

SOUTHDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026



What a fantastic start to the new school year! It has been wonderful watching everyone settle back into the routine so seamlessly, and the school is already buzzing with energy. Time has absolutely flown by—we've packed so much into these first few weeks that fitting it all into this newsletter was a challenge! Here's a look back at what we've achieved, a few key reminders, and a glimpse of what's coming up in October.

Miss Luke, Headteacher

SCHOOL NEWS

- 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. This month we have also held our termly Fire Drill and successfully evacuated in just under 2 minutes and 30 seconds – well done everyone! We have also completed our first Lockdown Drill which we call our 'Safer Inside' drill.
- Our extra-curricular clubs are officially underway! It's brilliant seeing so many children taking part in such a range of options. Music lessons through iRock and Theatre Clwyd are also available; while these carry an extra cost, please get in touch if you'd like more details on how to get involved.
- We've started our second year of using myHappymind. 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.
- After such a brilliant response last year, Year 5 have started their PlayPal training! Designed to highlight the importance of play and make lunchtimes even more fun, this initiative gives the children great leadership skills. Our current Year 6s were incredible PlayPals last year, and we know Year 5 will do an equally fantastic job.
- Years 4 and 5 had an out-of-this-world time on our very first school trip of the year to Jodrell Bank! It was a brilliant, hands-on way to support their new topic on Space.
- As part of Theatre Clwyd's *First Experiences* project, our Year 3 children have started learning the violin. This project offers them a lovely, hands-on opportunity to explore musical creativity and discover the fun of learning a new instrument together.
- A huge thank you to Rev. Chris for joining us for this month's school assembly. The children were completely captivated, and very impressed by his fantastic Meccano building skills!
- Our Thursday 'Can Cook, Well Fed' sessions have been a huge hit with parents. The mouth-watering smells filling the school building each week have definitely made all of us feel a bit hungry!



- Year 6 have kicked off their weekly visits to Buckley Library, and the children are loving the chance to browse and pick out their own books! With reading as one of our main school priorities this year, we'd love to encourage families to make the most of our brilliant local library too.
- Every Tuesday, Flintshire's Play Development Team visits for "Loose Lunchtimes," bringing a van full of loose parts to inspire child-led, imaginative play. It's a fantastic, inclusive way for the children to build, create, and active their minds and bodies while making lunchtimes even more exciting!
- Huge congratulations to Miss Gardner and the School Council on a brilliant Macmillan Coffee Morning! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our parents with cake donations and support on the day, we are delighted to share that we raised £317. Diolch!

NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2027

Is your child 3 or 4 years old before September 2027? If so, they are able to join our Nursery or Reception class in September 2027, and we would love to welcome them to our family friendly school. All applications need to be completed online at 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 2027** on 12th November 2026 and another one January 2027, date to be confirmed. All application forms need to be received by 15th January 2027 at the very latest for Reception and 15th February 2027 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 by 31st October 2026. 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.

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. Our first formal Parents' Evenings will take place on **Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October**. More information, including how to book your appointment, will be shared on Dojo soon.

We always value parent feedback, and following a few survey comments, we'd love to remind everyone of the many ways we keep you connected to your child's learning and progress. Our formal meetings are the September Meet & Greet, Autumn and Spring Parents' Evenings, and end-of-year Summer reports. However, learning is shared with you every week; through Seesaw, Google Classroom, ClassDojo, and quick chats at the end of the day, you have a constant window into your child's progress. Our doors are always open, so please never hesitate to reach out if you ever want to discuss how they are getting on!

PUPIL LEADERSHIP

We are proud to foster strong pupil leadership at Southdown, giving our children a real voice in how our school runs and how they learn. Please join us in congratulating this year's leaders:

School Council	Year 1: Sienna B and Callum S Year 2 & 3: Charlie J, Eira F, Lucas G, Sophia G, Tabitha H and Thea B Year 4 & 5: Anthony A, Ella W, Elliot W, Hallie C, Katie D and Orla J Year 6: Emily D, Lillie M, Louie P and Ruben M
Eco Warriors	Year 1: Ada C and Ralph S Year 2 & 3: Amelia A, Eleri D, Emily F, Henry F, Leo O and Nancy S Year 4 & 5: Benny A, Ebony H, Griffin G, Martha L, Matilda S and Molly J Year 6: Chloe G, Hallie E, Jospeh D and Ruben D
Criw Cymraeg	Year 2 & 3: Bobby R, Cristina W, Doll D, Eliot P, Harry J and Phoebe W Year 4 & 5: Enya S, Henry B, Mila C, Matilda S and Orla J Year 6: Caleb W, Enya S, Freddie B, Freya Y, George F, Henry B, Poppy O & Seren D
Digital Wizards	Year 2 & 3: Catrin D, Coby D, Harry M, Jensen H, Jorgie M-J, Polly W & Rory H Year 4 & 5: Callie L, Jack G, Jessica L, Millie L-H, Oliver-George G and Oscar R Year 6: Balin K-B, Chloe G, Eshan P, James H-J, Joseph W and Thorley L
Little Listeners	Year 5: Aila P, Jack G, Leona E, Leyla H and Nancy R Year 6: Freya C, Jensen R, Poppy O, Ruben M and Skyla H
Happiness Heroes	Year 4 & 5: Aurora S, Cora S, Ella W, Elliot W, Giles E-B, Kaila M, Max D & Roman E Year 6: Aria D, Hallie-May E, George F, Joseph W, Noah E and Ruben M
Year 6 Prefects	Aria D, Ava F, Florence U, Freya C, Freya Y, George F, James H-J, Lily L, Poppy O, Scarlett W, Seren D and Skyla H

