

# SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Dear Parents,

As another week comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on all that has taken place here at school over the past few days, and I am filled with pride and gratitude for our vibrant community.

We began the week with NSPCC workshops for Years 2, 5, and 6, which provided our pupils with important tools to stay safe and confident in navigating their world. These sessions are always impactful and serve as a reminder of the essential work we do in developing not just academically curious learners but also well-rounded and resilient young people.

Year 7 embarked on an exciting journey this week as they began their Individual Project Qualification (IPQ). This marks the start of what I am sure will be a rewarding experience, as they explore their interests in greater depth, learn how to research effectively, and develop invaluable presentation skills.

On Tuesday, I received a thoughtful letter from our Eco Warriors, who met with Mrs. Carter to discuss ways we can reduce paper waste at school. It's inspiring to see their passion for sustainability, and I look forward to working with them to implement some of their ideas. Later that day, I was fortunate to spend the afternoon at our Under 9 Dodgeball competition, which we hosted in the sports hall. With over eight local state schools participating, it was a fantastic event filled with energy, teamwork, and sportsmanship. I was particularly proud of our Year 4 A team, who triumphed in the final against Abbots Green, securing a spot in the County Finals—what a tremendous achievement!

Wednesday brought us another highlight as we hosted Stoke College and Thetford Grammar for sporting fixtures. I must say, our match teas have earned their place among the best on the district circuit!

On Thursday, I had the privilege of interviewing some of our wonderful Year 4 pupils as part of our internal academic scholarship process. Their knowledge, confidence, and poise were truly inspiring, and I left the school that day with an enormous sense of pride. One of the joys of my role is sitting down with the children, hearing their thoughts, and seeing first-hand the incredible individuals they are becoming.

Today, we kicked off the morning with our January Joy workout led by Mr. C, and it was wonderful to see so many Year 2 parents joining in. What better way to start the day than with a bit of exercise (and perhaps earning that post-workout pastry afterwards!)? Of course, our Celebration Assembly was the perfect way to end the week. These gatherings always remind me how special our school community is and how much we have to celebrate.

Looking ahead to next week, we have much to look forward to. On Monday, our ski trip pupils will visit the Ipswich dry slopes for a practice session—a perfect preparation for their upcoming adventure. On Wednesday, we will mark Chinese New Year with a festive Chinese feast. Then on Thursday, we will be thrilled to welcome grandparents to our Pre-School and Pre-Prep Grandparents' Lunch. Please do book your place through the school office, as spaces are limited to two guests per child.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Best regards,

*Mrs Catchpole*





# JANUARY JOYS!



<b>MON, 27TH:</b>	<b>BEAT THE TEACHER AT TABLE TENNIS IN THE HALL</b>	<b>AM BREAK</b>
<b>TUE, 28TH:</b>	<b>HOT CHOCOLATE AND A CARTOON</b>	<b>AM BREAK</b>
<b>WED, 29TH:</b>	<b>SARDINES WITH MR. M</b>	<b>AM BREAK</b>
<b>THU, 30TH:</b>	<b>BOOMWACKER BAND YOGA (YEARS 3-8)</b>	<b>AM BREAK LUNCHTIME</b>
<b>FRI, 31ST:</b>	<b>HOOK-A-DUCK</b>	<b>AM BREAK</b>

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## 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!

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## JANUARY 2025

### Week 5: Character Strength for the Week - Empathy

- Monday, 27th: Pre-Prep Verse Speaking Launch  
13:50 - 14:10 Academic Focus Group  
16:30 - 18:30 Ski session @ Suffolk Ski Centre
- Tuesday, 28th: 13:30 Food Committee Meeting  
15:00 U13 Dodgeball v St Benedicts (H)
- Wednesday, 29th: Chinese New Year Feast  
14:30 U11 Netball v Holmwood House (A)  
14:30 U11 Football v Holmwood House (A)
- Thursday, 30th: 12:00 Pre-Prep Grandparent Lunch
- Friday, 31st: 08:30 Year 3 Parent Coffee Morning  
14:30 U8 Tag Rugby v St Margaret's (A)  
14:30 U9 Rugby v St Margaret's (A)  
14:30 U9 Hockey v St Margaret's (A)  
19:00 PTA Sip & Paint

