



Summer Term 2023



Headteacher NEWSLETTER

I cannot believe I am writing to you all at the end of the summer term – I say it every year but this particular academic year seems to have flown by! This summer term has been such a whirlwind with SATs, school trips and leaver productions that we have hardly had time to think. There has been much to celebrate and we hope many more to come as we continue to develop and improve.

Thank you to all who were able to attend our meet the teacher sessions last week. For those who were unable to attend, the 'Welcome' presentations, which offer key year group information, can be found on the website at <https://www.burleyandsopleyfederation.org.uk/page/?title=Classes&pid=94>

CURRICULUM



One of our key priorities this year has been to develop our curriculum and we are excited to begin our project and concept based 'Curriculum with HEART' approach in September.

<https://www.burleyandsopleyfederation.org.uk/page/?title=A+Curriculum+with+HEART&pid=3954>

Each project will ensure all learning leads to a real and purposeful outcome to share with parents. Our first term will be our CREATE term with art and computing taking a lead focus across the whole school. To launch this and enhance the children's experiences we are excited to be taking the whole school to Southampton Art Gallery in early September. We are working with local artists to arrange school visits - if you (or you know of anyone who) would like to share their art skills with the children please contact the school office. There will be opportunities to come into school to take part in a 'CREATE' session with the children and you will also be invited to our whole school art gallery at the end of the projects. More outcome information will follow in the autumn term.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

We have been working hard to develop the school grounds so that our children can have more opportunities to work outside and be outside.... This is still a work in progress but we have now employed a part time gardener to help us to bring the gardens to life so that they can enhance aspects of the science, geography, art and PSHE curriculums... our vision is that the children will be outdoors much more often embracing all that our unique setting has to offer.

SHOES

To enable all children to enjoy the outdoors frequently, we are asking that all children have both **outdoor and indoor** shoes from September. This is to protect both their footwear and our carpets!

We will be providing suitable shoe storage indoors for all children and ask that children change their shoes at the classroom door before coming in, in the morning, at break and lunch and before going home. Their indoor shoes can therefore remain in school if they wish.

Indoor shoes must be **plain black** but do not have to be school shoes. They may be plimsolls, soft black trainers or something similar that enables the children to look smart, be comfortable and ready to learn. For younger children, please may you ensure that the indoor shoes are easy to put on and do up as the children will be changing a few times during the day.

Outdoor shoes need to be suitable for running and playing in as well as being in the garden and on the field. Additional wellies are welcome too if you would like or according to the weather.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all those families who have worked hard to ensure their children are in school every day and ready to learn. Our whole school attendance figure of 93.7 % is in line with the national average. We believe as a school that we want to achieve a higher rate than this as we know that good attendance reduces gaps in learning and has long term benefits

READING and NUMBERS

A number of parents have approached us to ask about what they could be doing at home to ensure that their children do not forget their learning over the holidays. Please, please support your children to keep reading! Hampshire libraries are running their summer reading challenge and we would love to celebrate any children in assembly who complete this.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/kids-zone>



Our lower school children all have logins to Little Wandle and can explore a range of books online should they wish to.



Next year the competition will be on with all things timestables - a reminder that all children have logins to both Numbots and Timetables Rockstars! (Same login for both)

WATER SAFETY

With the good weather set to continue, I am sure many of you will be spending time at the beach. Please see the link below to Hampshire safeguarding water safety pages - there are some great messages to share with children.

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/>

MORNING DROP OFF ARRANGEMENTS

We are aware that many parents and children stand in the road before the gates open at 8.40am and that this is not an ideal arrangement. From September we would like to trial opening the field gate at 8.30am to enable you to wait on the field. The play equipment is strictly out of bounds and there will not be any school staff supervision. Children in year 6 may be left unattended as long as their behaviour is sensible - please do not leave children in the younger year groups unattended. They must be the responsibility of an adult whilst on the field. The gate to Rabbits will be opened at 8.40am for the start of the school day as usual and we ask that all children (other than the new EYFS pupils) walk to their classrooms independently. This is to enable teachers to start teaching and working with children straight away. Any messages for class teachers can be left with the staff member on the gate. Class teachers will be available at pick up if you would like to catch up with them.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their support with the children's learning. I hope you take the time to rest and relax over the summer holidays ready to start back with a positive mind set and an eagerness to learn.

Good luck to our year 6 children starting secondary school in September, you will all be missed at Sopley and we will be thinking of you as you start the next stage of your education.

Lastly, thank you for all the presents and cards that the staff have received. We are truly humbled by the words inside and we are very grateful for everything we have received. Sorry if we have not personally thanked you but please know we are very appreciative.

Have a lovely summer holiday making happy memories.

Warmest regards,
Mrs Nanette Allies
Federation Headteacher