



Summer 2019 Newsletter 7

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Goodbye Year 6

On Friday morning, we bid goodbye to our year 6 pupils with an emotional leavers' assembly. The children will be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike and there was barely a dry eye in the school! Our year 6 pupils have had many successes over the last year, both in the classroom where they achieved the highest KS2 SATs results in the multi-academy trust, and on the sports' field. However, what really sets them apart is the kindness and support they have shown to one another, alongside their excellent manners, attitude and quirky sense of humour. We wish each and every one for them the best for the next stage in their education.

Goodbye Mrs Sampson and friends

In a week of goodbyes, we also had a special assembly on Thursday to say goodbye to Mrs Sampson. Mrs Sampson has now retired after 25 years at South Tawton. She has supported so many children with their learning and social development and has been an integral part of our staff team. We wish her an extremely happy retirement and are hoping she will visit regularly to hear readers in school.

We also say goodbye and wish every success to the following staff whose contracts have come to an end: Miss Loader who has been working one-to-one with a year 6 pupil, Mrs Sherring who has been teaching in year 1 since Easter, Mrs Leslie who has been teaching in year 5 for the summer term, Miss Green our student teacher who leaves to take up a position teaching in Chagford, Jo Claxton who is getting married in the summer and will no longer be leading breakfast club, Mrs Crouch who has been covering Mrs Peter's maternity leave, and Mrs Cassels who has been our administrator covering Mrs Bryant's maternity leave. Thank you all.

In September, we welcome Mrs Bryant back 2 days a week and also a new, full-time administrator – Wendy Meardon. Mrs Peggy Chalcraft will join us as part-time year 3 teacher alongside Mrs Peters and Mrs Bennett will take over the role of SENCO following Mrs Hoggin's retirement.

Sustainable School Sandwiches.



From September 2019, the school asks for your help in avoiding adding more plastic to the 50% of UK plastic that is single-use and, although mostly recyclable, is processed via a very energy intensive and inefficient infrastructure. Instead of using plastic sandwich packets, we are asking that, when your child orders a school packed lunch, they bring a container to school from home. The container must be named and approximately the size of those supplied by Chinese/Indian takeaways. A class to kitchen delivery system will be in place and your child's sandwich will be placed in the container ready for lunch. Once used, the

(unwashed) home-provided container will be returned to your child to take home for re-use for future school packed lunches.

This initiative arose from the children's attendance, in June, at 'reduce, re-use, recycle' workshops initiated by the school council. Their knowledge and understanding of their school's contribution to waste and the connection with the climate emergency was enhanced due to the waste audit carried out by Years 5 and 6. A particular surprise was the plastic pyramid containing over 1000 single-use plastic sandwich packets produced by school packed lunches during the Spring Term. The children were astonished and presented alternatives. Thank you and together we can make a difference!



South Tawton school Council

Our school council have had another busy year working behind the scenes to make changes and represent the views of our pupils.

As well as being involved in the new Executive Head and teacher recruitment process this year, they have also helped to organise Children and Need and World Book Day events. Himaya and Sam have also represented our school at the Multi Academy Trust School Council meetings held in Okehampton.

Most recently they have worked alongside Alex Mack from Devon County Council's Recycling Department to audit our school's rubbish waste. As a result, they have initiated new ideas to help reduce our waste, such as 'only 1 paper towel' and 'bring a lunchbox for your school packed lunch' to reduce our plastic packaging. There will also be more paper and food waste recycling bins around school next term. School council would also like to remind everyone that there are pen and crisp packet recycling boxes in school too.

Thank you to this years' School Councillors: Himaya, Freya, Ilina, Martha, Sam, Jake N, William & Tom (Yr6), Eva & Jamie (Yr5), Matilda & Eli (Yr4), Joseph & Ella (Yr3).

Please see attached documents regarding the Space Chase, Summer Reading Challenge. There is an article about the reading challenge and the events we have going on at the library over the summer holiday. If you could include these in your school newsletter in would be much appreciated. Hopefully this will encourage children to keep up their reading over the summer holidays.



Musical Mayhem

Years 5 and 6 worked incredibly hard to produce a fantastic performance this year. All the songs were chosen by the children, the dances were choreographed by the children and the props were created by the children. It all came together beautifully and got many of the parents clapping along too. Everyone in Year 5&6

had a fantastic time putting it all together and it really did showcase the talents of the children. It was a brilliant celebration of year 6's time at South Tawton Primary. Well done everyone! A big thank you also to all the staff who helped and to the families and friends who came along to see it.



Dartmoor Folk Festival

The Dartmoor Folk Festival is being held in South Zeal on 9-11th August. The Children's Festival has loads of great events again this year; please see the attached programme for details. For all the other events including times, prices etc, please look online <https://www.dartmoorfolkfestival.org.uk/>. There is something for everyone to enjoy all weekend whatever the weather.

Library events

Also attached to this newsletter is some information about the library's summer reading challenge and events over the summer.

Other attachments

Please also see attachments for Dartmoor National Park events and Comedy Capers – local workshops for children.

PTA 100 Club

July's draw was carried out at the BBQ last week and the following numbers/people won.

1st	25	Nicki Doble
2nd	83	Judith Smith
3rd	69	Zena Balsdon

This is the last draw for this school year. 100 Club membership subscriptions for the next school year can now be paid. Existing members can leave their subscriptions at the school office in an envelope with their name. New members will need to complete a membership form (available from the school office) and again leave this with their subscription at the school office.

The first draw of the new school year will take place at the end of September.

Summer holiday

Many thanks to all members of the school community for another wonderful year at South Tawton Primary School. We wish you all a thoroughly happy, restful and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 4th September. School dinner choices will be available to book through school comms before the start of term.

Dates for your diaries

Autumn Term begins – Wednesday 4th September

October half term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th October