



*Learning to encourage, aspire,
persevere and succeed.*

SINCLAIR PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Sinclair Road, Southampton, SO16 8GF
Telephone 023 8073 6663 www.sinclairlive.net
info@sinclairlive.net

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G. Montague, M.A.

July 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year. This has been a very busy year and we have enjoyed the summer weather, although I am hoping for a slightly more settled August!

Children and staff have worked hard to renew the School of Sanctuary Status. I felt very proud to see our Sanctuary Ambassadors contribution at Southampton's Refugee Week. Our Eco work has really strengthened this year with our great gardening work and school grounds project really flourishing. I was so happy to be able to welcome the BBC crew in to showcase the environmental work that has been at the heart of our yearlong curriculum work. This will all continue and deepen further over the years to come.

The "Big Help Out" will continue on as a thread throughout work next year too. Helping in our school, then locally and then globally is a wonderful way to manifest our bid to "Become Architects of a Better World". It makes me so proud to see the strategy and vision we have, weave through the whole curriculum for the benefit of all our learners.

Transition Day went really well and we have welcomed our new teachers into school for a full transition week ahead of their start. We plan this each year so that all new members of our teaching community can really get to know our partnership and systems. We are very lucky to be fully staffed with such a quality team and we look forwards to welcoming them into our family in September. The children have all now had the opportunity to visit their new class and a great deal of work has been put into ensuring this changeover is as easy for the children as possible.

Farewell and Thank You

Summer term is a real mix of pride, happiness and a little sadness. It is the time when we celebrate a year of achievement and personal successes for our children and staff community and a time where some teachers and support staff move on to pastures new, whether this is moving abroad, to new schools or to our Partnership Schools, we wish them well and thank them all for their dedication and care.



News - Local and New ... Our Partnership Forest and Outdoor Learning Nursery and Early Years Centre!

We are very proud to have Hardmoor Nursery and Early Years Centre join our Partnership of schools. A hidden haven, with three acres of forest, gardening and not forgetting the chickens!!! It is just a few minutes from Bitterne Park Primary School. Hardmoor is a rare maintained nursery school, led by a qualified teacher and our Partnership Team.

The nursery takes children from 3 months to 4 years and is a wonderful forest Nursery. Mrs Jen Squires, our Director of Early Years, whom many of you know from Bitterne Year R, leads in a pivotal role. She has rewritten the curriculum and the new Outdoor Learning and Woodland Learning (O.W.L) curriculum underpins all experiential play and learning for our little ones. The gardening and chickens are such a brilliant resource alongside the forest school learning. The nursery is a hidden gem and we are very proud of our recent Local Authority Monitoring Visit, in which the provision was described as 'wow' and having many outstanding elements. If you are looking for a place for your child aged 3 months to 4 years, we have funded day places available and wrap around care (7.30am – 6pm). Please do take a look at our website, pop in for a visit... or just drop by for some fresh eggs: <https://hardmoor.co.uk/>

Partnership Staff Vacancies

We have a number of modern apprenticeships across our partnership of schools. These include TA positions with Level 3 training and Nursery Level 3 practitioner placements at our wonderful birth to 5 nursery – Hardmoor Nursery and Early Years Centre. If you are interested in joining our team and are looking for qualification led training, then please do enquire via the school office and they will put you in touch with the correct team. Thank you!

House Competitions

The children have continued this half term to work hard on their house competitions. They have competed in knowledge, sport and charity competitions.

Charity - Zumba for Zambia

This month, we participated in a fundraising event called 'Zumba for Zambia'. All of the children in the school were included in a Zumba session with the Superstar Sports coaches. We had so much fun and loved seeing everyone dancing and having a great time. Our teachers even enjoyed taking part too. We want to say a massive 'thank you' to those who donated: these donations added up to £212 for The Eneless Patmos School in Zambia.



Sport competition

This half term the children have been competing against the other houses in a variety of athletics activities. We have built on our success at The City Athletics Competition.

Children have enjoyed earning points for their teams by running, throwing and jumping in order to use all their athletics skills. They have also used their resilience and positivity to support their team members and cheer them on. Well done everyone!

Lost Property

We have a substantial amount of unclaimed lost property. Please do pop in and take a look if your child has misplaced an item of clothing, etc. All remaining items will be disposed of or taken to a local charity shop on the last day of term. Many thanks.

Pick up and Drop off

Please ensure that written permission is given ahead of a playdate or change in pick up organisation. Teachers will not release to anyone other than named adults on a contact list. Do not be offended if a teacher refuses to hand a child over to a friend or nominated adult other than parent without express written permission.

Attendance and Holiday Forms

Our target for attendance is 97.6% for every child. This academic year we have achieved a target of 94%.

