

Dear parents and carers

STARS OF THE WEEK W/C 21.9.26

N-AM	SIENNA	3G	SUFYAN
N-PM	ZAID	3SH	AYMAN
RR	THEO	4P	ZAYNAB
RW	JANELLE	4Y	INAYAH
1L	ANEES	5A	AMELIE
1S	NEVE	5H	LEYLA
2DM	ERIC	6M	IAM
2H	LEIF	6PB	EMANUEL + ROBIN
	THE NEST - SURI		



ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY W/C 14.9.26

Best Attendance ☺ **4P 100 %**

Best Punctuality ☺ **2DM**

Class that needs to improve their attendance **RW 89%**

Class that needs to improve their punctuality **4Y**

Overall School Attendance this year = 95%

BENEDICT'S LAW: KEEPING CHILDREN WITH ALLERGIES SAFE AT SOUTH GROVE

From September 2026, all schools must comply with new legislation called Benedict's Law, which strengthens the safety measures we have in place to protect children with allergies.

What is Benedict's Law?

Benedict's Law requires schools to put comprehensive safety measures in place to protect pupils with allergies and respond effectively in emergencies.

**Benedict's
LAW**

What we're doing at South Grove

We're committed to creating a safe environment for all our pupils. Here's what we have in place:

- **Dedicated allergy safety policy** – We have a named senior leader responsible for allergy safety, and our policy is currently being developed and will be reviewed annually
- **Individual healthcare plans** – Children with allergies that need school support have personalised plans developed with parents and healthcare professionals
- **Staff training** – All staff have received training at a Staff Inset Meeting and regular training on allergy awareness and emergency response will be given as and when necessary with any new updates
- **Emergency medication** – We keep spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAs) in school for emergency use, alongside any devices prescribed for individual children
- **Incident recording** – We carefully record and learn from any allergy-related incidents or near misses

How you can help

If your child has an allergy:

- Please ensure we have up-to-date information about their condition
- Work with us to create or update their individual healthcare plan
- Make sure we know about any changes to their medication or allergy action plan
- Ensure your child has their prescribed medication in school where needed

If you have any questions about how we manage allergies at South Grove, or if you need to discuss your child's individual needs, please contact Mrs Kirstie Hunter-Leitch our Welfare Officer.

Together, we can ensure every child is safe and able to participate fully in school life.



SAFEGUARDING AT SOUTH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL HELPING EVERY CHILD ACHIEVE, BELONG AND THRIVE

Operational Encompass and MyConcern South Grove Primary School

The safety and wellbeing of every child is at the heart of everything we do. As part of our commitment to keeping children safe, we are an Operation Encompass school. Operation Encompass is a safeguarding partnership between schools and the police. Where the police attend a domestic abuse incident involving a child, information may be shared securely with the school so that we can provide appropriate support and respond sensitively to the child's needs. This information is treated with the utmost confidentiality and shared only with those who need to know.



We also use **MyConcern** (Child Protection Online Management System) to securely record and manage safeguarding, welfare and pastoral concerns. This enables our safeguarding team to build a clear picture of a child's needs, identify patterns or emerging concerns and ensure that appropriate action and support are put in place. These approaches form an important part of our commitment to ensuring every child belongs and every child flourishes. Safeguarding is not simply about responding to concerns; it is about creating a culture where children feel safe, heard, valued and supported, and where every child has the opportunity to flourish.

Our Safeguarding email is: DSL@southgrove.waltham.sch.uk



Updating your Child's Details and Medical Records

Can you please ensure that if any of your details have changed the office is informed as soon as possible so that we can update your child's records. Can you please complete the green form sent out and correct any of these details if they have changed, including any childcare changes. This includes any changes to medical conditions or allergies.

If your child has medication that we keep in school, can you please ensure that it is in date and that your child's asthma care plan is up to date with a copy being given to the school. Asthma pumps for children in other year groups will be kept in the medical room as usual.

Photo preference update

Please also use this link: <https://forms.gle/qXcsUJhtBu8P4s3c8> to update your photo preferences- it would be enormously helpful if EVERYONE completed this; thank you to those who have already done so

Mobile Phones at South Grove

We are a Smartphone Free school and do not allow children to bring mobile phones into school except in Year 6 if there is a legitimate reason for them to have a 'brick' phone that has no access to apps and the internet.



Universal Free School Meals



Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals regardless of income. This is known as Universal Infant Free School Meals and means that if you have a child in any of these Year groups then you do not have to pay.

