



SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

Welcome to a very busy newsletter this week! There has been lots going on and it is great to shout about it!

Please see page 4 for the wonderful pictures of some of the events that took place on World Book Day on Thursday. I loved some on the inventive wooden spoons and hats as well as the costumes. Thank you to all the parents that were able to join us for the Booknic in the hall too. The children love reading to you. On page 6, I have shared some information about different ways to promote reading at home and in school.

On page 7, I wanted to share our trust Home School charter. By having great partnerships between home and school, we can make sure the children at South Witham Academy thrive and aspire to be positive citizens of the future. Keep you eyes peeled for information about our new school values coming soon!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Atter



UPCOMING DIARY DATES

15th Mar - Comic Relief

19th Mar - Parents Evening

21st Mar - Parents Evening

26th & 27th Mar - Spotlight Performances

27th Mar - Woodlands Easter Tea

17th Apr - YRS 3/4 Bikeability

24th - 26th April - Y5 Residential to Kingswood Activity Centre

Dodgeball Competition

Our Y5/6 Dodgeball team represented the school with pride on Thursday. They finished unbeaten in their group and qualified for the finals! In the finals, they fought bravely and finally finished in **5th** position out of the 13 schools taking part. They also finished joint **1st** for sportspersonship! We are so proud. Well done team SWA!



HOUSE POINT TOTALS

BURGHLEY

BELTON

WOOLSTHORPE

9353

7716

8905





Little Hedgehogs



This week in Little Hedgehogs we have been reading *What the ladybird heard*. The children have been painting their own ladybirds and have been adding black spots by using bamboo offcuts to print with.

We have been ripping paper to make our own ladybirds by sticking the red and black paper on to a paper bowl and they are now hanging up in the window.

For world book day we had lots of activities with books for us to share and some of us dressed up.



Woodlands



What a great week in Woodlands class! In art we have been focusing on Georgia O’Keeffe and other abstract artists – the children had a go at painting their own abstract art pieces and they are amazing!

We had a lot of fun celebrating world book day this week too! All the children came in dressed as a character from their favourite book and they all looked amazing! We completed book reviews on the text “Our Tower” in the morning then in the afternoon we had so much fun completing lots of world book day activities such as creating book marks and designing new front covers for books that we have read as a class.

We have had a very busy fun filled week and we are very proud of the children for working so hard.



Badgers

In Badgers class this week, year 5 have been learning how to carry out multiplication using the formal method, including multiplying 4 digits by 2 digits. They have been mastering the short division method also. Year 6 have continued their work on algebra, learning how to write and solve equations. In English we have written our independent discussion text to debate whether school uniform should or should not be worn by children. Much to the children's frustration, there was a stronger case for wearing uniform. In science, we have been making series circuits involving buzzers and testing the effect of more buzzers and cells.



Otters



Otters have had an amazing week! We have started to learn about fractions in maths, ordering them, and discovering the meaning of the words denominator and numerator - hopefully your little Otter will explain! We have started our World Book Day text, *Our Tower*, and are looking forward to finding out more about the story. On World Book Day itself, we took part in the BBC live lesson with Maddie from *Did You Know* - it was amazing, and we got a shout out on the live feed!! We had such a lovely day, with the book characters doing their best to stay in role all day! Thank you for all of your hard work with the costumes, spoons and hats - we know how much effort goes in to them!!



PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM



Readers of the Week!



Attendance Superstars

this week goes to **OTTERS** with 95%!!

Attendance is something we celebrate each week in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday. We are required to collate and update the attendance figures for the local authority each week. Going forward we will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure that we are hitting the targets given to the school by the DFE.

Wear RED for Red Nose Day next Friday!
Please donate £1 to Comic Relief. We will also have a cake stall after school to raise money. Donations welcome



to Travis who had his birthday last Saturday!



Trip meetings

We would like to invite Year 5 parents of the children attending the Kingswood trip in for a parent meet on **Monday 15th April at 2.45pm.**

We would also like to invite Year 6 parents in for a parent meet about the London residential, on **Monday 24th June at 2.45pm,**

We will aim to discuss the trip itself, the accommodation, food etc and address any queries you may have.

WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING STORYTIME

Being read to regularly can help the under-fives in acquiring literacy; teaches them the value of books and stories; and sparks their imagination and curiosity. Reading to babies, meanwhile, provides the building blocks of language development and the beginnings of social and emotional skills. Here are our top tips for helping children discover the wonder of stories.

1 BE A READING ROLE MODEL

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of adults around them, so it's vital to model regular reading habits: if your child sees you reading, they're likely to copy you. Reading on a screen could be misinterpreted by a child as a different activity, so a printed book is preferable.

