th October Parents Evening
- Tuesday 21st October Parents Evening
- Thursday 23rd October School closes for Half Term

- Monday 3rd November Back to School
- Thursday 6th November Nursery 2026 Open Morning
- Monday 10th November Anti-bullying Week
- Friday 14th November Children in Need

- Monday 1st December Years 1-3 Christmas Concert 2pm/5.30pm
- Tuesday 2nd December Years 1-3 Christmas Concert 9.30am
- Wednesday 3rd December Panto at Elfed High School (Rec-Year 6)
- Friday 5th December Children's Christmas Dinner
- Monday 8th December Years 4-6 Christmas Service 1.30pm/5.30pm
- Tuesday 9th December Nursery/Reception Concert 10am/2pm
- w/b Monday 15th December Party week -days for each year to be confirmed
- Friday 19th December Fancy Dress: School closes for Christmas

We will also be collecting food items for Flintshire Foodbank as part of our Harvest Celebrations and we will be supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year. Information about Friends of Southdown Events such as the Christmas Film Night will be provided soon.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2025-2026

Autumn Term		
Staff Training Day	Monday	1 st September 2025
Staff Training Day	Tuesday	2 nd September 2025
School Opens	Wednesday	3 rd September 2025
School Closes (Half Term)	Thursday	23 rd October 2025
Staff Training Day	Friday	24 th October 2025
School Opens	Monday	3 rd November 2025
School Closes (Christmas)	Friday	19 th December 2025
Spring Term		
School Opens	Monday	5 th January 2026
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	13 th February 2026
School Opens	Monday	23 rd February 2026
Staff Training Day	Friday	20 th March 2026
School Closes (Easter)	Friday	27 th March 2026
Summer Term		
School Opens	Monday	13 th April 2026
May Day	Monday	4 th May 2026
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	22 nd May 2026
School Opens	Monday	1 st June 2026
Buckley Jubilee	Tuesday	14 th July 2026
School Closes (Summer)	Friday	17 th July 2026
Staff Training Day	Monday	20 th July 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- We are a nut and egg free school due to some children having allergies. This includes Nutella type products.
- In line with Welsh Government guidelines only fresh fruits or vegetables can be eaten at snack time. As a school we can provide daily snack at small charge. If you don't want your child to have snack from school then please provide them with fruit/vegetables only -yoghurt, fruit rolls etc are not allowed. Thank you for your support with this.
- It is important the correct school uniform is worn each day. This includes school shoes and not trainers. PE kits are black shorts and red t-shirt (logo t-shirt can be purchased from school office if needed). If the weather is cold, then a tracksuit can be worn and we do have a school hoodie. Football kits are not appropriate for PE Kit.
- No dogs are allowed on the school grounds/premise unless prior agreement has been given. This includes carrying them.
- Please continue to be patient and considerate when parking during drop off and pick up. This includes respecting our neighbours.
- The playground equipment and hill should not be used after school as it can only be used with school staff supervision -thank you. Unfortunately, though the 'Trim Trail' at the front of the school has had to be put out of action 😞 It has been part of the school for many, many years and with it being made of wood it does have 'shelf-life'. Hopefully we will do everything we can to raise some money to replace it as soon as possible.

THANK YOU!

A massive thank you to Mr. Jackson, who worked incredibly hard over the summer holidays to repair the garden fence – it was a big job and his efforts are truly appreciated! We're also very grateful to Blakemore for generously gifting £250, which allowed us to purchase the materials needed for the repairs. A big thank you as well to Buckley Roundtable for donating the paint. A team of fantastic volunteers gave up their time on Thursday 21st August to help paint the fence. There are still a few areas left to finish, but we ran out of paint – so thank you once again to the Roundtable, who are kindly providing us with more. Your support makes a real difference – thank you all!

SCHOOL ADMISSION DATES

Applications for your child to attend school are accessed from the Flintshire County Council website.

<https://Flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/School-Admisssions.aspx>

- Applications for Year 7 in September 2026 are now open.
- Applications for Reception in September 2026 will be open from Monday 22nd September 2025.
- Applications for Nursery in September 2026 will be open from Monday 22nd September 2025.

ATTENDANCE

Each year the school has to provide the Local Authority with an attendance target. This year our target is **93%**. As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils we monitor pupil attendance on a regular basis in conjunction with the school's Education Support Officer Mrs Julie Mayos.

During this regular monitoring we identify any pupil, whose attendance causes concern, including those pupils who have arrived late to school on a number of occasions.

Over the coming weeks we will be providing more information around school attendance but here is some useful information and reminders:

- The gates will be open from 8.45am to allow pupils to settle into the school day.
- The gates close at 8.55am.
- Children should arrive in school to ensure they will be ready to enter for registration at 8.55am.
- If your child arrives after this time they must enter via the Main Entrance.
- Late marks are awarded after 9.05am until 9.30am. If your child is going to be late due to an authorised reason, please contact school to let us know. It will be recorded as evidence to support your child's whereabouts.
- After 9.15am if no contact has been received to notify school of your child's absence, then we will contact parents to check the whereabouts of your child. At Southdown we initially do this through a reminder text to ask you to contact school.
- We believe it is important for pupils to be punctual and to attend regularly, to receive the best education we can offer.
- If your child is going to be absent from school please let the school office know on 01244 544473 -you can leave a message if there is no answer.

- Please remember that if you need to take a holiday during term time a holiday form should be requested and returned to school 4 weeks in advance of the holiday.
- There is a common misconception that any pupil is allowed to take 10 days holiday during term time per academic year – this is not strictly true. Parents are entitled to ask for leave of absence of up to 10 school days for an annual holiday, and this may be authorised by the school.
- Only in exceptional circumstances can any more than 10 days be granted.

ILLNESS –WHAT TO DO

This is just another update about what to do if your child is unwell. Obviously, this doesn't cover everything and is only about the main areas but if you are ever unsure please just contact us at ask.

- Upset tummy, sickness or diarrhoea they must be kept off school for at least 48 hours from the **last episode of illness not from the start.**
- Sore throat, runny nose, headache or ear-ache, you must judge whether their health is affected and whether they are well enough to attend school or not. If not, they should stay at home.
- Chickenpox: children must be kept off school for 5 days from the onset of the rash AND until all vesicles (blisters) have crusted over.

In general, school should not need to administer medicine and if your child requires medicine again you should consider if they are well enough to be in school. We can however support you with administering a course of antibiotics if it is for 4 times a day. If it is 3 times a day this can be managed around school hours.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Universal Free School Meals (UPFSM) is the Welsh Government's initiative which will now ensure that all children in primary school receive a free school meal regardless of income.

Some families may be able to access Eligible Free School Meals (eFSM) which are provided to all pupils whose parents/carers meet the criteria of an income assessment. **Just by registering your child for entitled Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money and we don't want Southdown to miss out!**

Please take the time to see if you qualify, and ensure that you claim what you, and Southdown are entitled to -thank you.

<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Education-Benefits.aspx>

EMERGENCY ALERT

We have been asked by the LA to provide you with the following information:

The UK government is testing the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm. Compatible mobile phones and tablets will receive an alert, make a loud siren-like sound and vibrate. You will not need to take any action.

The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. Regular testing ensures the system is functioning correctly, should it need to be used in a life-threatening emergency.

Find out more at gov.uk/alerts