



South Marston CofE Primary School

November 2024 Newsletter

Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this term!

Term 2 has got off to a flying start with many highlights so far. The buzz and excitement in school around both the library reopening and the athlete visit have been clear to see and both events, a lovely way to start the new term.

I hope that you will have seen recent communication sent out about the school office and thank you again for your patience in the last few weeks – it has been greatly appreciated. As you know, Miss Townsend has started with us now and we are hoping Mrs Smith will be starting shortly. Again, special thanks to Mrs Andrews who has been fantastic in the office in last few weeks. Her flexibility and commitment to our school has been appreciated.

On the theme of 'thank yous' a huge thank you in advance to our PTA who have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes in preparation for next Friday's Winter Fayre. This is a massive event in terms of planning and organising and currently our PTA is a small but incredibly dedicated group of parents – if you could support in any way with the event do get in touch with a member of the PTA as I am sure all help will be appreciated. This is always a really lovely event which gets us feeling more dare I say it festive! Do please come along and support the event! We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Wishing you a lovely weekend when it comes.

Very best wishes,

Mrs M Hendry



Safeguarding when school is closed

The information below is from Swindon' Connect (formally MASH) which may be of used when school is closed. Please note that school staff will have their 'out of office' notifications on and may not see messages that are urgent in this way. Please contact Swindon Connect (formerly MASH) if you are concerned about a child. If you think that a child is in immediate danger, please ring 999 and speak to the police. If are concerned about a child or young person: E-mail: contactswindon@swindon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01793 464646 (during normal office hours which are 8.30am to 4.40pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.00pm Friday). The Emergency Duty Service (EDS) is available outside office hours on 01793 436699

Fortnightly Attendance

Class	Attendance
Pine Class	92%
Willow Class	94%
Silver Birch Class	96%
Sycamore Class	91%



Office Hours/Staffing

Monday 8:30am – 4:00pm – Mrs Smith
Tuesday 8:30am – 4:00pm – Mrs Smith
Wednesday 8:30 – 12:00 – Mrs Smith
Wednesday 12:30 – 4:00 – Miss Townsend
Thursday - 8:30am – 4:00pm – Miss Townsend
Friday – 8:30am – 4:00pm – Miss Townsend

A colorful poster for a "Next Tour" for prospective parents. The poster is designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook. It features the South Marston CAFE School logo, the text "NEXT TOUR", and "Prospective Parents.... Wednesday 27th November @ 9:30". It also includes a quote: "'Encourage one another and build each other up'", a list of places available from Pre-School to Year 6, and contact information: Email: admin@southmarstonprimary.co.uk and Call: 01793 823379. The poster also lists school facilities like All Change Lane, South Marston, Gloucestershire, GL1 2EP, and mentions "Flourishing together with community, faith, perseverance and knowledge".

Library Opening

After much anticipation, we are thrilled to announce that our beautifully revamped school library officially opened on Friday 15th November! This special space has been created with great care and dedication, featuring newly built shelves, carefully organised books, and a cosy atmosphere perfect for groups of children to enjoy.

The library is designed to be a welcoming hub for children across the school, encouraging a love for reading—a vital skill for life. To mark this memorable occasion, local author Kate Claxton joined us for a special assembly where she shared her inspiring journey to becoming an author. She then had the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially open the library.



You can find photos of the library and this exciting event on our Facebook page. We hope the children will enjoy many wonderful adventures in this magical reading space!



Lockdown Practice

In line with Safeguarding requirements, every school should hold regular fire drills and lockdown practices. We plan to carry out a lockdown practice next week in school. We will talk to the children in Collective Worship on Monday about this – this will be to reassure the children of what it means and what they and their class teacher will do during it e.g. draw the blinds in the classroom, lock the classroom door. The intention is to inform the children and make sure they feel comfortable and not to alarm them. We of course hope we will never need to use this procedure for real, however it is important that the children know what to expect.



Dates for your diary

Friday 29th November	PTA Christmas Fayre and Non Uniform Day
Wednesday 11th December	EYFS/ KS1 Christmas Performance at the church (performances at 09.30 & 1:45)
Wednesday 18th December	KS2 Christmas performance at the church (performances at 1:45 & 6:00)
Friday 20th December	Last day of term—12.30pm finish
6 th January 2024 24 th February 2024	TD days (school closed to children)