

# SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. It has been a wonderful week at South Lee Prep School, with the sunshine bringing smiles to the children's faces as they enjoyed the warmth. The week began with some very tired, but happy pupils returning from the ski trip on Saturday afternoon. Their resilience, enthusiasm, and determination throughout the trip were truly commendable, and I could not be prouder of them.



Meanwhile, also on Saturday, Mr. M and Mrs. T accompanied a group of pupils to the East Anglian Prep Schools Cross Country Championship. A huge well done to all those who took part. On Monday, our pupils demonstrated their athleticism once again at another cross-country event, performing brilliantly.

Year 6 & 7 enjoyed an enriching day at Stansted Mountfitchet Castle, where they immersed themselves in history, bringing their studies to life. Later in the week, on Thursday evening, we were treated to a truly outstanding Tea Time Tunes concert. This was by far the best I have seen at South Lee, with an incredible variety of instruments and performances. My sincere thanks to Mrs. Combes and all our peripatetic music teachers for their dedication and support in making this such a special event.

Earlier this term, South Lee Prep School underwent an inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) as part of their routine schedule. Unlike Ofsted reports, which provide an overall grade, the main school (Reception – Year 8) is assessed on whether it meets, or does not meet, the required standards. I am delighted to report that all areas within the main school have been judged as 'met.' The report is filled with wonderful and highly positive feedback, with one key finding stating:

***"Leaders give pupils' well-being a high priority. As a consequence, a positive atmosphere prevails throughout the school, and pupils show high levels of self-confidence."***

During their visit, inspectors also provided informal feedback, praising the Year 7 & 8 Active Leadership Programme, which encourages pupils to take on meaningful duties and responsibilities appropriate for their age. They were particularly impressed with how this initiative fosters leadership, teamwork, and a strong sense of service to the community—reinforcing our school's ethos of care and involvement.

Inspectors also highlighted the dedication and expertise of our staff, the high level of intellectual engagement in lessons, and the extensive extra curricular opportunities available to pupils. They commended the strong pastoral and safeguarding culture at South Lee, noting the personalised support provided by teachers and the impressive progress made by our pupils.

Regrettably, despite my considerable efforts—including formal complaints and numerous discussions with ISI and Ofsted regarding concerns over the nursery inspection process and inspector conduct—the judgement for our Nursery has been confirmed as 'Requires Improvement,' with the exception of Safeguarding, which was fully met. However, a positive outcome from this process is that ISI is now reviewing aspects of its inspection procedures in response to the feedback we have provided.

While this outcome is disappointing, there are many positives highlighted in the Nursery report, which I shared with the Nursery team earlier this week. Unfortunately, a few minor issues were given disproportionate weight, leading to the overall judgement. It is also very important to mention that the report states that the nursery is meeting all national standards and provides a high-quality foundation for learning.

It also states that the school takes early education seriously, and ensures children have all the key skills to move into main school. It is important to note that our Reception class, although part of the EYFS, was inspected under the main school.

However, I do not want this result from the nursery inspection to detract from the exceptional work being carried out across our whole school every day. We move forward with confidence, building on the strengths identified and continuing to provide the highest standard of education and care for our pupils.

Finally, the commitment of our staff across all areas of the school is what makes South Lee such a special place, and I am incredibly grateful for their dedication.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are a strong community and I am very proud to be part of it. The link for the full report is here: [South Lee Prep School ISI Report](#)

With warmest regards,  
Mrs Sarah Catchpole

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MARCH 2025

#### Week 13: Character Strength for the Week - Perseverance

- Monday, 24th: Shakespeare Week
- Tuesday, 25th: *Pre-School and Reception Parent Evening*
- Wednesday, 26th: Year 1 visit to Great Cressingham Victorian School  
*14:30 U13 Football v Ipswich High (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Netball v Fairstead House (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Football v Fairstead House (A)*  
*Pre-School and Reception Parent Evening*
- Thursday, 27th: 09:00 Shakespeare Assembly
- Friday, 28th: *09:00 Pre-Prep Verse Speaking Final*  
Easter Egg Hunt  
**TERM ENDS**

### APRIL 2025

#### Week 1: Character Strength for the Week - Resilience

- Tuesday, 22nd: Staff and Nursery INSET Day  
Nursery Closed
- Wednesday, 23rd: Staff INSET Day  
Nursery Open to All-Year-Round Children Only
- Thursday, 24th: **SUMMER TERM BEGINS**  
**Clubs Begin**

Regular Font: Pupils Only

*Italic Font - Parents' Invited*

# USEFUL REMINDERS

## 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](#)

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## 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.

