

# SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Mrs Catchpole's Review: Highlights from the Week
- Dates for your Diary
- Useful Reminders
- Awards of the Week
- Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Gisbey
- Photo Highlights: This Week's Best Moments

Dear Parents,

Firstly Happy Valentine's Day!♥

As we approach the end of term, I want to take a moment to reflect on a very special occasion and share some important news with you all. This week, we came together as a school community to celebrate the remarkable career of Mrs. Viv Gisbey, who is retiring after an incredible 26 years of dedicated service to South Lee Prep School & Nursery.



Mrs. Gisbey has been an integral part of our school, shaping the early years of so many children with her warmth, passion, and unwavering commitment. Her influence on our nursery and Reception classes has been profound, and her nurturing approach has given countless young learners the best possible start to their educational journey.

Her classroom has always been a place of joy and discovery, where each child feels valued, encouraged, and inspired. Mrs. Gisbey's patience, enthusiasm, and ability to bring learning to life will leave an indelible mark on our school, and she will be deeply missed by pupils, parents, and staff alike.

Her dedication has not gone unnoticed. In 2024, she was honoured with the Bury Free Press Teacher of the Year Award—a well-deserved recognition of the immense impact she has had on our children and the wider South Lee community. The love and respect she has earned from us all is a true testament to her extraordinary work.

Beyond her teaching, Mrs. Gisbey has been a cherished colleague and friend, always offering kindness, support, and encouragement to those around her. Her infectious laughter and generous spirit have enriched our school in ways that words cannot fully capture.

As she embarks on this new chapter, we hope she enjoys a well-earned rest, embraces new opportunities, and spends quality time with loved ones. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has given to South Lee Prep, and though we will miss her greatly, her legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of the many children whose lives she has touched. On behalf of the entire South Lee community, I extend my deepest thanks to Mrs. Gisbey for her years of dedication, kindness, and service.

Finally, on a separate note, I would like to express my immense gratitude to our wonderful PTA for their ongoing support of the school. The school disco was another great success last night and the children had a wonderful time.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 25th February.

Our character strength for the first week back will be HUMILITY.

With warmest regards,  
Mrs Sarah Catchpole

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## FEBRUARY 2025

### Week 8:

Monday, 17th - Friday, 21st: *Inclusive Half Term*

### Week 9: Character Strength for the Week - Humility

Tuesday, 25th: 12:50 *Catchpole Club Lunch and Years 7 & 8 Parent Lunch*  
16:30 - 19:00 *Year 1 - Year 8 Parents Evening*

Wednesday, 26th: 13:45 *U13 Hockey v Orwell Park (A)*  
14:30 *U11 Netball v Barnardiston Hall & Ipswich High (H)*  
14:30 *U11 Hockey v Barnardiston Hall (H)*

Thursday, 27th: 12:50 *Year 6 Parent Lunch*  
16:30 - 19:00 *Year 1 - Year 8 Parents Evening*

Friday, 28th: 14:00 *U8 Tag Rugby v Ipswich High (A)*  
14:00 *U9 Hockey v Ipswich High (A)*  
14:30 *U9 Rugby v St Joseph's College (A)*

## MARCH 2025

### Week 10: Character Strength for the Week - Self-Discipline

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd: *Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts*

Monday, 3rd: *Year 3 Viking Day*  
14:30 *U13 Football v Framlingham Prep (H)*  
14:30 *U11 Football v Framlingham Prep (H)*  
16:30 - 19:00 *Years 4 - 8 Subject Parents Evening*

Tuesday, 4th: 10:45 *Inter House Pancake Race*  
15:00 *U11 Netball Tournament (H)*

Wednesday, 5th: 14:30 *U13 Netball v Orwell Park (A)*  
14:30 *U11 Football v St Margaret's (A)*

Thursday, 6th: *World Book Day*  
*Usborne Book Fair*  
12:10 *Whole School Book Day Launch*  
13:50 - 14:10 *Academic Focus Group*

Friday, 7th: 08:30 *PTA Meeting*  
*Mother's Day Glass Fusing Workshop by the PTA*  
14:30 *U8 Tag Rugby v Barnardiston Hall (H)*  
14:30 *U9 Rugby v Barnardiston Hall (H)*  
14:30 *U9 Hockey v Barnardiston Hall (H)*

Saturday, 8th: *Ski Trip departs - Pra Loup (France)*

Regular Font: Pupils Only

*Italic Font - Parents' Invited*

## Pupil Absence Request

Regular attendance is essential for children's learning and development. At South Lee Prep, we work in partnership with parents to support excellent attendance and punctuality, which are vital for making the most of every learning opportunity. If you plan to take your child out of school, please complete the Absence Request Form: [Absence Request Form](#)

# USEFUL REMINDERS

## MyNametags – Support South Lee Prep School & Nursery

We are pleased to announce our partnership with MyNametags, where you can order personalised labels for your child's belongings. By using our unique **School ID: 8113** when placing your order online at [www.MyNametags.com](http://www.MyNametags.com), 24% of each order will be donated back to the school.

Please remember, the School ID is not a discount code but ensures that the school is credited for your purchase. If you use the school name instead of the ID number, the order will not be recognised and the school will not receive the donation.