If your child is in Key Stage 2 then the London Mayor is funding all children in London to have free school meals over this year so there is no cost for Key Stage 2 children either and we encourage the children to have a hot meal.

However, If you are in receipt of Universal Credit in Reception, Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2 can I ask that you still apply through the council website at <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals> for free school meals or by completing a form from the school office, as more people are entitled to this may give you an entitlement for other things within Waltham Forest. You can also go to Walthamstow, Leyton, Leytonstone and North Chingford libraries to apply Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm.

In a change this September as well if you earn less than £7,400 a year and are also in receipt of Universal Credit, the school will receive Pupil Premium funding in our budget which we use to subsidise trips and other activities for those and other vulnerable children.



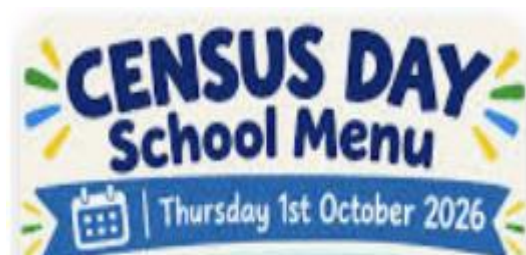
School Meals Menu

The school meals menu continues from the summer term up to the October half term. The menu can be found on our website here: (<https://www.southgrove.waltham.sch.uk/School-Lunches/>) and was included in the new Reception packs.

SCHOOL CENSUS

On **Thursday 1st October** the Department for Education gathers information about the schools across England and the information we provide on that day impacts on the budget we get in the new financial year. One of the budget indicators is the amount of child that have a school dinner on Census Day so we have a special menu on that day and we would like as many children as possible to have a school meal.

The menu will be sent out nearer the time.



Absent and ill children



If your child is absent from school for any reason can you please phone the school office before the start of the school day and leave a message on the school answerphone on 020 8521 6000 .

If we have not heard from you after 9.30 am we will phone you to find out where your child is.

If your child has been vomiting or has diarrhoea at home or school and is sent home we are asking that they stay at home for 24 hours from the last time they have this, and have managed to eat something without it reoccurring, before returning to school so that they are completely well.

As always, we cannot authorise any absences unrelated to illness during term time except in exceptional circumstances where you will need to complete an leave of absence form which will need to be authorised.

If you miss school due to a change in flight details you will be asked to produce your original flight details and confirmation of the change so we can authorise absences that are out of your control.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Attendance regulations are strict and have got stricter with an increase in the amount a parent is now fined due to an unauthorised absence or persistent lateness.

It is expected that children should attend school every day during term time. The school academic calendar can be found at the end of this newsletter so please book any holidays outside of term time only.



Transition meetings for parents in Year 1 and Year 3

This week 8:45 – 9:15am

Use this Google Form:

[https://forms.gle/ajnb5JnXekc8Nh6\\$7](https://forms.gle/ajnb5JnXekc8Nh6$7)

if you would like an appointment to meet with the class teacher just so that you can share key information with them that you feel will be important for them to know. This is, of course, an optional meeting.

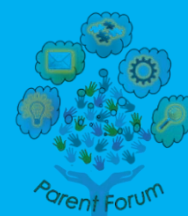


Parent Forum – this Wednesday 23rd September 9:00am

We wish to continue to develop parents support with school improvement, so will be sharing the school's priorities for the next academic year

All welcome!

Just come to the school office after you have dropped off your child.



ROALD DAHL ASSEMBLY

This year, Roald Dahl would have been 110 years old! To celebrate, Miss Sandu led our Friday assembly in celebrating some of his works and learning a little bit about his life. She told us about his writing process - where he wrote and the fact he just used a paper and pencil! We heard about how he was told at school that he was not very good at writing - but he kept on believing and didn't give up. It was brilliant to see how many children were able to identify the books in Miss Sandhu's cryptic game! I think we all left wanting to write and wanting to use our imagination. Thank you to Miss Sandhu for a wonderful start to our Friday!

If you would like to visit the Roald Dahl museum, information can be found here: <https://www.roalddahlmuseum.org/plan-your-visit/opening-hours/>

Who was Roald Dahl ?

Roald Dahl wasn't always a famous author. In fact, when he was at school, his teachers didn't think he was very good at writing stories at all! But he loved adventure.

He had a very exciting life. He became a fighter pilot in World War Two. He was a spy and even a brilliant sportsman.



What Roald Dahl Teaches Us

Resilience and Bravery: Characters like Matilda and James start out in very difficult situations with people treating them unfairly. But they don't give up. They use their minds, stand up for what is right, and find great friends.



