

# SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025



October has been another busy and productive month, rounding off an *eight-week* half term filled with lots of fun, learning and moments to be proud of. Everyone has earned a well-deserved rest! Enjoy your half term break and have fun celebrating Halloween and Bonfire Night – whatever you're up to, stay safe and take time to relax. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

Miss Luke, Headteacher

## SCHOOL NEWS

- We had a fantastic response from everyone to our Harvest collection. The Flintshire Foodbank were extremely grateful -thank you for your support with this. It was lovely to have the whole school together to celebrate Harvest at Bistre Church and as always we appreciate Rev Chris's support and time that he gives us as a school. The singing was beautiful and the Year 6 Prefects did a great job of leading the service.
- Thank you also for those of you that supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning organised by Miss Phoenix, Miss Gardner and the School Council. A grand total £411.30 was raised.
- We are always grateful to the both Elfed and Argoed High Schools for offering different workshops for the children throughout the year. This half term Year 4 took part in a Light, Colour & Sound Workshop and Year 6 in a Music and Dance Workshop at Elfed.
- Both of our Year 5 classes have been working with the Flintshire Play Development Team on their 'PlayPals' training. All the children have been learning about the importance of play and are being equipped with the skills to become confident, capable PlayPals during lunchtime. They're really enjoying the sessions and are growing in confidence, developing leadership skills, and learning how to support both our youngest and oldest pupils in their play. Da iawn, Blwyddyn 5 – we're proud of you!
- Years 5 and 6 took part in the UK Parliament Assembly learning more about how democracy works.
- Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a fantastic visit from author Piers Torday, who shared his stories and writing tips.
- Year 6 had an informative session with PC Lee about substance misuse, helping them understand the importance of making safe choices.
- Two members of our local police team joined the children for lunch in the hall. This is part of a Flintshire-wide initiative to show that the police are friendly, approachable, and here to help.
- A big thank you to STAND North Wales for leading two fantastic Sensory Play workshops for our Nursery and Reception parents. We look forward to welcoming them back soon!
- As this newsletter goes out, Year 6 are en route to Manchester! We're sure they'll have a fun-filled day exploring the Science and Industry museum.
- Wellbeing is something we do every day, all year round but it was good to celebrate 'Hello Yellow' day as part of our Wellbeing Week. The children and staff continue to follow the 5 Ways of Wellbeing -Connect, Be Active, Keep Learning, Give and Take Notice.

## **PARENTS EVENING**

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you and have the opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into the new school year. We hope you appreciated that the meeting was moved to October rather than February, so we can begin working together earlier and keep you well informed about your child's progress from the start. These conversations are an important part of supporting your child's learning, allowing us to celebrate their progress as well as explore any challenges or additional support they may need. We look forward to continuing this partnership throughout the year.

## **ADMISSIONS**

There is still time to apply for 2026 places in Nursery, Reception and also Secondary School. Visit the website and complete the application.

[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions). The closing dates are:

- Nursery: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- Reception: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- Secondary: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs Roberts and Mr Smith, the respective Headteachers of Elfed and Argoed High Schools, to our Parents' Evening. We highly recommend attending any future open evenings or getting in touch directly with either of the High Schools if you'd like to find out more about what they have to offer.

## **CAR PARK AND TRAFFIC**

We want to make another plea to help keep our children and community safe. The number of near misses around the school is deeply concerning—and it's something very much within your control. Over the past month, we have received a number of complaints from local residents, not only about unsafe and inconsiderate parking but also about the verbal abuse they've experienced when politely asking parents or family members not to block driveways or park on pavements. This is very upsetting, especially as these families represent Southdown in our neighbourhood. We must ask you again to please be patient, be considerate, and, whenever possible, consider walking to school. Together, we can create a safer, kinder environment for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year. Your child's class teacher will be in touch explaining what they need and when to make their class boxes. We know that some of you like to make a whole box at home. There is no pressure to do this but if it something that you would like to do please can you make sure it is in school by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November and includes the £5 postage fee. Diolch.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Good attendance is essential for your child's learning and success. This year, our school attendance target is 93%. We work closely with Julie Mayos, our Education Support Officer, who monitors attendance every half term to support families where needed. Today, letters are being sent to families whose attendance is currently below 90%. This is part of our ongoing commitment to work together and help every child reach their full potential. We understand that there can be many reasons for absence, and if there are any specific challenges affecting your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we're here to help and support in any way we can.

## NSPCC -SPEAK OUT. STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

We are pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. Programme** after half term, provisionally week beginning November 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline. This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of an age appropriate assembly and classroom-based activities. This is a vital part of our safeguarding learning programme however we are asking parents and carers to let us know if their child may have experienced anything (in the past or happening now) which may mean they need extra support before, during or after taking part in this programme. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout).

### Additional NSPCC resources for families to help keep children safe

The NSPCC have shared some important information below on wider NSPCC resources and support to help keep children safe.

<p><b>Parent/Carer support</b></p> <p>Take a look at information, support, advice and activities from NSPCC for parent and carers.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/parents">www.nspcc.org.uk/parents</a></p>	<p><b>Activities to extend learning at home</b></p> <p>Take part in games and activities at home to help children learn about speaking out and staying safe.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/activities">www.nspcc.org.uk/activities</a></p>
<p><b>Online Safety Hub</b></p> <p>For information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, sharing images, parental controls and more.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety">www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety</a></p>	<p><b>Childline – under 12's</b></p> <p>Childline have an accessible website with advice, support, games and activities. Children can change the language, enlarge text and also listen to the content.</p> <p><a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/buddy">www.childline.org.uk/buddy</a> (5-7)</p> <p><a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/kids">www.childline.org.uk/kids</a> (7-11)</p>
<p><b>Talk PANTS with your children</b></p> <p>Talk PANTS is a simple conversation to help keep children safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter of PANTS provides simple but important messages. Download the free resources at <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants">www.nspcc.org.uk/pants</a>.</p>	

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| • Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November      | Back to School                               |
| • Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November    | Nursery 2026 Open Morning 10-11am            |
| • Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November     | Anti-bullying Week                           |
| • Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November  | Film Night -Reception to Year 6              |
| • Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November     | Children in Need                             |
| • Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November     | Wear it Purple Day to remember Aaron Wharton |
| • 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           |
| • Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December     | Break the Rules Day!!                        |
| • 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     |
- Full details about Christmas concerts, parties etc information will be provided after the break.**