

# SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025



What a brilliant start we've had to the new school year! It's been wonderful to see everyone settling back in so quickly and the children's enthusiasm and energy have really set the tone for an exciting year ahead. The past few weeks have flown by with lots happening already, and there's even more to look forward to in October. Here's a little round-up of what we've been doing, a few reminders and what's coming next.

Miss Luke, Headteacher

## SCHOOL NEWS

- We've already squeezed in two exciting school trips this term! As part of their topic, 'Into the Deep,' Year 3/4 had a fantastic day at Blue Planet Aquarium, and Year 5 kicked off their topic 'To Infinity and Beyond!' with a visit to Jodrell Bank.
- Year 5 have also started their PlayPal training! This project helps the children learn all about the importance of play and how it will make our lunchtimes even more fun.
- A big thank you to HSBC for visiting Year 6 to talk about Financial Education.
- All of our extra-curricular clubs are up and running, and it's wonderful to see so many children taking part in such a variety of activities.
- Photo Day was a busy but fun day! There were so many smiley faces, and we're sure you'll love seeing the photos. Ordering information has been sent home this week.
- At Southdown, we have four school rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Kind. All the children joined in our Be Safe assembly, where we talked about how to keep ourselves and others safe. On the same day, we held our termly Fire Drill and successfully evacuated in just under 2 minutes and 25 seconds – well done everyone!
- We were delighted to welcome visitors from Bistre Church for an assembly this month. This is part of 'Open the Book,' where children hear short, simple stories from the Bible. We'll take part in this twice a term, alongside other local primary schools.
- We've started using myHappyMind this term which has been a big success with the children. Please remember to download the app. Just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. Your authentication code is 400362 or simply scan this QR code to sign up.



## NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2026

Is your child 3 or 4 years old before September 2026? If so they are able to join our Nursery or Reception class in September 2026, and we would love to welcome them to our family friendly school. All applications need to be completed on line at [www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the school and they would like to find out more please let us know or point them in our direction. We will be holding an open morning for **NURSERY 2026** at 10am on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and 1.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026. All application forms need to be received by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the very latest for Reception and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for Nursery. You will then be informed of your place later in the year.

## YEAR 6: HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Applications for High School are now open too. Again, all forms need to be completed online [www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions) by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We continue to work closely with both the Argoed and Elfed High Schools and we have another great transition plan in place for the children this year.

## PUPIL LEADERSHIP

At Southdown we foster leadership and strongly believe in giving our children genuine leadership opportunities so they can make decisions about school and their learning. Our leaders this year are:

<b>School Council</b>	Year 1 & 2: Ayla J, Eleri S, Eliza F, Nancy S, Nancy W and Thea B Year 3 & 4: Halle C, Jack G, Lacey N, Mia W, Roman E and Storm N Year 5: Hallie E, Ruben D, Ruben M and Skyla H Year 6: Archie D, Deacon R, Ella AW and Zack R
<b>Eco Warriors</b>	Year 1 & 2: Alice H, Catrin D, Cristina W, Harry J, Leo O and Polly W Year 3 & 4: Jayden D, Joshua L, Katie D, Oliver-George G, Oscar R and Tomos R Year 5: Freddie F, Jensen R, Joseph W and Lily L Year 6: Alex S, Anya G, Isaac D and Willow W
<b>Criw Cymraeg</b>	Year 1 & 2: Arabella F, Bobby R and Elliot P Year 3 & 4: Elsie C, Enya S, Jasmine TM, Logan G, Maggie A and Mila C Year 5: Caleb W, Freddie B, Freya Y, George F, Poppy O and Seren D Year 6: Emil J, Ethan D, Izzy K, Jessie D, Serenna M and Sophia A.
<b>Digital Wizards</b>	Year 1 & 2: Henry G, Jaxon M and Lewis-James J Year 3 & 4: Freddie W, Izzy H, Lucas M, Max D, Nancy R and Ocean E Year 5: Freya C, James HJ, Lochlan HB and Oliver H Year 6: Alfie C, Albie H, Ethan D, Olivia H, Shane MH and Shayden R
<b>Little Listeners</b>	Year 5: Freya C, Harper C, Jensen R, Poppy O, Ruben M and Skyla H Year 6: Emily W, Jessie D, Sophia A, Tobias W and Zack R
<b>Year 6 Prefects</b>	Alyssa G, Amber C, Cai W, Emily W, Lola RB, Poppy H, Ruby M, Sebastian H, Serenna M and Sophia A

