

14th September 2023

Dear parent or carer,

It has been truly wonderful to welcome the children back to school and we are looking forward to meeting you for our Year Group Coffee Mornings over the next two weeks. It will provide us with an opportunity to come together as a school community, answer any of your questions and for everyone to reconnect. We look forward to strengthening these relationships over the coming year.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our celebration of Harvest this year on Friday 29th September.

Year 3 parents are welcome to join us for a special assembly at 10:15 to celebrate, and see their children perform on the stage for the first time.

Harvest Festival is one of the many ways our school helps local and national charities and the children will be discussing in class the importance of giving to others and helping our community.

We are always very grateful for your support in donating goods to the Farnham Foodbank. Receiving Harvest donations from schools goes a long way to ensure that the Foodbank can continue to feed those in the local community who are in crisis.

If you are able to contribute to our Harvest donations the children can bring them to the school on Friday 29th September (at both Infant and Junior Sites). We would very much appreciate any non-perishable food items or toiletries but in particular we have been asked for:

- Pasta sauce
- Tinned ham
- 1lt carton long life fruit juice
- Boxes of chocolate

Last year's Harvest Festival collection from a variety of organisations in the Farnham area resulted in over 5000kg of much needed food being donated to the Foodbank. Throughout 2022 the Foodbank was able to provide food to 2,787 adults of which 1,100 children were children.

Online Safety

At the beginning of this new school year, we wish to shine a light on an increasingly important aspect of our Safeguarding responsibilities – Online Safety. All staff at South Farnham School are committed to providing the highest quality Online Safety education for all of our pupils through a combination of assemblies, classroom displays, special events, and Computing and PSHE lessons.

At school, we have robust filtering and monitoring systems in place to keep your children safe whilst working digitally but we recognise the increased use of technology at home – for example using Mathletics, Spelling Shed and completing homework projects.

We would recommend you consider the following measures at home:

- Ensure that devices are used in communal areas as opposed to bedrooms e.g. lounge, kitchen.
- Encourage your children to talk to you about what they are doing online so that you can be a part of their learning experience, but also monitor it carefully.
- Activate filtering services and parental controls provided by your Internet Service Provider – informally known as ‘Net Nannies’ in the past. This includes limits to restrict and control ‘screentime’ centrally.
- Regularly remind your children about their role as a responsible user of technology and reinforce that they should talk to a trusted adult if they experience anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable.

The school website has a page dedicated to Online Safety, with useful guides and resources to help you stay up to date with the apps, online platforms and activities that your children may be engaging with online. It is refreshed as our understanding and awareness changes, but we wanted to highlight 3 websites that we recommend all parents familiarise themselves with.

- [Internet Matters](#) has step-by-step guides on how to set up parental controls so that you can control what content your child can access online.
- The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has guidance on how to switch on family-friendly filters to prevent age-inappropriate content being accessed on devices in your home.
- The [NSPCC](#) has more information for parents or carers with concerns about their child seeking inappropriate or explicit content online.

If you have any concerns about your children’s online activity, or need any further support, please don’t hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to help.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Esther Whitbourn

Headteacher



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Member of the South Farnham Educational Trust

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