



## Southmead Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Nicholas Plumb

## Southmead Pre-School

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Manager: Mrs Jo Lucas



16 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello everyone. I hope you have had a good week. It has certainly been another busy week at Southmead, with plenty of opportunities for learning, sport and community involvement.

### Community News

We are pleased to share information about **St Anne's Nature Trail**, taking place on **Saturday 24th October**. Please see the attached flyer for further details.

The **North Devon Action Sports Centre** is currently exploring future opportunities within North Devon and would value feedback from our community. If you would like to contribute, please complete their survey: <https://www.northdevonasc.co.uk/survey.html>

### Sporting Success

Today, many of our pupils took part in the **Stephen Shields Cross Country Event**. A huge thank you to **Miss Brailey** and **Dr Corney** for organising and supporting this opportunity. We will share results as soon as we receive them, but we are already incredibly proud of all the children who represented Southmead with enthusiasm and determination.

### PE Kit Reminder

Could all KS2 parents please ensure that any **Southmead PE tops** borrowed for sporting events are returned to school before half term. Thank you for your support.

### Secondary School Transition

Families considering secondary school applications are reminded to check transition deadlines. **Pilton Community College** has provided a flyer containing information for parents and carers.

### Building Improvements

Next week we begin the **second phase of our window and door replacement project**, which will continue through the half-term break.

*As a school community, we value kindness and respect in all communication.*

*Staff aim to respond to emails within 2 working days, as they are prioritising supporting pupils throughout the day. Thank you for your understanding.*



We process your personal data in line with data protection legislation, for more information on this processing please see our Privacy Notice on our website: [www.southmead.devon.sch.uk/documents-and-policies/](http://www.southmead.devon.sch.uk/documents-and-policies/)



The first classroom to be completed will be **Peregrines (Year 6)**. As a result, Year 6 pupils will temporarily relocate to our spare classroom next to Shrimps. We kindly ask all Peregrines children to go directly to [this classroom](#) on Monday morning.

Only one classroom will be completed at a time, although some cloakroom doors will also be replaced during the works. Once the Year 6 classroom is complete, one class from Year 5 (we expect this to be Otters) will move into the temporary classroom while Peregrines return to their usual room.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while these important improvements take place.

### **Phonics and Reading Workshop**

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers from **Pre-School, EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2** to our **Phonics and Reading Workshop** on **Monday 19th October**. Led by **Mrs Wynn, Mrs Dupuy and Mrs Fryer**, the workshop will begin at **2.30pm** and finish in time for you to collect your child at the end of the day.

### **Southmead Friends Association Disco**

A reminder that the **SFA School Disco** will take place tonight:

- **KS1:** 5.00pm - 6.00pm
- **KS2:** 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Thank you to everyone who has helped organise this event. Please note that only volunteers with a current DBS check and have completed all safeguarding training, will be able to help on the night.

### **Year 5 Watersmeet Visit**

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Watersmeet this week, working alongside Exmoor Rangers to investigate the River Lyn. The trip supported their Geography learning about rivers and sources while also providing rich experiences to inspire their writing.

### **Harvest Festival**

A huge thank you to **St Brannock's Church** for hosting our annual Harvest Festival. Year 5, you were amazing. You shared beautifully what harvest means and represented the school brilliantly. Thank you also to the Year 5 staff team for their hard work and support.

Please remember that food donations should be brought into school by **Thursday 22nd October**. Donations will be collected that afternoon and distributed through our local food banks.

We look forward to sharing photographs and updates through our social media channels, so please follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** if you do not already.

### **House Point winners**

The House Point winner this half term is **Farah**, they can celebrate with a non-uniform day on **Friday 23rd October!**

## **Learning This Week**

### **Pre-school**

Children have been:

- Retelling and recording their recollections of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- Ordering the life cycle of a butterfly.
- Experimenting with orange-scented water and making "orange juice" in the outdoor provision.

### **EYFS**

Children have been:

- Sorting objects in Maths.
- Learning about day and night, light and dark.
- Exploring the phonemes ck, e, u and r.

### **Year 1**

Children have been:

- Adding numbers using a number line in Maths.
- Learning about seasons in Science.
- Creating autumn-inspired artwork.
- Writing their own version of *The Three Little Pigs*.

### **Year 2**

Children have:

- Learned about Matthew Henson as part of their Explorers topic and Black History.
- Written innovation stories with a focus on accurate sentence construction.
- Planned their own adventures inspired by explorer James Ketchell following his recent visit.

### **Year 3**

Children have:

- Been introduced to the column method in Maths.
- Explored hopping, jumping and skipping in PE.
- Designed their own Stone Age menus in History.

### **Year 4**

Children have:

- Solved Roman numeral code-breaking challenges in Maths.
- Investigated whether Tutankhamun's tomb was really cursed in History.
- Developed effective leaping and hurdling techniques in PE.

### **Year 5**

Children have:

- Investigated the River Lyn with Exmoor Rangers.
- Shared Harvest Festival celebrations with pupils and parents.
- Explored absorbency by investigating nappies in Science.

## **Year 6**

Children have:

- Explored a range of mental addition and subtraction strategies in Maths.
- Completed their PowerPoint unit in Computing, experimenting with transitions and effects.
- Begun using an exciting new spelling app in English lessons.

## **Next Week**

- **Tuesday:** Year 3 Hakeford Forest Trip
- **Wednesday:** High Five Netball Competition (after school)
- **Friday:** Non-uniform day for House Point winners Farah

## **School Dinners**

**Monday** – Homemade Pork Meatballs / Vegetarian Meatballs

**Tuesday** – Chicken Fajitas / Quorn and Bean Fajitas

**Wednesday** – Roast Gammon / Cheese and Onion Slice

**Thursday** – Beef Lasagne / Quorn and Lentil Lasagne

**Friday** – Crispy Battered Fish / Vegetable Frittata

## **End of Half Term Reminder**

Next week is the final week of this half term. **School closes on Friday 23rd October and reopens on Monday 2nd November.**

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to work alongside such wonderful children, families and staff. I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend, and I look forward to seeing you next week.

**Best wishes,**

**Mr Nick Plumb**