Guess the book

This book features a massive piece of fruit that grows in a garden and rolls across the sea with a crew of giant, talking insects.



HARVEST ASSEMBLY 9:15 THIS FRIDAY – ALL WELCOME

Harvest Food Drive – Help Us Support The Salvation Army

As we celebrate Harvest this year, we are asking our school community to help us support The Salvation Army by taking part in our Harvest Food Drive.



For many families across the UK, putting enough food on the table can be a real challenge. The latest figures show that more than 2.6 million emergency food parcels were provided across the UK in 2025. That is the equivalent of one parcel every 12 seconds.

There are also worrying signs that many people are having to make difficult choices to afford essential household costs. In a recent Salvation Army survey of renters in Great Britain, one in four people said they had skipped meals in the previous year to help cover their household costs.

What can we donate?

- Tinned vegetables, fruit, soup, meat or fish
- Baked beans, tinned spaghetti or ravioli
- Pasta and rice and sauces
- Breakfast cereal UHT/long-life milk
- Tea, coffee, biscuits and crisps and other savoury snacks
- Toothpaste, soap, shampoo and toilet roll can also be very useful to food banks and community support services.



A single tin might not seem like much, but when our whole school community contributes, those individual donations can become a substantial collection of food for people who need a helping hand. Please bring your donations on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th to the classes.



Thank you for helping us to show kindness, generosity and care for others in our community.

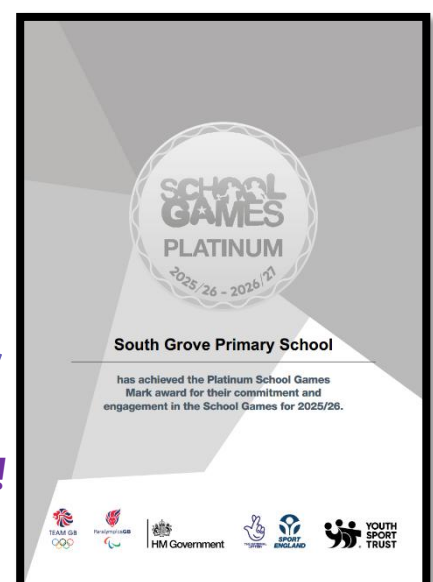


With my very best wishes

J. Maltwood.

Julie Maltwood
Headteacher

Did't we do well!!



SOUTH GROVE LEARNING GALLERY

THIS WEEK: NURSERY & RECEPTION

Nursery

What an amazing start to the year in nursery! We have been so excited to see our returning children and to meet the new children joining us this year. We have loved getting to know the families and to see every child find their way in nursery. Every day we see the children become more comfortable and it has been so wonderful to see!



Reception

Last week, our lovely Reception children attended school for one whole week! They have begun to choose their learning, become familiar with some of the routines of the school day and started to make lots of lovely new friends. They have also learnt to make and stand in a line and are beginning to wait in order to have a turn. A big part of the week had been getting used to ordering the food we want in the lunch hall too!

We were also finding out about being kind to others. We practiced using our fine motor skills to thread beads and make a friendship bracelet. Here are some photos of our first week!



Changes to the Learning Gallery

Next week the Learning Gallery will feature Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) continuing the change of showcasing a different Key Stage each week in rotation in the newsletter. Other pieces will continue to be put on the website and app

SOUTH GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027



Autumn Term 2026

Term:	Wednesday 2nd September – Friday 18th December 2026
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR YEARS 1 – 6 PUPILS THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2026
	RETURNING NURSERY START BACK ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER
	New Reception start a staggered entrance from 9th September & New Nursery from 10th September– individual letters will be sent
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 & Monday 2 nd November 2026
Half Term:	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026 (inclusive)
Winter Holiday:	Monday 21 st December 2026 – Friday 1 st January 2026 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Friday 18th December 2026 at 2:30pm

Spring Term 2027

Term:	Monday 4th January – Thursday 25th March 2027
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2027
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term:	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027 (inclusive)
Spring Holiday	Friday 26 th March – Friday 9 th April 2027 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Thursday 25th March 2027 at 2:30pm

Summer Term 2027

Term:	Monday 12th April – Thursday 22nd July 2027
	SCHOOL STARTS FOR PUPILS MONDAY 12th APRIL 2027
	School closed to pupils on:
Staff Training Days:	Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd July 2027
Public Holiday:	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 3 rd May 2027
Half Term:	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027 (inclusive)
	School finishes for pupils on Tuesday 20th July 2027 at 2:30pm