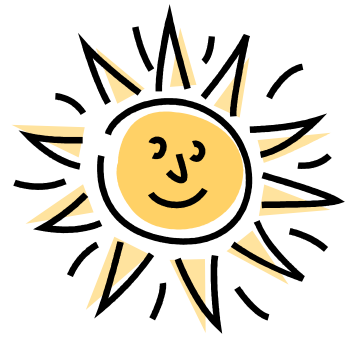




NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2008



WELCOME BACK

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer holiday and it really is good to be back. The start of the new academic year is always an exciting time and this year is no exception. Let me remind you of just some of the improvements that have been put into place for this term:

- timetabled sessions for the Outdoor Learning Sensory Area for all classes;
- the introduction of our new Curriculum for Years 1-6 (more information follows in this Newsletter...);
- two trips a term planned for each year group (more information follows...);
- Class Assemblies twice a year, with the choice of you attending a morning or afternoon performance;
- a rapidly improving extra-curricular programme for after-school activities;
- the introduction of children being able to learn a modern foreign language (MFL);
- half-termly 'drop-in' after-school sessions for you to look at your child's work and talk informally to the class teacher.

We are strongly committed to building solidly upon our recent improvements and to promote even more positive attitudes to learning in order to raise standards. As ever, we shall expect your help with this and look forward to your ongoing support throughout the year.

We also welcome our new Deputy Headteacher, Miss Kate Hayward, our new English Subject Leader Miss Natalie Smith and Class Teachers, Mrs Tonya Shaikh and Miss Abigail Woodhouse. We hope that they will be very happy at South Norwood Primary School.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

I am delighted to tell you that we now have a school website. It was set up in the summer holidays, so is in its early stages, but it is an excellent addition to the profile of the school. Please have a browse at:

www.southnorwoodprimaryschool.co.uk

In order to complete the 'Staff' section, I am running a competition for the children. The winning drawing of each member of staff (together with a caption of her/his key quality) will be put on the website in the very near future.



NEW CURRICULUM



This term, we are introducing a new curriculum for children in Years 1-6. It is the IPC (International Primary Curriculum), produced by a company called Fieldwork Education, and is a skills-based thematic way of learning. The children will continue to learn literacy and numeracy from the National Strategy Frameworks and the current QCA Science Units will also be followed. The rest of the subjects will be taught thematically. For example, Year 4's theme for Autumn 1, is 'Saving the World', which is all about the rainforests.





Their ICT, geography, art, design & technology and PE will be taught through this theme and will be 'blocked'.



This means that for a whole week, the children will have design & technology every afternoon, followed by a week of geography in the afternoons, for example. The themes change each half-term and where a subject is not included within the theme, we shall use the scheme from last year or one of IPC's supplementary subject units. On **Wednesday 12th November**, we shall be holding a special Curriculum Evening, for you to come along and see and take part in some of the learning taking place as a result of this new curriculum – please put it in your Diary...more details nearer the time.

The Themes for Autumn 1 are:

Year 1: **'My World'**

Year 2: **'Dressing Up'**

Year 3: **'The Active Planet'**

Year 4: **'Saving the World'**

Year 5: **'The Holiday Show'**

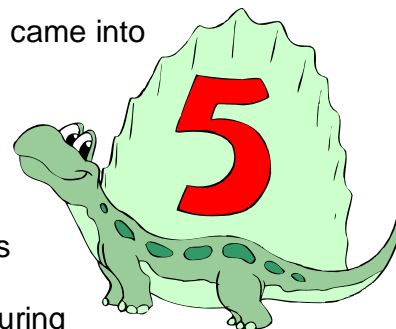
Year 6: **'Mission to Mars and Beyond'**



You will receive more information about the content of each Theme in the half-termly letter to parents. *Please note that in the Juniors, art will be taught by our 'artist in residence' Miss Pretara and will be taught weekly. These sessions will be the art units from the new Themes.*

ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

An important change has been made by the Governing Body which came into force from 1st September 2008. From now on, only 5 days in each academic year will be given as authorised absence during school term time. Previously, 10 days had been authorised. This reduction has been made in line with Croydon's policy on attendance and with the aim to improve our overall attendance figures. However, the 5 days will only be authorised if your child has achieved 90% attendance in the previous academic year or in the current school year. Parents who take their children out of school during term time (and there is no legal entitlement to do this), without the authorisation of the school, will be contacted by the Education Welfare Service and are likely to be issued with a fine of £50.00. ***Please book your holidays during the holiday time – thank you.***



SCHOOL TRIPS

As mentioned earlier, we plan to have two trips each term for each year group. We are really focusing on outdoor learning and learning in alternative environments this year. The aim is that there will be one 'big' trip (to somewhere on a coach – a museum in London for example) and one 'small' trip, where local public transport can be used. We shall continue to try to keep the costs as low as possible (it is usually the cost of the coach that pushes the total cost up) and hope that you can continue to support our trips by offering to help. Remember, all helpers must have cleared a 'List 99' check before accompanying the children.



PE KIT

Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school at all times. PE is a compulsory element of your child's learning and last term too many children could not take part as they did not have the appropriate clothing and footwear. PE kits will be kept in class from this term, as some PE bags have been mysteriously moving pegs to other classes or unfortunately, even disappearing completely.

