

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTHBOURNE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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11th September 2026

Dear Parents,

To encourage independence, confidence and self-motivation, our school offers a personal development scheme called the Junior Duke Award. This includes Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards aimed at helping children from the age of 7 to 11 to develop a large variety of life skills.

Each of the awards has a selection of challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish a predetermined number of these successfully. These include skills such as First Aid, Eco awareness, arts and crafts, sport and other life skills such as cookery and doing the laundry! On completion of a level, a well-earned certificate and badge will be awarded along with an end of year celebration afternoon in school. Children should aim to finish their challenges by the end of June.

This week, we have spoken to all the children in assembly about the scheme and the commitment involved. Successful completion of the award will require time and effort outside of school with parents/family members helping them to complete the various challenges. For example, the Cookery Challenge requires your child to be taught the steps of e.g. how to make a cake, to practice the skill more than once with the support of a family member and finally undertake the full process of making a cake independently in order to have the challenge assessed as complete. Likewise, the Domestic Challenge involves teaching your child the full handwashing process - which detergent to use, how to squeeze out the water, how to fold and put away clothes before undertaking the challenge with independence for assessment by their parents!

If your child would like to participate, please sign up at the school office by 28th September, a payment of £10 is required to cover the cost of the booklet as well as badge and certificate on completion. The award is open to children in all year groups, those new to the award will need to start at Bronze. 2026/27 will be the first year where we will also have a group of children able to sign up to the Platinum award which we're very excited about, this applies to any year 6 pupils who have completed bronze, silver and gold over the past three years.

Miss Lowrey

Deputy Headteacher