



Southill Primary

Term Talk

Autumn Term 2026

Bright Futures Curriculum News for Year R

Welcome to the Autumn Term

Welcome to Southill Primary school and more specifically **TERMTALK!** This is our termly year group newsletter that will update you on everything going on in class this term. We are always looking for ways to improve communication and close the gap between home and school and we hope that you enjoy finding out lots about what is going on in your child's class.

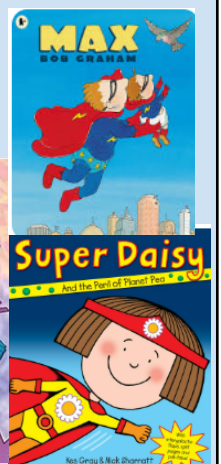
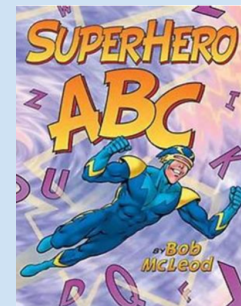
We are looking forward to having a wonderful term with some exciting new learning themes planned throughout linked to our new **BRIGHT FUTURES CURRICULUM**. Linked to these learning themes, we have some fantastic new books to share in class. This Termtalk should hopefully give you some key information about the year and the term ahead!

Reading

Our reading sessions are delivered through Phonics daily (which will start on Monday 14th September) and three reading sessions per week which will also begin on Monday 14th September. It is highly likely that your child will come home with a wordless book. There are lots of ideas in the back of the book on how to share the book with your child and this will be further explained at the **Phonics meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 5pm**. Once phonics lessons have started your child will have a Phonics book that will come home with them. It is important that this is in their book bag daily.

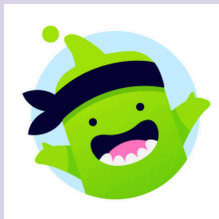
In addition to this your child will have the opportunity to visit the library once a week (in school) and choose a library book to share at home. Please can these books (both library and reading book) come into school daily in the children's book bags.

Your child will be read to daily by staff and some of the activities that they will have a chance to complete will be linked to highly quality texts. Please see some of these texts in the images.



Writing	In our writing this term we will be focussing on the correct formation of letters - we will use the Little Wandle mantra which can be found on the Little Wandle website for parents. We will focus on gross and fine motor skills this term to strengthen our fingers in order to write. We will learn to segment words to spell (further information will be given at the Phonics workshop). We continuously have writing opportunities available in the classroom in the form of the 'writing station' where children can write notes, lists etc to each other. The role play home/cafe has whiteboards and markers for children to 'take orders'. There is a telephone and keyboards for children to pretend they are taking messages. Below are the texts that we will do some activities around this half term.
Key Texts for writing	
Maths	We follow the White Rose Education scheme of learning that inspires maths to really focus on the 'WHY?' rather than the 'HOW?' in maths. We support our learners more thoroughly using concrete apparatus. This term, we are covering units on: - Matching and sorting - Comparing amounts - Comparing size - Mass and capacity and exploring patterns.
PSED	This Autumn term it is our ambition to ensure that all children are happy and confident when coming to school and separating from their adult. They will be supported to build relationships with peers and other familiar adults in the school. We will support them to create a positive relationship with their Year 6 buddy. We will teach them strategies on how to show us how they are feeling and desirable ways in which to respond to that feeling.
Understanding the World	We will be talking about our families and community. We will be learning about people who help us in the community and their different occupations. We will recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate in different ways. We will learn about birthdays, Bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas. Using an Ipad we will explore some apps.
Communication and Language	This area is a priority in Reception. Children will be encouraged and supported to share their 'chatter bags' with a group of peers. Lots of modelled language and new vocabulary will be taught to the children. Our first topic is Superheroes and so children will role play as superheroes. Children will be encouraged to use some describing words for things that they see or taste, feel or hear. Children will be asking and responding to some literal questions.

