

A Caring Community!

Richard Bradley reporting...

At the end of last term, pupils at Sweyne Park were once again very generous in donating food and money to provide Christmas gifts for our elderly neighbours.

In particular, we have had for many years a close relationship with Dobson House, a local Care Home. Pupils in Year 8 provided gifts, including some home-made cakes, and joined the residents at the end of their Christmas dinner.

The residents very much enjoyed seeing the pupils at Christmas, and the pupils were pleased to meet the residents, saying that it gave them a different perspective on family life at Christmas. We hope to continue our relationship with Dobson House for many years to come.



Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

FREE SCHOOL MEALS
Parents on low incomes and receiving certain benefits are entitled to claim Free School Meals for their child(ren). Full details and an application form are available online at www.essex.gov.uk/education. Alternatively, please do ring Pupil Services at the school and they will be happy to advise you and help with an application. If your claim is successful, a set amount will be credited to your child's account on our cashless catering system, which ensures anonymity. It is well worth having - even if your child only uses it to buy a drink/snack to supplement a packed lunch!

ATTENDANCE
Thank you for your support in ensuring we have such excellent attendance at school. Please can I remind families that if your child is unwell, please do ring the school before morning registration so that our records are accurate. We do follow up any unexplained absences as a matter of routine. Thank you.

Parents' Time
A member of the Leadership Team will be available to see parents without appointment:
9:00am-9:45am Monday - Friday
5:00pm-5:45pm Thursdays



DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

- Brandon, Molly, Lucy, Ben & Keira (8NGa)
- Sophia & Charlie (8JFe)
- Mia & Preston (8SMY)

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please remember to clearly label school uniform with your child's name. If it is lost we can then return the items.

Please feel free to come and look at our lost property before we dispose of it again.

Thank you.

Pupil Services



Book of the Week

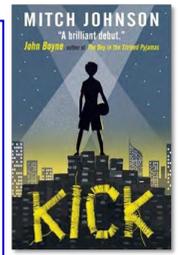
KICK
by Mitch Johnson

Budi spends every minute dreaming of playing for the greatest football team on earth. However, his daydreaming can get him into trouble at the factory, where he sweats in the oppressive heat, stitching the football boots he has to make. When playing football with his friends, one mis-timed kick brings Budi to the attention of the most dangerous man in Jakarta - the Dragon.

A wonderful story that will have you rooting for Budi all the way, but a story that also makes you stop, think and question.



SHORT-LISTED FOR ESSEX BOOK AWARD 2018
WILL IT WIN?



PARENTPAY FOR CATERING

Please remember to top-up your child's account on ParentPay at least a couple of hours before lunchtime. If possible, please top-up the day before.

Payments do not show on pupils' accounts for a couple of hours.

Thank you.

Pupil Services



Adam Thomson reporting...

Year 7 visit to Holy Trinity Church

On Monday 18th December, Year 7 pupils attended a Christmas Celebration Event at Holy Trinity Church in Rayleigh. The event involved the singing of songs and hymns, reflections on the meaning of Christmas, both religious and beyond, and readings by both pupils and staff. Hanna, Harry, William and Alice all read with great clarity and confidence and contributed to a fantastic event. Freya and Sian in Year 12, along with Mr Compton, also gave readings about their own experiences of Christmas and what it means to them, both with important messages about love, generosity, empathy and respect. Kiera and Katie, both Year 11, gave a wonderful musical performance to open the celebration, while the Sweyne Park Choir performed several classic Christmas songs beautifully too, which really helped to set the scene. We were also lucky enough to be treated to a performance by the Sweyne Park Signing Choir, which was truly inspiring. The event was a great success and enabled pupils to see one of the many ways in which religion plays an active role in the community; a fitting way to end the year!



Year 9 - First Give

This term Year 9 pupils are beginning the First Give scheme as part of their CPRE lessons. The scheme, which is now in its third year, will give pupils the chance to choose a cause that they feel passionate about, identifying a local charity who work for this cause and researching the work that they do. In class teams, pupils will have to develop key employability skills as they research, communicate, evaluate and present information on their chosen charity, simultaneously strengthening their own CV while benefitting their local community. The scheme runs as a competition, meaning that each class will compete to earn a £1000 grant for their local charity! Classes will send their presentation teams to a prestigious final event, where a judging panel makes the overall decision based on the quality of the presentation and the social action that has taken place to help that charity. This certainly promises to be an exciting term for Year 9!

Rights Respecting Group

At Sweyne Park, the Rights Respecting Group, which is made up of pupils from across all year groups, works hard to ensure that the rights of all children, both at SPS and further afield, are looked after. Over the past year, the Rights Respecting Group has embarked on several projects to raise awareness of children's rights across the school. One such project involved creating A3 posters for each subject to put into classrooms, reminding all staff and pupils of the rights that we have and the importance of respect. The group are now focused on their next project, which involves creating a series of rights-based activities for tutor groups and fundraising for UNICEF.