Please note that should you need to request a period of absence from school for your child, a leave of absence form needs to be completed in advance. The completion of these forms for 5 days or over are discussed on a case by case basis before decisions are made as to whether a penalty notice will be issued.

Curriculum News

Year R

The children have had an incredible last term. In History, they have been learning all about Mary Anning and they have applied their learning in writing, reading and maths. In art, they created salt dough fossils, dinosaur figures and they even made dinosaur skeletons using straws, pasta and cotton buds! To get ready for the (hopefully sunny) summer holidays they have learned all about how to keep themselves safe in the sun. There was much excitement in June due to some visiting caterpillars. We observed the whole life cycle and released the butterflies into the wild. As well as supporting our Science life cycle learning, we used this as an opportunity to talk about growth and change. We described ourselves as like caterpillars in Year R, then we will go into our homes as a chrysalis over the summer, emerging as butterflies ready for Year 1 in September.

The children have visited their new Year 1 classroom and met Mr Pallett and Mrs Wood lots of times. They have been writing letters to them and are very excited to deliver their letters this week. We have begun learning about place value and tens and ones in numbers as we become more confident with numbers to, and beyond, twenty.



The children should be immensely proud of their achievements this year as they have worked so hard and learnt so much in their very first year of school! The Year R teachers know that they will all continue to be super stars in Year 1!

Year 1

Year 1 have been looking to finish their last few days in the same way they want to begin their journey into Year 2 by working hard and being the very best that they can be. They are retrieving old bits of learning from this year and they are still cramming in new pieces of learning as well. Be careful because these children's brains will be barely able to fit out the door by the end of July.

The Wright's might crack flight.

In history this year, the children have been looking up at two pioneers of invention and growth mindset, quite literally. Year 1 have been studying the story of the Wright Brothers who created the first airplane in 1903. The children used their inventive brains and looked at how birds soar through the sky and made comparisons to the Kitty Hawk Flyer (the first plane they created). The children learnt that sometimes when you fly you need to fall and began to understand that there was a lot of 'turbulence' when it came to creating becoming successful. However, through the up and downs, corkscrews and flips, the Wright brothers showed that with resilience, determination and perseverance they were able to be successful. A good life lesson the children have been able to follow.

Are you giraffing at me?

As of our long writing topic this term we have been looking at a long, knobbly, clumsy character. Our favourite giraffe friend - Gerald. We have been putting ourselves into his shoes - which was tricky as he has 4 left feet - and been writing a range of diary accounts about how he felt throughout his story. We understood his emotions at different times in the story and used wow words, questions and show don't tell features to allow the reader to understand what we were feeling. This was at different times in the story, from when our long neck hung low because we were laughed at for our clumsy dancing and when we held our heads up high to the sky as we backflipped over the trees, the children were able to explain exactly how our character was feeling with a fantastic final piece.

Super sculptures - This term, year 1 have been pinching and pushing their clay! No need to panic, these skills have been used only to create amazing clay sculptures of their faces. I'm no expert but some of these models look too realistic to me especially as the children have been using different tools to create patterns and textures to make their creations come to life.

As you can see, Year 1 learning has not stopped whether soaring through the clouds, dancing in the jungle or getting clay covered fingers, these children just don't stop learning!



Year 2

Year 2 have laughed, learned and loved during the whole year. There have been many highlights in Year 2 such as visiting Marwell Zoo, getting a special visit from the Fire Service. But let's not forget about their brilliant learning. All of the Year 2 children have made fantastic minibeast collages, created their own computing game, explored what happened during the Great Fire of London and have become excellent, confident and fluent readers! I think every child is raring and ready for Year 3!

Year 3

Year 3 have worked so hard all year and it has certainly paid off! Each and every one of us have made so much progress and we cannot wait to show off all that we have achieved in our work expo at the end of the year.

At the start of the year, we learnt a variety of new skills during Art week and then developed them throughout the year. This week, we have applied these skills to our Ancient Greek pottery. They took a lot of time, patience and resilience to create and the outcomes are fantastic!

We have become experts in all things light and shadow this term. We have used our scientific investigation skills to investigate how light travels and how shadows are made. We then used this knowledge to create our very own shadow puppets and made observations to decide how to make them bigger and smaller. We loved doing this!

Those scary dragons are still on the loose! Luckily, year three have been writing some very detailed non-chronological reports that use expert language. After reading one of these, you will know all about the dragons' appearance, habitat, diet and statistics.

Year 4

What a year it has been in year 4! It seems so long ago that the children came in enthusiastically to create a tension filled paragraph about Miss Trunchbull to now create their own twisted version of a fairy tale. A range of skills such as show me not tell me, fronted adverbials and powerful verbs have been used by the children to create an engaging and exciting storyline. We are so proud of the progress and creativity shown in their writing. In maths, the children have all made huge strides in their times tables- they have used rhymes, patterns and constant practice to become masters of this skill. We know these skills will stay with them for life and provide a great foundation to their year 5 maths learning.

