

SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



January has come and gone in no time at all, and it's been business as usual – busy, productive, and positive. Even with snow and lots of rain to contend with, it's been a great start to the year, and we're proud of everything that's been achieved already.

Miss Luke, Headteacher

WELCOME

This month, we have welcomed Miss Burke, Mr Roberts, and Miss Wilcock to the Southdown team. Miss Burke is leading our SNUG group in Years 1 and 2. Mr Roberts is teaching across the school as our PPA teacher, as Mr Godwin is now teaching a Year 3/4 class. Miss Wilcock is our new cleaner, and we are delighted to have everyone join us.

PARKING

We are once again asking for your support in helping to keep our children, families, and neighbours safe during drop-off and pick-up times. We understand that these are very busy times of day. Parents are often in a rush, road space is limited, and parking can be challenging. However, it is essential that everyone remains patient, considerate, and respectful.

Please remember:

- The school car park is for staff only – please respect this at all times.
- Please do not park across driveways or block access to residents' homes.
- Where possible, please consider walking to school.

We regularly receive complaints from local residents, often accompanied by photographs, about unsafe and inconsiderate parking. These include cars blocking driveways, preventing residents from getting to work, attending hospital appointments, or carers being able to reach vulnerable neighbours. While we do not wish to name and shame, it is very difficult for the school to manage ongoing complaints when the issue is beyond our control. We value our positive relationship with our neighbours and ask for your cooperation in showing them the same respect and consideration you would expect outside your own homes.

MYHAPPYMIND

We are continuing to follow the myHappyMind programme and have started our 3rd module this term -Appreciate. The programme is really having a positive impact across the school and if you haven't already please can I encourage you to download the parent app at home. Your authentication code is [400362](#)



SCHOOL NEWS

- Year 3 have started their Ukulele lessons every Tuesday as part of Theatre Clywd's First Experience project.
- Dilys the dog has finished listening to Year 6 readers and will now be starting her reading sessions with Year 4 which she is looking forward to!
- As part of Operation Bobcat Year 6 visited Mold Police Station to support their understanding of anti-social behaviour.
- Year 5 have completed First Aid Training session with the British Red Cross.
- Our regular visits to Buckley Library have started again and so far this month Mrs Smith, Mr Godwin and Mrs Moore's classes have been.
- Thank you as always to Rev. Chris and 'Open the Book' for leading an assembly this month. We always look forward to their visits.
- Flintshire Play Team also visited to share with the children details about the Playscheme being run every Tuesday at 4-5.30pm in the park near Princess Avenue, Buckley.
- We had another successful Nursery Open Afternoon and there is still time to apply for 2026 places in Nursery. Visit the FCC website and complete the application. www.flintshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

RUPERT'S RAINBOW

We will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 13th February to raise money for Rupert's Rainbow. Many of you know from community awareness and social media that Rupert has an ultra-rare, life threatening neurological condition called Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood (AHC). AHC affects approximately one-in-one million children and with no cure in the UK and time-critical treatment opportunities abroad, his family are fundraising to give Rupert the best possible chance at a future. We will be collecting donations on the day through School Gateway.

DATES FOR FEBRUARY + MARCH

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 4 th February | Year 5 trip to Conwy Castle |
| • 5 th February | PC Lee Year 6: Anti-social behaviour |
| • 5 th February | PC Lee Year 5: Cyberbullying |
| • 9-13 th February | Wellbeing/Children's Mental Health Week |
| • Friday 13 th February | Non-Uniform Day -Rupert's Rainbow |
| • Friday 13 th February: | Finish for Half Term |
| • Monday 23 rd February: | Back to School |
| • Thursday 26 th February: | School Disco |
| • Thursday 5 th March: | World Book Day |
| • Friday 6 th March: | Eisteddfod |
| • Thursday 12 th March | Year 5 Science and Numeracy at Elfed |
| • Friday 13 th March: | Comic Relief Red Nose Day |
| • Mon 16 th /Tue 17 th March: | Parents Evening 3.15-6pm |
| • Thursday 19 th March: | Non-Uniform Day -Easter |
| • Friday 20 th March: | School Closed: Staff Training Day |
| • Tuesday 24 th March: | Year 4 Sports Festival at Elfed |
| • Wednesday 25 th March: | Easter Bingo after School -TBC |
| • Friday 27 th March: | Finish for Easter |

JUST A FEW REMINDERS

- With the colder weather now upon us, it is important to send your child into school with a warm coat, hat and gloves. We aim to have playtime outside every day where possible, weather permitting.
- If your child is unwell and not going to be in school, please can you contact the school office on 01244 544473 by 9.15am at the latest.

WELLBEING WEEK

We will be holding our termly 'Wellbeing Week' beginning 9th February in conjunction with Children's Mental Health Week. Over the 5 days each class will focus on one of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. Maybe you could try each area over that week too –Connect, Be Active, Keep Learning, Give and Take Notice.

ONLINE SAFETY REMINDER

We are noticing an increase in digital-related issues being brought into school and not just with our oldest children. To help keep children safe, we continue to encourage parents to monitor online activity, consider setting limits on screen time, and ensure that mobile phones and tablets etc are not used in bedrooms. Please also check that games and apps are age appropriate. By working together, we can support children in developing safe and healthy digital habits.

BEDTIME

We always notice at this time of year with the darker nights that many of the children seem to be very tired and parents often ask school for advice about bedtime routines. If your child is tired, they find it difficult to concentrate and participate in learning and it can also affect their behaviour. Your child's development will benefit from a daily 11 to 12 hours of sleep.

Guidelines suggest that bedtime on a school night should be:

- Between 7pm and 7.30pm for children up to the age of five
- Before 8pm for 5 to 7 years olds
- Before 8.30pm for 7 to 9-year olds
- Before 9pm for 9 to 11-year olds

Here is some advice about setting up a bedtime routine:

- Make sure you have checked through schoolbags so nothing important is left for the morning.
- Encourage calm time before bedtime, with activities like reading and quiet play rather than watching TV or competitive games.
- Remind your child that "in five minutes it's bedtime."
- Start off your child's routine with a wash/bath and brushing teeth.
- In bed, keep the lights low. Read a story and maybe chat over the day; try telling your child about something they did that pleased you.
- Put the lights out. If your child is scared of the dark, use a nightlight or leave a light on in the hall.
- To support sleep and for safeguarding reasons we would discourage mobile phones and gaming equipment to be used in bedrooms.