



# NEWSLETTER

**Happy Friday!**

## **Southfest**

When the dust is settled and the paint dried I will send out a final celebration of Southfest but what a fantastic month it has been, culminating in the open afternoon yesterday. Thank you so much for coming if you were able to and thank you for the lovely feedback not only about the art itself but also the impact that Southfest has had on your children. I think the full impact of Southfest will really be seen in the coming weeks, months and years as we live with this amazing artwork on our walls, we embed it into our curriculum and most excitingly we see and hear the seeds that have been sewn over the last few weeks in the children's hearts, minds and souls continue to take root and flourish.

In the meantime though, I would like to thank the following people:

The site team of Mr Thomas, Mr Bob and Mr Staynings who have worked extremely hard to prep and paint the walls leading up to Southfest and then help to co-ordinate all of the logistical arrangements and keep everything running smoothly. At Myrtle this was particularly complex with scaffolding going up, down and being moved about and last minute changes and requests which the team coped with brilliantly.

Our incredible School Business Manager Savi Flaecher who has project managed this whole event. There have been so many 'moving parts' to this project in terms of people, timings, logistics, materials and Savi has co-ordinated everything brilliantly, taking Southfest from our first conversation in the Autumn right through to the open event yesterday. This would not have been possible without Savi's incredible skill and care.

The artists of course, whose generosity and kindness with the children enabled Southfest to be the inspiring and interactive experience we had hoped it would be and whose creativity and engagement with our school ethos and values have left us with unique and very special artwork to enjoy.

Similarly I would like to thank The University of Bath team - Prof Gail Forey, Dr Joy Cranham and Dr Ben Van Praag who for the whole month have given their time alongside their own teaching commitments to work with the children on the word walls. It was a huge undertaking and the time they have taken with the children to coach, encourage and educate them has been wonderful and added an extra layer to the Southfest experience.

They are keen to gain feedback on the impact of their project and I would be really grateful if you would spend a couple of minutes completing this survey. Thank you in advance:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ij1-N6FOLUKwrY\\_MiUBrnhinJEe9BQtDj8ulXejh--RUMUVZUFJaNTJVN09HN1oyVDIzWUVUVFNVS4u&origin=QRCode](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Ij1-N6FOLUKwrY_MiUBrnhinJEe9BQtDj8ulXejh--RUMUVZUFJaNTJVN09HN1oyVDIzWUVUVFNVS4u&origin=QRCode)

Finally, thank you to our wonderful PTA. The cost of materials, any artist fees, scaffolding, refreshments, those lovely badges, the plaques which will go next to each piece... everything we needed for Southfest was paid for by our wonderful PTA. What a fantastic gift to give to our school and incredible legacy to leave! Thank you to the PTA for their support for this idea from the start and to Sonia and all of the helpers who came along to make the open day such a success yesterday. And to everyone who has donated to a PTA event over the last 12 months - this was only possible with your generosity so thank you!

Watch this space for the official photos and final celebratory piece next term.

### **Year 2 Amazon Exhibition**

Last Friday the Merrywood hall and Year 2 classrooms were packed to the rafters with Year 2 parents and carers to see the children share their Amazon Rainforest projects. The combination of art, science and writing skills led to fantastic presentations, with the children speaking very knowledgably and clearly on their animal of choice. Thank you if you came along - I know from the feedback that you were as impressed as I was with the children.



### **Representation Matters**

Continuing this year's partnership with Representation Matters, we were delighted to welcome Ruth Butler to Southville to lead assemblies and workshop sessions at Myrtle on Tuesday. The sessions were linked to our school values around the theme of *Be seen, Be heard, Be included* and they were about understanding and exploring racist language, linked to our school values.

Ruth then led an inspiring and thought-provoking staff meeting exploring the complexities of unconscious bias, identity and the importance of intentionally establishing a sense of belonging and this will evolve into a key piece of school development work next year.