We have been exploring what it means to be a geographer this half term. Comparing and contrasting, using maps and describing cause and effect are key skills. Using this, we looked at how Dubai turns its vast source of salty seawater into drinkable water to create a sustainable and desirable place to live, work and visit. In contrast, we explored the initiative shown by a range of less economically developed countries to create systems to sanitise water. Replacing financial strength with creativity and initiative was needed for these people to design Tippy Taps, Rainwater Harvesting Jars and Chlorination treatments (to name a few). We loved learning about this!



Being a great scientist is also important to us and this has been a half time for us to showcase these skills. We observed how rain could be created indoors, predicted what the weight of air could be and experimented with different ways of presenting our results. These are skills we know the children can transfer to a range of other subjects and their own lives.

DT has been very exciting this half term as we researched and then designed our own bug houses. Materials were purposely chosen to attract a range of insects and careful consideration was made to ensure they were constructed in a way that could battle the elements and keep the bugs safe. Please let us know what inhabitants take refuge in these over the summer holidays!

We are so proud of all that the children have achieved this year.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a brilliant year and are excited about their upcoming learning in year 6. One of the highlights has been their writing work in the summer term, based around the Alex Rider series of books. They did an excellent job of designing and writing about their own spy gadgets – some weird and wonderful creations! Using their designs, they had great success in building tension in an action narrative piece, in which their character escapes a hairy situation using the gadget they designed. In Maths, the children have been focused this term on shape, drawing and measuring angles and the real-world implications of geometry. In Guided Reading, they have been exploring the world of politics and have shown great enthusiasm for the democratic political process – they have even taken part in a heated debate about lowering the voting age!

In Geography, Year 5 have been honing their map reading skills by orienteering around the school, studying the relief of the land using contour lines, and finding specific locations using four-digit and six-digit grid references. This hard work culminated in a daring search and rescue mission for a wayward hiker in Dartmoor!

The children have been such a pleasure to teach over this year – diligent, resilient, kind, respectful, funny. I wish them all luck in their future endeavours and as they continue to progress into year 6 and beyond. What a fantastic bunch!

Year 6

After a long, yet very successful and enjoyable year in Year 6, we have been very focused on our Leavers' assembly: writing speeches, preparing and rehearsing. Alongside this we have continued normal lessons. For example in English we have explored the style, structure and language of theme park adverts and written descriptions for a secret island. In maths, we are continuing to make sure that children are secondary school ready; with regular practice of the key arithmetic skills for year 6. The children are then applying these to more open-ended problem solving sessions in which the task might be more investigative or experimental, looking for patterns or testing theories. Our recent investigation was about the Frobenius number of 43. Finally we are particularly looking forward to the Work Expo in the last week. Children have chosen some of their best work to focus on and are looking back on their learning throughout the year. Congratulations to all of the children for their hard work this year and good luck with your transfer to Secondary education... we'll all miss you.



Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school
- Thursday 7th September – Coffee morning
- Monday 11th – Friday 15th September – Year 4 Swimming all week
- Monday 2nd October – School Photographer – Individuals photographs
- Monday 9th October – Year 5 Calshot Activity Centre
- Monday 16th October – Flu Vaccination
- Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Autumn 1 Half term
- Monday 30th October – School re-opens for Autumn 2 term
- Tuesday 21st November – Tuesday 28th November – Book Fair
- Wednesday 29th November – Yr 6 to join BPPS for Young Shakespeare Company – Macbeth
- Friday 1st December - 'A Christmas Carol' – Years R,1 and 2
- Friday, 8th December – Inset Day
- Tuesday 12th December Year 5 & 6 Mayflower trip
- Thursday 14th December Year 3 & 4 Mayflower trip
- Friday 15th December – Last day of Autumn Term
- Monday 18th December 2023 – Monday 1st January 2024 School closed for Christmas
- Tuesday 2nd January 2024 – First day of Spring 1 term



STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday, 4th September

Friday, 8th December

Friday, 22nd March

Monday, 3rd June - Disaggregated

Tuesday, 4th June - Disaggregated

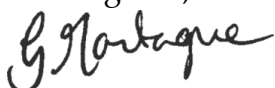
Please check the school website for up-to-date information

<http://www.sinclairlive.net>

And finally.....

Do have a safe and joyful summer break, we are working hard to focus on a great year ahead. Thank you for choosing our school..... Mrs Montague, Mrs Olney and Mr Walker.

Kind regards,



Gerida Montague
Executive head teacher



Katherine Olney
Head of School

