

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first, packed Newsletter of the new school year! Our new Year 7s seem to be settling well and getting used to the routines and expectations at Southbrook. The academic year has certainly got off to a flying start with no shortage of events to look forward to.

### NEWS

**Race for Life** – On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October we are holding a Race for Life for all pupils (and staff!). We will be running/walking/hopping or anyway we can move for a mile to raise money for Cancer Research UK. All pupils have bought a letter home with a sponsor form, and on the day, they can bring in a fancy dress outfit to change into.

**Hello Yellow Day** – On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October we will be inviting parents/carers to a Coffee Afternoon to raise money and show our support for young people's mental health. At this stage we are looking for donations of raffle prizes, as well as jars/bottles, glitter, sequins etc to create sensory jars. Look out for more information nearer the time.

**Year 7 – 10 Residential** – There will be two off-site residential trips this year during activities week from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019. A letter has been sent to all parents earlier this month giving more information on the trips to Start Bay in Slapton, Devon and the Adventure Residential at Butlins, Minehead.

**School Bank** – Southbrook School Bank is now open! Save every Wednesday with School Bank. You can open a bank account with HSBC if you do not have one, either in a branch of HSBC or through school – ask your tutor or Miss Evora for more information. Happy saving!

**Key Stage 4** – It has been a busy start for pupils in Key Stage 4. College link courses have now begun and Year 10 are settling down to their new options choices \*\*\* The Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh and Volunteering programme is progressing well. We have been impressed with the attitude and work ethic the pupils have shown. \*\*\* The reports back from the volunteering placements have been excellent and a particular mention for the pupils who are at the Woodhayes nursing home, where they have made a tremendous impression with the staff and residents. \*\*\* Year 10 pupils are at the beginning of a very important two years before they transition to further Education / Training and despite everything being rather different to Key Stage 3, the pupils are enthusiastic and working hard.

### UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 10 & 11 Parent Evenings	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Adoption Group Meeting
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Hello Yellow Coffee Afternoon	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Race for Life

### FURTHER AHEAD – FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Harvest Celebration

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December & Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Production

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fayre

### PARENT EVENINGS

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Year 10 & 11

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Year 7 & 8

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – Year 9

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – Year 11

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Year 9 & 10

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – Year 7 & 8

### TERM DATES

Half term - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Pupils return to school – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Term ends – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Pupils return to school – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

**Datasheets and consent forms** – Thank you to all those parents who have returned their datasheets and consent forms. Please can any outstanding forms be returned to school as soon as possible.

**Water bottles** – We have noticed that some of our pupils do not bring bottles to school. Please can you ensure that your child brings a refillable water bottle every day.

**Message from the Inclusion Team - Reviewing your child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** - As you will be aware there is a legal requirement to review your child's EHCP, which takes place during a meeting here at Southbrook. It is therefore very important that parents/carers attend these meetings. You will be informed of a date and time by letter in due course. Key Stage 4 meetings will be taking place this term with Key Stage 3 starting in January. We do appreciate everyone's busy home/work lives and thank you in advance for making every effort to attend these meetings at the given day/time, as it is extremely difficult for us to rearrange. We very much look forward to seeing you at the upcoming review meetings and if you have any questions regarding this process please get in touch.

**Library Books** – We carried out a stock check of all library books at the end of last term and discovered that many books were either damaged or lost to the estimated value of £3000. To prevent this happening again, and trying to reduce the cost of having to renew library books, we have introduced a new school library policy. All pupils have been issued with a new book bag this term to carry their books. If the book bag gets damaged or is lost, a replacement can be purchased for £1, or a similar waterproof bag can be used. All books must be carried around in a protective bag at all times.

**Devon Link Up** – There is a free card for pupils over 11 years of age who have a diagnosis of autism. The card can be useful in emergency situations. The holder's name and unique reference number are embossed on it. To access the cards, parents should contact Devon Link Up on 07808 053 992, or email [autismalertdlup@gmail.com](mailto:autismalertdlup@gmail.com) or have a look at their website [HTTP://www.devonlink-up.org/autism-alert-card/](http://www.devonlink-up.org/autism-alert-card/).

As we are in the process of voting for our new school councillors, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the fantastic achievements of last year's school council below. They have done an amazing job and we are very grateful for their continued hard work in making improvements to our school.

**Bronwen Caschere**  
**Headteacher**

### Southbrook School Council – Achievements 2017/18

- Being voted on to the School Council early in the Autumn term.
- Regularly attending school council meetings, on average two per half term, and communicating issues and ideas on behalf of their tutor groups.
- Meeting with school governors on several occasions, sometimes in a school council meeting and sometimes in a governor's meeting.
- Being a key part of the 'Make Your Mark' vote – ensuring that the whole school voted on issues affecting young people with special needs. This vote was national and was taken to Youth Parliament.
- Making an anti-bullying film and doing an assembly to show this film to the whole school.
- Liaising with the anti-bullying team to share ideas.
- Successfully requesting a water cooler in the sports hall.
- Successfully requesting new football goals (compromise reached of coloured rope being interwoven into the football cage to create and outline of a goal).
- Writing a letter to Mrs Caschere to request that Year 11's can wear non uniform on a Friday – successful.
- Being involved with the 'Champions For Change' group based at Tiverton Youth Centre. Attending regular meetings and taking part in activities and discussions with a view to making a film for YouTube about young people with disabilities. Regular feed back to the rest of school council.
- Successfully requesting mirrors in the toilets so pupils can check their appearance is neat and tidy.
- Creating a friendship bench; writing a letter to various hardware stores to ask for paint, successfully receiving £20 from Trago Mills. A working party has been organised; sanding and painting will begin shortly.