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## Pre-School and Reception Parent Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming **Pre-School and Reception parents for our upcoming Parents' Evening on 25th and 26th March 2025.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss your child's progress and development with their teacher. If you would like to **book an appointment, please kindly contact your child's form teacher directly.**

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## Year 1 Visit to Great Cressingham Victorian House

On **Tuesday, 26th March 2025, Year 1 will be visiting Great Cressingham Victorian School**, where the children will step back in time and experience what school life was like during the Victorian era. **The cost of the trip is £4.50**, and we kindly ask for payment to be made via bank transfer to:

**Account Name: South Lee School**

**Sort Code: 30-91-49**

**Account Number: 00388098**

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## Pre-Prep Verse Speaking Finals

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Pre-Prep Verse Speaking Finals on **Friday, 28th March at 9:00am**. Emails have been sent to the parents of the finalists—if your child is taking part, we would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance by emailing the [school office](#). Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you there!

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## Walking for a Cause – Supporting Breast Cancer Now

We are proud to highlight Mrs. Catchpole, who, alongside her daughters Ellie and Katie and her sister Julie, is taking part in the Pink Ribbon Walk at Blenheim Palace on 10th May 2025 to support Breast Cancer Now. This cause is deeply personal to her, having lost her mother to breast cancer and now supporting a close friend facing the disease.

By walking, they aim to raise vital funds for research and life-changing care. If you would like to support Mrs. Catchpole and her family, please consider donating via her JustGiving page: [Sarah Catchpole – JustGiving](#). Every contribution helps bring us closer to a future where no one faces breast cancer alone.

We are incredibly proud of Mrs. Catchpole and her family for their commitment to this cause and encourage our school community to get involved and support them however you can. Thank you for taking the time to visit her page and consider making a difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer.

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Pupil of the Week

**Flynn L** for for picking up litter without being asked.

## Artist Award of the Week

**Anastasia B** for always working with patience and taking care over the neatness of her work.



## Player Award of the Week

**Thomas Wa** for Hockey - He has a bright future ahead of him on the hockey pitch and stepped up to play with the U11's and stood head and shoulders above the rest, **Luke S** for Football - Playing in an unfamiliar role and accepting the challenge and being rewarded by scoring his first goal of the season and **Maisie B** for Netball - Her consistent enthusiasm and effort on court and in Games lesson.

## Drama Award of the Week

**Riyan P** for for being so engaged and positive in Drama.



## Musician Award of the Week

All the pupils who performed in Tea Time Tunes for their brilliant performance.

## Style Award of the Week

**Maggie P** for always looking smart in her uniform.



## Linguist of the Week

**Molly F** for memorising this week's word list in full, including correct spellings.



# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Head's Award

*Pre-School:* **Freddie T** for lovely concentration when completing his cutting skills. | *Reception:* **George W** for excellent attitude this week in all lessons. | *Year 1:* **Darren D** for perseverance in our taste test. | *Year 2:* **Frida F** for superb sentences in English. | *Year 3:* **Beatrice D** for a fantastic book review in English. | *Year 4:* **Lily G** for putting in a huge amount of effort towards her newspaper report. | *Year 5:* **Theo G** for an excellent understanding of simple, compound and complex sentences in English and **Percy B** for focused work and perseverance in STEM. | *Year 6:* **Amalie C** for working hard to catch up and scoring a 100% in her end of Topic test, despite having missed some Science lessons for Music and LAMDA lessons. | *Year 7:* **Derrick D** for always displaying a growth mindset in lessons. | *Year 8:* **Edward F** for continuing to rise to challenges and promoting the best version of himself.



## Learning Disposition Awards

*Pre-School:* **William C** for great **perseverance** during disco dough when he found it tricky and **Fiachra L** for amazing **perseverance** when trying new foods at lunch time. | *Reception:* **Riyan P** for showing **empathy** and looking after his friends this week and **Archie H** for **concentrating** throughout our literacy lessons and focusing on his sounds. | *Year 1:* **Lucas F** for **curiosity** in our five senses taste test and **Donnacha L** for brilliant perseverance when trying new foods. | *Year 2:* **Emilia L** for showing fantastic perseverance in Maths and **Jack J-W** for displaying excellent communications when working on time in Maths.



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Years 6 & 7 stepped into history with a fantastic trip to Mountfitchet Castle, experiencing life as it was in the Norman era! They explored the medieval village, wandered through ancient buildings, and discovered what daily life was like centuries ago.*

*A hands-on, immersive experience that brought history to life—learning has never been so much fun!*



*A huge well done to Charlotte B, Thomas W, Alexander K, Oliver O'C, and William T, who took part in the 45th East Anglian Prep Schools' Cross Country at OBH over the weekend. Competing against pupils from 13 different schools, they did brilliantly, showing determination and sportsmanship. We're incredibly proud of their efforts!*



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Break time is all about soaking up the sun - whether it's running around with friends, sharing laughs, or relaxing with a good book. The best way to spend a bright and beautiful day!*



*Fantastic effort on the netball courts! Our U11 girls took on Brookes UK, while our U13 team faced Holmwood House, showing great teamwork, determination, and skill. Well done to all the players - what a brilliant display of sportsmanship and team spirit!*



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Our children lit up the stage with exceptional talent, creativity, and confidence during Tea Time Tunes, delighting their families and showcasing the spirit of our vibrant community.*



*Our Reception children have carefully planted a beautiful Easter garden, bringing new life and joy to the season—their hard work and enthusiasm shining through in every detail.*