



For most of us, it's a return after a long summer break, but for many others it is the beginning of their journey as a member of our school community. I welcome all new faces: our new starters in 2's, nursery and reception classes; four older pupils joining from other schools; and of course our five new teachers – Mrs Lenderyou, Mr Butt, Mr Lindstedt, Miss Maughan and Miss Newcombe. *I know you will love being part of our academy as much as I do!*

I'm pleased to report your children (on the whole) have settled into their new classes and are clearly enjoying the start of life with their new teacher.

I know you have all received your new term letters from teachers outlining expectations, curriculum and routines for the term ahead. It is important to note the calendar events as time flies and class assemblies, open days, and parent evening will soon be upon us.

We have planned a range of activities for the whole school, discussed class assemblies, celebrations, discos, Harvest, Christmas, fundraisers, coffee mornings, non-uniform days, dress-up days and class visits/visitors – all of which create memories and exciting experiences for your children. Additionally, teachers from all year groups and/or phases are planning age-related activities and events. If you have other ideas, please let us know through the PTA or pop into school, because we are keen to explore further events that can fuse family and school life. Whilst we arrange activities to enhance learning, we are always seeking ways to fundraise, support charities, and celebrate our children's success.

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please pop into school or ring as soon as you have a concern or question. The best time to catch a teacher is after school (unless they are running a club or in a meeting) or earlier in the day (before 8:45am – unless they are running a club or in a meeting). Should I not be available, please speak with Mrs Roberts.

I look forward to seeing you in school for assemblies, workshops, family learning and celebration events – or when you drop in to update us on matters affecting you and your children.

Best wishes,

Mrs Julie Cort, Headteacher



During the holiday we met several people who asked me why I would choose to send my child to South Hylton Primary when we live more than ten miles away and have several schools within walking distance of our front door.

Without hesitation, I tell them the same thing...

1. I know what goes on in every part of the school – and see what other parents don't get to see...*and I want my child to be part of that.* You only have to walk around it and you're thinking 'I want my child to come here...I wish school was like this when I was a child!'

2. Our children are amazing – they're respectful and caring – a pure delight.

3. Staff are THE hardest working and most dedicated professionals I have ever worked with and they all want the same thing – *the best for each and every child.* They are passionate about ensuring every child's experience is of the highest quality.

4. Our building and premises are fantastic – we have great indoor and outdoor space; our grounds are wonderful!

5. Learning experiences go well beyond 'school hours' as clubs start at 8:00 am and there is a club after school for every child who wants to stay. **In fact, three days out of five, there's SIX clubs running after school to choose from.**

6. Many visits and enhancement activities are paid for by school – or heavily subsidised. Annual KS2 residential, theatre visits, working with artists and PE coaches – and not forgetting free swimming lessons for two years – are routinely provided.

I list many, many other opportunities, and tell them how it is a **GOOD** school – highly rated by OFSTED as a '**nurturing, friendly and harmonious school where pupils develop good learning behaviours and their confidence flourishes**'.

Then I ask:

*'Why would I **NOT** send my child to South Hylton Primary Academy?'*

What's new?

Due to new staff on board, we now have an offering of different clubs. **Rugby, Gaming, Science, Textiles/ Cross Stitch, Funky Fitness and Rock Band** are all added to our extensive menu. I know I found we were spoilt for choice when deciding which clubs Amelia would benefit from attending.

Thank you staff for volunteering your time and energy so we can offer our pupils this provision. I know *children and parents appreciate your hard work!*

Who is Who – I've seen new faces amongst the staff!

You may be greeted in the office by someone from the school system team:

School System Team:

School Business Manager: Mrs Deanne McLoughlin or
Administration Support: Mrs Antonia Rose
Site Supervisor: Mr Dave Mollison

If you need to speak with a manager:

School Leadership

Headteacher: Mrs Julie Cort
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Angela Roberts

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Joanne Coulson, Miss Jackie Brown
Key Stage 2 Lead: Miss Leanne Sayer

We now have two classes per cohort as follows:

