

SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026



We've only had 4 weeks of March in school, and it is hard to believe that we've managed to squeeze so much into such a short space of time!

STAFF NEWS

After nearly 30 years as a valued member of our staff team, we will be saying a fond farewell to Mr Smith at the end of this school year. Mr Smith has decided that the time has come to retire – although we should add that this is certainly early retirement, as despite his many years in teaching he is not quite that old...yet! Although we will miss him greatly, we look forward to celebrating his time with us in July and expressing our thanks for his dedication to the school.

EISTEDDFOD

Our annual school Eisteddfod was held on Friday 6th March. We managed to squeeze the whole school into the hall to watch the brilliant performances from each year group. Thank you to Mr Smith for organising the day and to Mrs Nicholls who shared with the children about what the Eisteddfod is and also to announce our 'Bard' this year. A massive '**llongyfarchiadau!**' to Sebastian H who wrote a beautiful poem called My Wales under the pen name Ernest Papper. The winners of the art competitions have had their work displayed on our Eisteddfod Wall outside of my office– hopefully next time you are in school you will be able to see all their talents -da iawn pawb!

PARENTS EVENING

After taking your feedback into account, we decided to change the way we held this term's Parents' Evening. Overall, the new format was a success and, for many families, provided a convenient alternative way to speak with your child's teacher and learn more about their progress in school.

Thank you to those of you who have already shared how much you appreciated the phone call or Teams meeting. It was very encouraging to receive such positive feedback. We will also gather your views more formally when the annual parent survey is sent out in the Summer Term.

SAFER PARKING AND TRAVEL

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring our children have a safe route to and from school, we have been working closely with PCSO Dan to explore how the children themselves can play a positive role.

Recently, PCSO Dan and PCSO Charlotte visited school and spoke with the children in Years 3 to 6 about travelling safely. They discussed the importance of road safety, being aware of their surroundings, and, importantly, how the adults who drive to and from school can help by following parking rules and showing consideration to one another and to our neighbours.

To support this message, they launched an exciting poster competition focused on encouraging safer parking around our school. The winning design will be turned into a large poster to be displayed on our school fence – a fantastic way for our children's voices to be heard in the community. We can't wait to see all of the creative entries!

We would also like to thank parents and carers for continuing to support safe travel to school. You can help by:

- Parking considerately and legally, avoiding driveways and restricted areas.
- Slowing down when driving near the school and being mindful of pedestrians.
- Walking, scooting, or cycling to school where this is practical.
- Talking to your child regularly about road safety and stranger awareness.
- Arranging safe meeting points if your child walks independently.

By working together – school, families, and our local PCSOs – we can help ensure that every child arrives at school safely each day. Thank you for your continued support.

UNIFORM

A quick reminder for families that from 13th April, all school uniform will need to be purchased through Monkhouse in Mold. In the meantime, we still have some uniform items available in school. While this stock lasts, you can continue to place orders through School Gateway as usual.

ATTENDANCE

Our termly colour-coded attendance letters will be sent home today. As a reminder, our school attendance target this year is 93%, and punctuality plays an important part in achieving this. School gates are open between **8:45am** and **8:55am**, when the register is taken. Any arrival after this time will be recorded as late. Arriving on time helps children settle into the day calmly and ensures they don't miss important learning at the start of the day.

IN OTHER SCHOOL NEWS...

- World Book Day was celebrated on 6th March and the children had lots of fun marking the day with lots of different activities across the school.
- Year 5 completed a Science & Numeracy workshop at Elfed High School.
- Thank you to everyone who bought a Red Nose, we raised an amazing total of £435, and the children really enjoyed wearing their Red Noses
- Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed their visits to Buckley Library.
- Year 4 had a wonderful time at the Sports Festival which was held at Elfed High School.
- Year 3 have been learning the Ukelele over the past few months as part of the First Experiences project led by Theatre Clwyd. The children have had a great experience, and it was lovely that they were able to celebrate all of their hard work with other children across Flintshire as they performed at the 'Sinfonia Concert' at William Aston Hall.
- Our iRock bands also had a successful concert, performing for family.
- Well done to Year 6 who took part in the Cycling Proficiency workshop. An important skill to help them keep safe when riding their bikes.
- Thank you to Mrs Davies, staff and Friends of Southdown for organising the Easter Bingo. Along with the non-uniform day we raised £562.53.
- A massive thank you to Reception for making the biscuits and you for supporting the FRIENDS Down Syndrome charity. We were thrilled to have raised almost £300. Mateo's family, Mrs Hughes and Harri would also like to thank you for your support. The money will make a real difference to their charity!
- Open the Book have led assemblies this month for all the children and we also thank Rev Chris for coming to speak to us on a Monday morning and for allowing celebrate Easter at Bistre church.

DATES FOR APRIL AND MAY

- **Monday 13th April:** School Opens
- **Tuesday 14th April:** Swimming Gala
- **Friday 17th April:** Year 5 Poetry workshop at Elfed
- **Wednesday 29th April:** Parent Workshop with Mrs Davies -TBC

- **Monday 4th May:** Bank Holiday: School Closed
- **Thursday 7th May:** Class Photographs -school uniform only
- **w/b Monday 11th May:** Celebrating Southdown's 50th Birthday!
- **Wednesday 13th May:** Year 6 3-day residential at PGL
- **Wednesday 20th May:** Year 4, 3-day residential at Plas Menai
- **Friday 22nd May:** Finish for Half Term

[Have a lovely Easter break and see you back in school on Monday 13th April](#)