We are also excited to introduce our newest pupil group, the **Happiness Heroes**! Formed of children across Years 4, 5, and 6, this team is leading our *Safe, Seen, and Supported* priority—working alongside other local schools as part of Flintshire's Belonging strategy to create a consistent approach across all Buckley schools. The Heroes kicked off their work on **SAFE** this week with Emma (Health and Wellbeing Officer at FCC) and Playworkers Will and Jo. It has inspired the whole school to explore how we keep everyone both emotionally and physically safe here at Southdown.

HARVEST

On Monday 5th October, the children will visit Bistre Church for our Harvest service. We are collecting items for Flintshire Foodbank (food, toiletries, and sanitary products are all greatly appreciated). Thank you for your continued support and for those of you who have already sent in donations.

HELLO YELLOW DAY: FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER

As part of our Wellbeing Week, we will be celebrating 'Hello Yellow' Day! Children are welcome to wear a head-to-toe yellow outfit or simply add a splash of yellow—like yellow socks or a hair accessory. There is no donation required; it's just a fun, bright way to highlight the importance of emotional wellbeing and good mental health. If children prefer not to wear yellow, they should wear their usual school uniform.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 5th October 'Wellbeing Week'
- Monday 5th October Harvest @ Bistre Church
- Tuesday 6th October Year 6 Music and Dance @ Elfed
- Wednesday 7th October Individual and Family photographs
- Friday 9th October 'Hello Yellow Day'
- Tuesday 13th October Year 4: Light, Colour and Sound @ Elfed
- Monday 19th October Parents Evening 3.00-5.45pm
- Tuesday 20th October Parents Evening 3.00-5.45pm
- Thursday 22nd October School closes for Half Term
- Friday 23rd October School closed: Staff Training Day

- Monday 2nd November Back to School
- Monday 4th November Nasal Flu Immunisation (Rec-Year 6)
- Thursday 12th November Nursery 2027 Open Day -more information to follow
- Monday 16th November Anti-Bullying Week/Odd Socks Day
- Friday 13th November Children in Need
- Friday 27th November Wear Purple Day in memory of Aaron Wharton

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

We are asking for everyone's help to keep our roads and pathways safe for all our children and families. We recognise that the area outside school becomes very congested at peak times, so we urge everyone to show patience, care, and consideration for each other.

How you can help make drop-offs and pick-ups safer:

- Walk or cycle to school whenever possible.
- Park further afield and walk the remaining distance.
- Park considerately—if using the parking bays, please pull right up to the curb to allow cars to pass safely.
- Show patience and compassion towards pedestrians, residents, and other drivers during these busy times.
- Respect the school car park, which is strictly reserved for staff use only.
- Do not park around the roundabout -even during out of hour times when dropping off/collecting from Sunshine Club.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2026-2027

Southdown School Improvement Priorities 2026-2027

At Southdown, we are committed to helping every child thrive. This is what we're planning to do to make our school even better this year.

Building Strong Readers

Helping children become confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers.

What this means for your child:

- Reading with increasing confidence and understanding.
- Talking about books and sharing ideas.
- Developing vocabulary and comprehension.
- Reading for pleasure and independence.



Deepening Learning

Helping children become reflective, independent and effective learners.

What this means for your child:

- Understanding what they are learning and why.
- Asking questions and thinking deeply.
- Talking about their learning and progress.
- Becoming increasingly independent learners.



Thinking Like Scientists

Helping children become curious investigators.

What this means for your child:

- Asking questions about the world around them.
- Carrying out investigations and solving problems.
- Applying learning to real-life situations.
- Using evidence to explain their thinking.



Safe, Seen and Supported

Ensuring every member of our school community feels valued and included.

What this means for your child:

- Feeling safe, happy and supported.
- Strengthening positive relationships.
- Celebrating identity, diversity and belonging.
- Working together with families and the wider community.



How Families Can Support

 Read together

 Talk together

 Explore together

 Work with us





 Help every child feel safe, seen and supported

