

# South Marston C of E Primary School

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<https://smcea.org.uk/>  
Head Teacher: Mrs M Hendry  
B.Ed. (Hons) QTS

“Encourage one another and build each other up” 1 Thessalonians 5.11

Dear South Marston Families,

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jones and Mrs Richardson to our teaching team and wish them all the very best as they settle in to our school in the coming days and weeks. As well as our new School and Reception pupils, we are pleased to be welcoming three new families to our school and delighted they will all be joining our wonderful school family.



Pre-

As we embark on the new school year, I want to share some exciting updates and initiatives that will be rolled out over the coming months.

## Head Teacher Update:

I'd like to provide a brief update on Mrs Hendry. On the advice from the hospital following the surgery, Mrs Hendry has been advised to continue to rest and recover and therefore be absent from school at this time. Mrs Hendry sincerely hopes she will be back to school very soon and is excited to see the children when she returns. During this time, we will have support from our Trust from Mrs Antwis (Director of Education) and Mr Spencer who is the Headteacher at Tadpole Farm CE Primary School, both know the staff and school well. In addition to this, Mr Conlan will be overseeing the day-to-day operations and will also continue teaching Year 2. Should you have any questions, please direct them to the school office, and we will respond as soon as possible. We anticipate Mrs Hendry's return in the coming weeks and look forward to welcoming her back. In the short term, Mrs Feline will be teaching in Silver Birch Class (Year 3/4) on Mondays. Mrs Feline is well known to our school and this also keeps continuity for the children.

## Safeguarding Information:



The Safeguarding Team has changed for 2024/25. Mrs Hendry continues to be the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school and Mr Conlan, the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. Information about this can be found on our school website.

## School Expansion:

With the ongoing housing development and our planned future expansion, I want to remind families that we have available spaces in some classes. Enrolling more



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The Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust. Company No. 8156759  
Kingfisher CE Academy, Peglars Way, Swindon, SN1 7DA. 01793 236611  
[www.dbat.org.uk](http://www.dbat.org.uk)

children supports enhanced learning opportunities, improved funds, and enriched experiences for our children. For more details and to arrange a tour, please contact the school office.



### Attendance and Punctuality:

The Government recently updated their guidelines on attendance and punctuality, which came into effect over the summer holidays. The school gate opens at 8:40 AM and closes just before 8:50 AM. Children arriving after this time will be marked as late. Persistent lateness will be treated similarly to unauthorised holidays or absences during term time. A summary of the changes that came into effect in August around attendance and holidays in term time will be sent out later this week. For more information, please visit the attendance page on our website or contact the school office. We are committed to working with you closely to ensure

maximum attendance and promptness in the mornings.

### Clubs

A reminder that our Breakfast Club operates every school day, and our Afterschool Club now runs from Tuesday to Thursday. To book sessions for your child, please contact the school office.



Afterschool and extra-curricular clubs will be made available in the coming weeks.

### Library

In an aim to encourage a reading for pleasure, during the summer holidays, our 'tired' school library was redecorated, with new shelves installed. Special thanks to Mrs Bourne and her wonderful and very practical husband, Mr Bourne for spending hours putting the furniture together – we are very grateful. In the coming weeks, we hope to have a 'grand unveiling' and that the children will start to regularly visit our school library and borrow books.



### Updating Children's Details:

To ensure we have accurate records, please notify the school office of any changes in your child's details, such as a new address, medical needs, or telephone number. A form will be coming out for this so do please look out for it. For safeguarding reasons, we must hold up to date information and have at least two emergency contacts for each child where possible.

### Use of Class Dojo –

We're thrilled to announce that after a successful trial with Year 1 and Year 2 last academic year, we have decided to expand the use of the Class Dojo reward system across our school. Class Dojo is a widely recognised behaviour strategy that promotes positive behaviour in the classroom.



Each child has their own digital character displayed on the screen in their classroom. Staff can award behaviour points when children exhibit positive traits such as: good manners, kindness, helpfulness, tidying up, and perseverance.

Each class will work towards a collective target of points. If they reach or exceed this target, the whole class will earn an exciting end-of-term treat. We believe this system will not only encourage positive behaviour but also foster a sense of teamwork and community within each classroom.

### **Behaviour Ethos –**

To promote consistently positive behaviour, we are excited to announce the introduction of new school characters, alongside the rollout of 'Class Dojo' across our school.

These characters will help reinforce the values of being Ready, Safe, and Respectful. Posters featuring these characters, along with examples of how children can demonstrate these behaviours in lessons and around the school, will be displayed in every classroom and throughout the school premises.



### **Birthdays:**

Starting this week and to celebrate children's birthdays, children will be able to wear non school uniform on the FRIDAY week of their birthday.



### **Uniform:**



As we prepare to welcome children back, we are excited to see them return looking smart in their school uniforms. The uniform is a vital part of our school community, reflecting the values of belonging, pride, and unity that we hold dear. We also ask that children refrain from wearing nail varnish and where possible, tie long hair back. Children should be able to cover/remove ear piercings for PE.

For your convenience, all the details regarding our school uniform, including guidelines and where to purchase items, can be found on our school website. We kindly ask that all children adhere to the uniform policy, as it plays a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and school pride. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our students look their best as they represent our school.

### **Communication:**

In an aim to improve parent communication, we have implemented the following actions:

- School Facebook Page (regularly updated) – please like and follow this page.
- Class Newsletters - each term, teachers will write a class newsletter (PE days, homework etc). This will be emailed out to parents.



- Website updates - over the summer, we have worked hard to update our school website. Please do visit this as we



have added pages, including class pages. <https://smcea.org.uk/>

- Later on this term, we will also be sending out a parent survey to gather feedback.

### **Homework:**

The updated homework policy (including reading) can be found on our website.

[https://smcea.org.uk/site-southmarston/assets/files/1536/homework\\_policy.pdf](https://smcea.org.uk/site-southmarston/assets/files/1536/homework_policy.pdf). Please ensure all reading is logged on Boom Reader (including KS2 children).

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mr Mason Conlan  
Assistant Head Teacher



*'Encourage one another and build each other up'*



**Places available across our school from Pre-School to Year 6.**  
**Contact us for more information.**

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PERSEVERANCE HOPE COMMUNITY

*'Flourishing together with community, hope, perseverance and friendship.'*