Teachers

2's: Miss Louise Eltringham (HLTA)
Nursery: Mrs Hayley Wooton
Reception: Miss Skye Lowes, Miss Maisie Gales
Year 1: Mrs Victoria Scott
Year 1b: Miss Chloe Newcombe
Year 2: Miss Jackie Brown
Year 2b: Mrs Lisa Collins
Year 3: Mr Karl Donaldson
Year 3b: Miss Jessica Maughan
Year 4: Mr Tony Lindstedt
Year 4b: Miss Jasmine Black
Year 5: Miss Suzanne Gilley
Year 5b: Mr Elliott Butt
Year 6: Miss Atqiya Begum
Year 6b: Mrs Michelle Lenderyou
PPA: Mrs Fiona Fairless (T), Jackie Jackson (HLTA), Miss Julie Redpath (HLTA), Miss Alahna Gow (HLTA), Mrs Leanne Sayers (T)

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Tracy Jensen Miss Wendy Blyth Mrs Anita Rogers
Miss Kristy McCardle Mr Adrian Curd Miss Samantha Jackson
Miss Simone Fountain Mrs Helen Byrne Miss Sam Bell
Miss Samantha Spencer Miss Emma Collins Mrs Louise Chisholme
Miss Louise Thompson Miss Alahna Gow (HLTA)
Miss Louise Eltringham (HLTA)
Miss Jackie Jackson (HLTA)
Miss Julie Redpath (HLTA)

Music Support: Mr Dan Potter, Ms Angela Mason

Our Local Governing Body

Should you need to contact a Governor or find out more about their role, our website gives details about South Hylton Primary's Local Governing Body.

Mrs Kay Blyth, Chair, and Mr Dave Pringle, Vice Chair, can be contacted through school.

You may see parent and community governors out and about and they will be happy to offer information and support, should they be able to.

Office Opening Hours

The shutters will be opened at 8.30 am for any queries and closed at 3:50 pm

Whilst staff are on the premises and arrive in plenty of time for school opening, the telephone and office will not always be manned outside of the school core day

Our website provides more information on how the school is organized:

www.southhilton.org.uk

Our School is the heart of
our community
– not our community room

Last week, a parent reminded me that I previously promised our school would not change when we joined the LST, but have subsequently broken that promise because our community room has closed.

The decision for changing the room's use was due to increased pupil and staff numbers – *and does not change our school and what we are about.* This academic year we experienced increased demand on space and the most cost-effective way to manage this was looking at how rooms are used.

With the exception of Mothers and Toddlers, we can easily relocate **all** activities to other parts of our building. Wraparound is still offered, and we will be doing no less fundraising or assemblies. Indeed, with increased staffing, we have greater capacity to run additional activities across school for our pupils and their parents.

Please remember we now have provision for 2 years olds. This was set up to **support our community and help parents with younger children.** When Mothers and Toddlers was set up, we were not in any position to offer this provision.

Sometimes, we have to re-think how we are using our school building and grounds to ensure we meet the needs of our pupils and parents in the longer term.

A very small number of parents of pre-2's have been affected by this change of room use; but had we not made these critical changes, a class of children, their parents *and* all adults working with them would have been affected.

My promise of our school (academy) being for our community's children and will continue to be a 'family' has not changed – and nor will it!

We've GROWN!

I'm not simply referring to our children's height, but the school population which has increased considerably in recent years.

When I started here, we had 198 pupils on roll and several spare rooms around our building. We now have **over 320 pupils**, and have required two extensions in the last three years to accommodate additional pupils and the opening of our 2 years provision.

During the summer holiday we created a classroom for our Year 3 pupils, as we were short of a room in KS2 – ***but it meant taking the room designated for teachers' and TAs' planning and preparation.***

In addition, we could not fit all staff in the staffroom for meetings let alone breaks. As our pupil numbers grow, so does staffing – and the demand for classrooms.

Subsequently, the PPA room is now a Year 3 classroom, and the community room is now a multi-functional space for staff – seating and preparation area (with several computers/ work stations).

Losing the community room had the **least impact upon our pupils.**

School Uniform

Our children look every so smart in their new uniforms and black shoes. With very few exceptions, children are all wearing full and correct clothing, and have a coat for the cooler weather.

Please be reminded that our polo shirt/ shirt is light blue (and not white), and footwear must be black shoes – not trainers.

Earrings, nail varnish and jewellery must NOT be worn, and you will be asked to come into school and remove such items should your child arrive at school wearing them.

I thank all parents who support us on this matter – as we had very few individual cases when parents had simply forgotten to take earrings out/ remove tattoos following the summer holiday.

Please label all clothing items – as children sometimes take home another's jumper/ coat. It helps other parents identify random clothing in their child's bag should this happen!

Make checking your child's hair part of your nightly routine...it's the only way we can prevent head lice from spreading!