Physical Development	We will be focussing on developing skills needed to manage the school day successfully; lining up, sitting on our carpet space, queuing, mealtimes, personal hygiene and dressing and undressing for the outdoors. We will also develop our skills in rolling, crawling, walking, jumping, running, hopping, skipping and climbing and controlling one handed tools like scissors.
Expressive Arts and Design	In the first half term we will explore the art station and the fancy dress area where children will be invited to dress up as people of their choice. In the second half term our focus will be lots of singing and performing in the Nativity.
Enrichment	This half term we have planned to visit Poole Lighthouse on the 2nd December 2026 to see The Elves and the Shoemaker. We are also arranging a Weymouth Library visit and visits from some firefighters and other 'People who help us'. If you feel you can spare an hour this term and are a person who helps in the community please speak to Melanie about volunteering your services. The children will love meeting real life 'superheroes'. We hope to visit the local church for a lesson on advent during the final week of November. Look out for more information regarding all of the above.

Other News	
Communication 	We are always looking for new ways to keep you, parents and carers, informed about what is going on in school. We use a platform called Class Dojo as a window into the everyday school life of your child at Southill Primary. It provides a way of positively noticing and rewarding children's behaviour in school, a messaging service to allow you to directly contact your child's class teacher and a 'class story' which allows you to get direct, whole class updates from the classroom. As a parent, you are able to connect to this app from home and see your child's school account. Class Dojo offers a paid for and free version. You do not need to opt for the paid for version of the app in order to use this from home. The school office will still be sending messages via the school messaging service and please report absences through the office (not through Class Dojo). Urgent messages (such as a change in who is collecting your child at the end of the day) should still be reported to the school office to ensure that the message reaches your child's class teacher (just in case they do not have time to check messages before the end of the day!).
Behaviour and rewards	We also use Class Dojo in school with the children to positively track behaviour where the children contribute to a whole class reward target. We have three key words to help the children remember our behaviour expectations at Southill Primary. They are: Ready. Respectful. Safe. All classes will have a 'class charter' which clearly explains the school expectations for behaviour and is in line with the school behaviour policy. We expect all children to demonstrate excellent behaviour to enable them to reach their full potential and set good examples to other children in school. In an instance of behaviour not meeting the required standard, the class teacher will inform you and will discuss this with you. This could be via the phone or through Class Dojo. If the behaviour concerns continue you will be invited into school to discuss this further. Please read the school behaviour policy which gives clear information regarding the expectations of behaviour within the school.

Helping At Home

Reading and Phonics book	By far the most important thing that a child can do at home is read. Children are expected to read each day at home (minimum 5 times a week) and this should be recorded in their reading records. Children are never too old to be heard read or to be questioned on a book that they are reading. The discussion that can come from reading with your child and questioning them can encourage a real love for reading that really helps them in all areas of the curriculum. It is encouraged for you to read to your children daily as well as them reading/telling/sharing a story with you. When Phonics starts (Monday 14th September), shortly after, your child will come home with a Phonics book which will have the sounds/tricky words that we have learned that week. It is super important that you practise these at home with your child please. If you have any questions please speak to one of us at drop off or pick up.
Uniform	Please name all items of school uniform and PE kit. You will appreciate this later in the year if an item ever goes missing! Please read and support the uniform guidelines on the website which provides clear information regarding the expectations of uniform. Haircuts and colours must comply with the school guidelines. Long hair must be tied back (this is for safety and hygiene reasons!) Please send your child to school with a water bottle that is clearly labelled. Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit daily. 
PE	On PE days, children should come into school in their PE kit. Reception PE day will be a Tuesday. Please make sure that school PE kit guidelines are followed for PE kit. It is also important to note that children are not allowed to take part in PE whilst wearing earrings (for health and safety reasons). If they are unable to take them out themselves, children must not wear earrings to school on the days that they have PE. Taping over earrings is no longer permitted (in relation to health and safety guidelines issued to schools).