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, our School Council will be holding a coffee morning for parents and the community at 9:15am in the school hall. All money raised will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated! Please can these be brought in on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. In addition, if you would like your child to bring a cake home, please send them in with a donation of £1 on the day. We can't wait to see you all!

## HARVEST

We are thrilled that we will be returning to Bistre Church this year to celebrate Harvest on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October -this will be for the children only. In conjunction with this we will be collecting items for Flintshire Foodbank. All items can be brought to school and at the moment the following items are needed however I'm sure they will gratefully receive anything suitable – I know toiletries and sanitary products go a long way too.

### Shopping list

Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Custard
Tinned ready meals
Tinned fish
Long grain rice
Toilet roll
Shampoo
Rice pudding
Pasta sauce

## PARENTS EVENING

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the 'Meet and Greet' a couple of weeks ago. We hope you enjoyed the chance to pop in, say 'hi,' and meet your child's class teacher. Thank you to everyone who completed our Summer Parents' Survey. You told us that February Parents' Evening often feels a little too late to get a formal update on your child's progress. We've listened and acted on your feedback. That's why we held the Meet and Greet earlier this term and why our first formal Parents' Evenings will now take place on **Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October**. More information, including how to book your appointment, will be shared on Dojo soon.

## TOYS

We kindly ask that children do not bring toys, including football cards, Pokémon cards, or similar items, into school. We have plenty of resources and equipment available for the children to enjoy during the school day. Personal toys from home can often become a distraction and may lead to items being lost or damaged.

## HELLO YELLOW DAY: FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

As part of our Wellbeing Week we will be celebrating 'Hello Yellow' day. The children, if they wish can come to school that day dressed head to toe in yellow or if they are not feeling as bold just a splash of yellow here and there -yellow socks, hair item etc There is no donation required it is just a bit of fun and to promote the importance of good emotional wellbeing and mental health.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October Macmillan Coffee Morning (9.15-11.15am)
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 'Wellbeing Week'
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 'Hello Yellow Day'
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October Parents Evening 3.10-6pm
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October Parents Evening 3.10-6pm
- **Thursday** 23<sup>rd</sup> October School closes for Half Term
  
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November School opens and children return to school
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November Operation Christmas Child boxes to be in
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November Nursery 2026 Open Morning, 10am
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November Anti-bullying Week
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November Film Night -more information to follow
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November Children in Need
  
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December Years 1-3 Christmas Concert 2pm/5.30pm
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Years 1-3 Christmas Concert 9.30am
- **Thursday** 4<sup>th</sup> December Panto at Elfed High School (Rec-Year 6)
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December Children's Christmas Dinner
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December Years 4-6 Christmas Service 1.30pm/5.30pm
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December Nursery/Reception Concert 10am/2pm
- w/b Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December Party week -days for each year TBC
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December Fancy Dress: School closes for Christmas

## **TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

- Only Year 5 and 6 are allowed to travel to and from school independently, and then only if you have given us your consent.
- Please can you ensure that if your child travels to and from school on a bike or a scooter, that they wear a suitable helmet.

## **CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC**

Another plea to keep our children and families safe. The number of near misses is such a worry and is very much in your control. We recognise that outside school becomes easily congested and therefore we are asking you to please be patient and considerate to our neighbours and school families. Some of the solutions are very much in your hands:

- Please walk/cycle to school
- Please park further afield and walk to school.
- Please be considerate with your parking -if you get a space in the parking bay pull up right to the curb to allow cars to pass.
- Please be patient and considerate of pedestrians, residents and other car users. It is a busy and often stressful time of the day, show each other some compassion.
- The school carpark is for staff only -please respect this.