

Dear families,



Welcome back to the summer term. I hope you all enjoyed a restful Easter break. It has been such a pleasure welcoming everyone back to school, and I must say that gate duty in the sunshine has been a real highlight. A lovely sign that summer is on its way.

This term is set to be a busy and exciting one, filled with events, parent consultations, trips, transitions, enrichment opportunities and sports activities. To support everyone with organisation, we are putting together a helpful checklist similar to the one shared at Christmas.

This week, I had the pleasure of teaching Class 8 while Miss Hills delivered the second ELS phonics training session for our support staff. This training continues to strengthen the delivery of regular interventions, helping us ensure accelerated progress for as many pupils as possible. During our recent Pupil Progress Meetings, it was also wonderful to hear about our Year One phonics ambassadors. Peer support at its finest, and already making a notable impact in class.

Class 8 and I celebrated International Scrabble Day by practising dictionary skills through alternative versions of Scrabble. The children were challenged to find the most “valuable” fruit, vegetable, animal and member of Class 8, combining letter recognition, spelling and calculation. Congratulations to Zach, who’s high-scoring Z secured him the win.

Class 4 have also had a fantastic week, beginning their new Art unit inspired by the view from their windows. Thank you to all Year One parents who sent in photographs. These real-life examples boosted engagement and enjoyment, and the temporary collage outcomes were wonderful. When I visited again today, I was delighted to see the children taking part in individual and peer self-evaluation, bringing the whole process together beautifully.

In our curriculum meeting this week, staff were introduced to *My Happy Mind*, an NHS-backed programme that will support our PSHE curriculum. We are excited to share more with you soon. One of the key strengths of the programme is the way it helps children understand their own minds and develop healthy relationships (beginning with themselves) as a foundation for a happy life.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming you to parent consultations. SEND reviews have already taken place before Easter and this week, and we are excited to share the progress and successes since November’s meetings. After your consultation, you will receive a short parent survey; we would be very grateful if you could spare two minutes to complete it before leaving.

Today, we were visited by Ken Buxton, one of our school improvement partners and yes, for those who asked at the gate, he is also an Ofsted inspector. His expertise is invaluable, and he spent the day meeting senior leaders, staff and children. Ken celebrated many strengths across the school, including exceptional phonics teaching, excellent adaptive teaching (something that we have been working really hard to develop), and positive interactions with parents both in classrooms and at morning drop-off. When speaking to the children, he was delighted to hear that they feel happy, safe and supported at school. They also shared their love of reading at home with **you** so once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support with reading.

Finally, the children have shared some wonderful weekend plans; from dog walks and birthday sushi to tree climbing, cinema trips and visits to grandparents. Team Southgate are currently in guitar lessons (both boys convinced they’re the next Gallagher brothers though hopefully more harmonious), and we’re hoping to fit in some gardening too.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs Southgate