



Headteacher: Mr M Currie

Deputy Head Teacher: Mr L Clarke

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all of the South Borough families. I hope you had a chance to create some special memories over the Summer Break and spend time enjoying the sunshine. A special welcome to our new Reception children who join us tomorrow and to those in other year groups who are new to our school. We are excited to have you on board and look forward to working with you to ensure your pupils get the best possible learning experiences.

Staffing News

Please join me in welcoming three new members of staff who have joined the South Borough team this week. Mrs Best is our new Office Manager; Miss Chevis rejoins us and will be teaching 5B and Miss Brazil joins us as a Schools Direct Teacher, working in 4A.

At the beginning of the summer holiday, Mrs Baird gave birth to a healthy baby boy. His name is Cian and he is doing really well. Congratulations to Mrs Baird and her family and I am keeping my fingers crossed that Cian doesn't give you too many sleepless nights!



Congratulations must also go to Miss Collins, who got married over the summer. Miss Collins has decided not to change her name within school. I am also pleased to announce that Mrs Brum secured an internal promotion at the end of last term. Mrs Brum has been appointed as a teacher, who will be leading our brand new SEN Provision (The Hive).

School Development Priorities

As we embark on a new academic year, I am excited to share the school's development priorities. I am a firm believer in never resting on your laurels and strive to excel in all areas of our school. Please see below a summary of our priorities:

- A. Introduce a new Lunchtime Play Programme called OPAL.
- B. Introduce a new Spelling Scheme for KS2.
- C. Further develop Reasoning and Problem Solving opportunities in Maths.
- D. Introduce a new History and Geography curriculum called Primary Knowledge Curriculum.
- E. Set up and develop a bespoke SEN Provision called The Hive.
- F. Develop the school's approach to sustainability, climate change and Forest School.

These are simply the basic headlines, all of which have a great deal of bigger plans sitting behind them. I think it is useful for parents to be aware of what the school is working on so that you can support where needed. I look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

Parking

Let's start as we mean to go by parking considerately, legally and driving responsibly in the car park and neighbouring roads. Please remember to adhere to our [Parent Parking Protocol](#).

Communication

We will continue to communicate with parents via Class Dojo. Please look out on School Story, Class Story and Announcements for important information over the coming weeks.



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Site Development

A huge amount of work has taken place over the summer to develop areas of our school site. This has included:

- **New Cookery Classroom.** This includes new cooking equipment, ovens, flooring, sinks and worktops. This means that classes of 30 will be able to use this room to enjoy cookery lessons.
- **New SEN Provision (The Hive).** Mrs Hunt's old classroom has been transformed into a new space to provide support from SEN pupils. The room includes a range of multi-sensory resources and learning opportunities.
- **New Lunchtime developments.** To support our quest to improve lunchtime play provision, we have built a number of new structures. This includes: 3 giant sand pits; a shed to house all equipment; three new mud kitchens and a wild garden (which is still growing!).
- **Forest School.** Our Forest School has been well developed by Miss E Ballard over the past three years. We have had a new shelter installed to enable pupils to access this provision in all weathers.
- **Notice Boards.** You will notice new notice boards have been installed, which will display key information for parents. The red notice board near the Nursery Entrance is a dedicated board for Friends of South Borough (FOSB) news!

I will share some photos of these developments on Class Dojo for parents to see.

Lunch Time Changes

As I have mentioned, lunch time is a priority area of development for South Borough this year. Today we began work on this, by sharing new lunch time systems with the children in assembly. Children will now have the freedom to move around the school site to access various activities at lunch time and play with friends and siblings in other year groups. They will also have a dedicated 'Lunch Time Play Assembly', the content of which will support them in engaging in safe and creative play. As the year progresses, more activities (many of which will be open-ended) will become available to children. One step at a time. We look forward to sharing progress with parents on this exciting project.

Finally I just want to remind all members of our school community of our school values **Respect, Kindness and Determination**. We live and breathe these values and expect all members of our community to behave in a manner that is in line with them. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Here's to what I know is going to be a positive, enriching and unforgettable academic year. I can't wait to work with you all.

Mathew Currie
Headteacher