



SOUTHMINSTER
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Southminster C of E Primary School's Newsletter Friday 20th October 2023

Bible Quote of the Week

Ephesians 4:32: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.



How quickly we have reached the end of our first half term this year! It has been a busy seven weeks, culminating in a week of celebrations with Harvest at the Church and a banquet with KS1 for their Castles Day. Thank you for your generous donations of food which will be taken to the Dengie Food Pantry to help those in need.



EYFS

The children have been creating rangoli patterns, decorating pumpkins and recognising the numbers 1, 2 and 3.





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KS1

This week Year 1 have been learning about shapes. We went on a shape hunt around the school, and we found lots of shapes! We even made our own shapes using sticks and leaves.



KS2

It was Monday Maths Day at the beginning of the week and in Years 3 and 4 the children made good use of concrete resources including Multilink, Numicon, Dienes, counters, puzzles and 2D shapes to create a 3D shape. They even had the opportunity to draw on their tables with whiteboard pens to show practical exchanging.



The Year 5/6 classes had an exciting week filled with engaging lessons. For Design and Technology, they delved into the world of ration food and crafted a delicious corned beef hash, transporting themselves back in time when following a war-time recipe whilst learning about safety and hygiene in the kitchen.

Meanwhile, their writing journey was equally captivating as they explored the distinctive features of a biography. This week's biographical focus was none other than the legendary Winston Churchill, allowing the students to uncover the remarkable life

and leadership of this iconic figure. It was a week of immersive learning and hands-on experiences for these enthusiastic children.



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Reminders

School Lunches: When we return to school after half term, you will no longer be able to order a school lunch on the day. These will have to be pre-ordered. I realise that some parents have had difficulties with the app. If this is the case, then please e-mail the school's admin address and confirm that you have tried to book. Our IT department has been trying to iron out any issues; these have been caused externally. Thank you for your support with this and for your patience.

Attendance and Punctuality: Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who have worked hard to get your children to school regularly and in good time.

We would like to remind you that the school gates are locked at **8.50am** each day. If your child arrives in class after this time, then he/she will receive a late mark. An arrival after 9.20am will mean that registers are officially closed and this counts as an unauthorised absence for the morning session. Attendance which drops below 90% is termed **persistent absence** and will be followed by a contact from the school.

If you feel that you are going to be later than 8.50am leaving the school after dropping your child, then please take him/her to the school office. We lock the gates promptly to safeguard the children and the staff need to be back in class so cannot wait to keep the gates open. Thank you.

Lost Property: We already have a large collection of unclaimed jumpers, cardigans and coats, left behind since the beginning of term. None of these are named. We have tried to get these items back to their owners but it is very difficult when the clothing is not named. Please could you check that your child's clothing is named before the return to school. If you think that they may have lost an item of clothing, then I will put a box of lost property at the front office for the first week back for you to check.

Secondary Schools Applications

As you may be aware, the statutory closing date for applications of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2023) is **31st October 2023**.

Any applications made late are dealt with after those made on time and so applying late reduces the chances of being offered a preferred school.

Applications can be made via the website: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing you all back on the 30th of October.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Woods and all the staff at Southminster C of E Primary School