Southmead Primary School
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Southmead Pre-School
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Manager: Mrs Jo Lucas

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you to everyone for your well wishes. It has been lovely to be back and to see everyone.

Weather

Needless to say, it was a little windy today! I am pleased to share that we undertook thorough risk assessments and were able to remain open while keeping everyone safe. Children were able to go outside at lunchtime, which was much needed, with additional safety measures in place. Thank you to our staff team for making this possible and to our children for being so sensible throughout the day.

Holiday Club

Tennis Club information for the October half-term is attached.

Clubs

There will be no after-school clubs during the first two weeks after half-term. This is due to a school meeting in the first week back and Parents' Evenings taking place during the second week.

PE

The High 5 Netball competition this week was great fun and brought together schools from across our Trust. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the event and performed brilliantly. Well done to all involved.

Trips and Visits

Well done to Year 3 for their trip to Hakeford Woods. The children had a fantastic time, their behaviour was excellent, and they gained so much from the experience to support their learning, particularly in English and History.

SEND

Staff have been busy writing Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for pupils on our SEND Register. These will be shared with parents and carers online upon our return to school and before Parents' Evenings.

Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 10th November, Wednesday 11th November and Thursday 12th November 2026

Bookings will open during Half Term.

Reading

Please can we ask you to read with your child as much as possible over the half-term break. It is important that children maintain their reading fluency and continue to develop their stamina and enjoyment of reading. Thank you in advance for your support.

Our Phonics and Reading Workshop took place this week. If you were unable to attend, the presentation slides are available on our website. The workshop aimed to support reading both at home and at school through shared phonics and reading strategies.

Please could any school library books, particularly Key Stage 2 chapter books, be returned after half-term.

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/

House Points
Well done to Farah House for winning this half-term's House Point competition!
Music
Our singing teacher, Sarah, has spaces available for EYFS pupils. Lessons take place on Fridays after half-term and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, please contact Sarah on 07891 184923.
Harvest
Thank you for all your kind Harvest donations. Our local community will benefit greatly from your generosity.

Learning This Week...
Pre-School concluded their topic of The Very Hungry Caterpillar; the children have loved sitting listening to their version of the story they retold. Each child made their own book featuring The Very Hungry Caterpillar. They enjoyed giving and receiving a round of applause after their story was shared.
EYFS learnt about the story Pumpkin Soup - linking it to pumpkin size and capacity when making 'pumpkin soup'. Using chalk to draw pumpkins and scooping out pumpkins to find the seeds. Learning what 'celebration' means.
Year 1 did addition on a number line in maths. In ICT they learnt about algorithms. In English they have been sorting real and alien words and focussing on key elements of sentence writing.
Year 2 held auditions for the Christmas Nativity, completed their stories based on Jack and the Beanstalk and learnt all about food chains in Science.
Year 3 have been making paint how the Stone Age would have in Art, had an amazing trip to Hakeford Woods learning all about making spears, fire and shelters in the Stone Age and learnt about punctuating speech in English.
Year 4 have been finishing off their Prince Cinders stories, they learnt about Ancient Egyptian inventions (getting very excited about their upcoming Exeter Museum trip) and in Maths they have been learning about column addition and subtraction.
Year 5 have been writing their own fairy tales based on Hansel and Gretel, playing the Finding the Prime Numbers game and creating a new board game for PSHE.
Year 6 have been learning the tests for divisibility in Maths, all about the Home Front in WW2 for History and learning about refraction in Science.

School Dinners (After Half-Term)
Monday
- Pesto Chicken Pasta Bake
- Tomato and Basil Pasta Bake

Tuesday
- Chicken Katsu Curry
- Sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry

Wednesday
- Roast Turkey
- Lentil and Cheddar Tart

Thursday
- Homemade Margherita Pizza

Friday
- Salmon Fish Fingers
- Vegetable Quesadilla

It just leaves me to wish you all a wonderful half-term break. Please note that the school site will be closed over half-term while window replacement and building works are completed.

Thank you for such a positive and successful half-term. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 2nd November 2026**.

Take care,

Mr Nick Plumb