We encourage all parents to take advantage of this simple way to support South Lee while keeping your child's items organised. For more information, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

---

## South Lee Jute Bags

**Our stylish South Lee jute bags are now available for just £5.00 each!**

These eco-friendly bags are perfect for carrying your essentials and are a great way to show your school spirit. Available from the office, they're ideal for shopping trips, daily use, or as a thoughtful gift. Don't miss out—pop by the office to grab yours today!

---

## Parent Lunch

We warmly invite parents to join their child for a special lunch at school. To confirm your attendance, please RSVP to [office@southlee.co.uk](mailto:office@southlee.co.uk) and let us know of any dietary requirements.

**25th February: Years 7 & 8 Parent Lunch at 12:50pm**

**13th March: Year 3 Parent Lunch at 12:50pm**

**27th February: Year 6 Parent Lunch at 12:50pm**

---

## Spring Term Parents' Evening

We are pleased to share the dates for our Spring Term Parents' Evenings:

**For Year 1 to Year 3 (Appointment for these year groups will be with the Form Tutor only):**

- Tuesday 25th February 2025, 4:30pm–7:00pm
- Thursday 27th February 2025, 4:30pm–7:00pm

**For Year 4 to Year 8 (Appointments for these year groups will be subject-based):**

- Tuesday 25th February 2025, 4:30pm–7:00pm
- Thursday 27th February 2025, 4:30pm–7:00pm
- Monday 3rd March 2025, 4:30pm–7:00pm

All meetings will take place in the Main School Hall, with each appointment lasting 10 minutes. **Bookings can be made via the Parent Portal from today.** Please note, there will be no after school clubs for Years 3 - 8 on these evenings, but Prep and After School Care will be available.

---

## Year 3 Viking Day

On **Monday 3rd March 2025, Year 3 will have Viking Day**, with activities led by a Viking expert. Students can wear Viking costumes (ideas attached), and we will also make shields and helmets in class. Activities include Viking board games, a learning walk, artifact exploration, and a Viking battle re-enactment.

The cost, subsidised by the school, is **£15.00 per child**. Please make payments to **South Lee School Ltd, Lloyds Bank, Account Number: 00388098, Sort Code: 30-91-49**, and email Mr. Abbott or the office once paid.

---

## World Book Day

We look forward to celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March 2025**. Children are invited to dress as their favourite book character, with an Eco-Warrior prize for the best homemade costume.

We will also host an Usborne Book Fair, where children can purchase a book—please send them in with money if they wish to take part. A special World Book Day lunch will be served.

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Pupil of the Week

**Evie D** for showing amazing resilience and perseverance at the dry ski slopes.

## Artist Award of the Week

**Lennon P** for her thoughtful and accomplished artwork, twinned with an excellent attitude to learning.



## Player Award of the Week

**Henry D** for Football - his courageous effort throughout the game and giving his best for his teammates and **Evie D** for Netball- listening and taking on feedback to improve her game.

## Drama Award of the Week

**Akira P** for memorising and being able to perform 4 separate dramatic pieces.



## Musician Award of the Week

**William T** for fantastic concentration to play three hand bells (within the pentatonic scale) during a class performance of two pieces.

## Style Award of the Week

**Elizabeth C** for always looking smart in her uniform.



## Linguist of the Week

**Sener W** for understanding how to correctly conjugate verbs from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group in French.

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Head's Award

**Pre-School:** **Fiachra L** for showing kindness to others. | **Reception:** **George W** for amazing progress in phonics. | **Year 1:** **Oliver T** for being really kind and helpful to those around him. | **Year 2:** **Frida F** for continually making incredible progress in Maths. | **Year 3:** **Edward S** for great focus and effort with his Maths this week. | **Year 4:** **Beau G** for being amazing in History. | **Year 5:** **Jenson B-S** for embracing school life and having exceptional manners. Also putting 100% effort into his school work. | **Year 6:** **Christian M** for his critical thinking in PSHEE. | **Year 7:** **Alton R** for displaying high levels of motivation in Maths. | **Year 8:** **Maisie B** for her continued mature attitude to learning across the curriculum.



## Learning Disposition Awards

**Pre-School:** **Jack C** for showing *independence* by getting himself ready for school and **Agnes B** for showing *curiosity* while learning in Stave House. | **Reception:** **Eva T** for great *concentration* in French and **Anastacia B** for great *independence* across the curriculum. | **Year 1:** **Wyatt C** for his *perseverance* when writing cohesive sentences and **Beatrice B** for her *curiosity* when learning about Saint Valentine. | **Year 2:** **Axel G** for having fantastic *perseverance* in his phonics and English lessons and **Greer P** for showing great *independence* and resilience whilst her parents were away.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT: FAREWELL MRS. GISBEY



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



**Mr Catchpole reads to Pre-School**



**Mrs Catchpole reads to Years 1 & 2**

*This week, Mr C visited Pre-School for storytime, bringing a story to life with lots of engagement. Meanwhile, Mrs C read to Years 1 and 2, sparking plenty of conversation and excitement as they enjoyed the book together.*



*A massive thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising such a fun Valentine's Disco! The children had a fantastic time dancing, laughing, and celebrating with their friends. Your hard work and effort made it a night to remember, and we're so grateful for all the support. Here's to more fun events like this in the future!*