### **Sport Updates from Mr Rogers...**

Before I hand over to Mr Rogers, I wanted to thank you for the many positive comments I have received about our sport participation this term. Under Mr Rogers' leadership, our participation in events and fixtures has continued to increase and, in partnership with Shine's Jamie Dawson, Southville Sports 'Department' is going from strength to strength. It is great to see so many children enjoying sport and having the opportunity to represent our school.

**APSP Football Finals Day:** Our school football season came to an end on Monday with the Football League Finals hosted by the Ashton Park Sports Partnership. We had 3 teams make it to this stage with our Year 4 and 6 competitive teams and our Year 6 Girls Development



team all earning themselves a place in this final event due to their success in the various leagues that have taken place throughout the past two terms.

**Year 6 Boys:** On finals day, the boys managed to qualify out of their group and earn themselves a place in the semi-final thanks to a 2-0 win against Knowle Park and a memorable 1-0 win against Headley Park in the group stage. Unfortunately, Southville were on the wrong side of a 2-0 defeat to Victoria Park (the eventual winners) in the semi-final, where on another day, the refereeing decisions could have gone in our favour. A huge well done to the team as it was a massive achievement to make it to finals day, let alone reach the semi-final stage and give the eventual winners a real closely fought match.



**Y4 Boys:** Having finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the overall league standings, our Year 4 boys rightfully earned themselves a spot in the finals day on Monday. Unfortunately, the team were on the wrong side of a couple of close encounters that finished 1-0, where both teams could have easily come out on top. Once again, a huge well done to all of those children involved and hopefully they can go one step further when they go for gold again in Year 5.



**Y6 Girls:** Having finished 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 10 in their league, one of our Y5/6 girls teams managed to successfully earn themselves a spot at finals day. They took part in a round-robin of fixtures

against two other schools, who unfortunately, proved to be a step ahead in the 'development' phase with their teams. However, this did not stop our girls from enjoying the experience of taking part in the day, where for some of the team, it was their first encounter of taking part in real-life football matches. Well done girls!



That concludes all of our sporting events until after Easter, but a massive well done to all of those children that have taken the opportunity to represent the school in various sports so far this year. Next term, our focus turns towards cricket, where hopefully the sun starts to shine and we can also begin our preparations for the much anticipated Sports Day in Term 6!

Thank you!  
Mr. Rogers

### **Southville Choir: Handfuls of Harmony**

Our Southville choir are beginning to sound beautiful, ready for the upcoming concert on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Ashton Park School. Please drop your child off at 2:45pm for a rehearsal and the concert will begin at 4pm. The children can wear a combination of orange, purple, red and black (plain colours rather than patterns).

Due to the Easter break and parents evening, there will not be an after school rehearsal until 22<sup>nd</sup> April. In the meantime, the choir can visit the Handfuls of Harmony website <https://www.handfulsofharmony.org/> and practice the songs (password: singsingsing). We can't wait to share our beautiful music with the audience and showcase all of the hard work.

Hope you have a lovely break.

Miss Munnings

## **French Fortnight**

We are lucky to be hosting Emma Pages, a teaching assistant from France in school for two weeks as part of a partnership programme with Bordeaux University. All the KS2 children have had the chance to talk to her and learn about Bordeaux in French lessons and she has also visited Year 2 classes and sang French songs and read stories. Thank you to Emma and to Kiwi class who have been her home class for the two weeks.



## **The Merrywood Bug House**

Mr Bob has been extremely busy over the past few weeks making the most beautiful bug house! The Reception children have enjoyed filling it up with conkers, cones, and perfectly measured sticks! The Merrywood bugs now have the perfect home - thank you, Mr Bob, for all your hard work!





## Happy Holidays

If you will be marking and celebrating it, **Happy Easter** for this coming weekend, and with Eid al-fitr falling on 9th April, I would like to take this opportunity to wish **Eid Mubarak** to all those currently observing Ramadan at the moment.

What a busy, brilliant term! Have a fun and restful holiday and we will see you on April 15th.  
Andy Bowman