2 JOIN A LIBRARY

Local libraries are a cost-effective way of introducing your child to new books. Libraries often host free events to build engagement with reading. Librarians can recommend books based on age, interests, genre or author. Having their own library card and choosing their next read can be exciting for little ones.

3 TAKE IT IN TURNS

Taking turns to read and turn the pages can build your child's confidence and lets you model what's expected. For younger ones, reading doesn't have to mean the exact words on the page – they might prefer their own version! Reading to different audiences is useful: teddies are excellent listeners!

4 CATER TO THEIR INTERESTS

Like adults, children tend to favour books with themes they're interested in. If they're less keen to move away from their preferred subject matter, you could vary the type of book they read by swapping between fiction and non-fiction. There'll be plenty of scope to diversify as they grow up.

5 BUILD READING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Building reading into your daily routine will have a positive impact. Just before bedtime is ideal for many families, helping settle the child to sleep. The adult usually reads the story, but children enjoy more interactivity as they get older. It can be handy to have books with you when out and about.

6 USE PICTURES AND PROPS

Most children's books contain beautiful illustrations which enrich the text. Spend time discussing these with your child and pointing things out. As well as doing voices for different characters and making any relevant noises, you could also enhance story time with props such as toys or puppets.

7 RELISH THE LANGUAGE

The language in children's books is varied and rich; sometimes they might include words children are less familiar with, so you can take the opportunity to explain what they mean. With younger children, you could try paraphrasing certain sentences afterwards to help with understanding.

8 A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, read to your child in an environment that's free from distractions. This helps children to get fully immersed in the experience, supporting their concentration and engagement. Doing this often can help to build up the child's ability to focus for greater lengths of time.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Although reading can be hugely enjoyable, children can sometimes struggle to sit for long periods or to engage with texts fully. Have regular breaks: reading a few pages is better than none. You could also have some movement breaks – there's no particular 'right' or 'wrong' way to enjoy a story.

10 RE-READ FAVOURITES

Most children have certain stories that they love hearing again and again. This repetition lets them become familiar with language patterns and more engaged by feeling able to join in. Choosing other books by your child's preferred author can help them to discover new favourites.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Kierman has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYFSP practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-so-powerful-so-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/> | <https://cdn.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/benefits-of-reading---booktrust-2023.pdf> | <https://www.all4kids.org/news/blog/the-importance-of-reading-to-your-children/>

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Home School Charter

At our school we believe that nurturing children to be the best that they can be extends beyond the classroom and we value the partnership with our parents and families in supporting their children. To provide the very best for all of the the children we hope that all of our families will be committed to upholding the expectations set out in this Home School Charter.

We expect that parents:

- Support your child to uphold the school rules of Ready, Safe, Respectful at all times and try their best in all that they do.
- Children read every day at home, this is the most important thing they can do and will benefit them immensely both in school and for the rest of their lives.
- Are on time each day so that children are ready to start their learning and collected on time at the end of the day.
- Children are supported in homework and other opportunities for home learning.
- Be respectful when speaking/ emailing staff. Do not to post any concerns, criticisms or defamatory statements about the staff or school on social networking sites. Please be kind and work with us.
- Your child is properly equipped and wears the correct school uniform and PE Kit (if you are eligible for pupil premium funding we can support you with uniform costs).
- Inform the school office of the reason for any absence by 9.00am.
- Let the school know about any concerns or problems that might affect your child's work or behaviour and work with staff to seek a resolution.
- Attend parents' evenings and meetings as required about your child's progress.
- Do not take holidays in school time and attempt to take routine medical and dental appointments outside school time wherever possible.
- That children do not have piercings other than single stud earrings. Ears should not be pierced except in the summer holidays so as not to interfere with PE as they should not be taped over.
- Understand that any photos taken in school are for personal use only and you will not send or share on the internet any pictures that include any other children.

You can expect that we will:

- Provide an education which nurtures children as individuals to achieve their very best.
- Provide the children with a range of learning opportunities and enrichment that will support them to enjoy their learning.
- Support all children, whatever their needs, race, culture or background to achieve their full potential.
- Listen when you have a worry or concern and work with you to resolve it.
- Achieve high standards of work and behaviour through providing a rich learning environment and a challenging curriculum.
- Provide an open, welcome and safe environment at all times and offer opportunities for you to become involved in the life of the school.
- Keep you informed of school activities through our newsletter and social media links.
- Discuss with you any concerns or problems that affect your child's work and contact you if there is a problem with attendance, punctuality or behaviour.
- Have an 'open-door' policy and encourage you to share any concerns with us.
- Offer support and guidance to parents who require additional help.
- Provide an annual report and two parents evenings each year.
- Provide key school information through our school and Trust website and all polices can be made available upon request.