## FEBRUARY 2025

### Week 6: Character Strength for the Week - Kindness

- Monday, 3rd: National Storytelling Week  
Children's Mental Health Awareness Week  
13:30 House Shout Rehearsal  
16:30 - 18:30 Ski session @ Suffolk Ski Centre
- Tuesday, 4th: 10:00 U11 Suffolk Schools Dodgeball Competition (A)  
16:00 Boys Mini Red Tennis v Finborough School (H)
- Wednesday, 5th: 14:30 U13 Netball v Thetford Grammar & Brookes UK (A)  
14:30 Football v Thetford Grammar (A)
- Thursday, 6th: Prep School Orchestral/ Choral Day at Uppington School  
09:00 Martineau Lecture - Career Pathways
- Friday, 7th: 08:30 PTA Meeting  
09:00 - 12:00 Open Morning  
14:00 U9 Hockey v OBH (A)  
14:15 U8 Tag Rugby v Brookes UK (A)  
14:30 U8 Tag Rugby v Brookes UK (A)

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](#)

## Pupil Photograph Consent

We are currently in the process of updating our photograph consent forms. If you do not wish for your child to be photographed, please email [office@southlee.co.uk](mailto:office@southlee.co.uk) to update your preferences. Thank you for your cooperation.

# USEFUL REMINDERS

## Parent Coffee Morning

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming Coffee Mornings. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and chat informally with staff. We look forward to seeing you there!

**31st January: Year 3 Coffee Morning at 8:30am**

**14th February: Pre-School Coffee Morning at 8:30am**

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## 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**

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## Pre-School and Pre-Prep Grandparent Lunch

We warmly invite the grandparents of our Pre-School and Pre-Prep pupils to join us for a special Grandparent Lunch on **Thursday, 30th January 2025, at 12:00 pm (maximum of two guests per pupil)**.

To help us with arrangements, please email [office@southlee.co.uk](mailto:office@southlee.co.uk) to confirm attendance and inform us of any dietary requirements. We look forward to welcoming you!

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## School String Orchestra Rehearsals

We would like to kindly remind parents that string orchestra rehearsals on **Thursday mornings will now start at 8:00am**. Children who are currently learning the violin or cello, but are not yet part of the orchestra, are warmly invited to join. Please ensure children take their instruments home regularly to practice.

Children who are part of the orchestra and have Games immediately after are kindly requested to come in their sports kits, ready to head straight to Games once rehearsals finish.

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## Prep School Orchestral/ Choral Day at Uppington School

Letters have been sent home with the selected children in the choir and orchestra regarding the Prep School Orchestral/Choral Day at Uppingham School on **Thursday, 6th February 2025**.

**Please complete the consent section and return it to Mrs Coombes or the school office as soon as possible.**

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## Internet Safety Parent Talk with Mr Clinch

We are inviting all parents to attend an important Internet Safety Parent Talk with Mr Clinch on **Tuesday, 11th February 2025 at 4:30 pm** (no children). This session will provide valuable advice on keeping your child safe online.

Please RSVP to [office@southlee.co.uk](mailto:office@southlee.co.uk) to confirm your attendance.

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## Engage Parent App

A reminder to parents (Reception - Year 8) that you can keep up to date with school communications—including activity bookings, term reports, and more—via the Engage app.

To get started:

1. Visit <https://southleeschoolportal.engagehosted.com>.
2. Follow the step-by-step guide attached this week's parent newsletter email to re/install and set up the app correctly.

If you do not yet have your Engage sign-in details, please contact the [school office](#) for assistance.

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Pupil of the Week

**Isaiah N** for his quiet determination to do his best in lessons, communicating well and making excellent decisions around school.

## Artist Award of the Week

**Shia W-B** for being patient, calm and enthusiastic in her drawing.



## Player Award of the Week

**Henry D** for Football (for orchestrating a solid defence and communicating well with his teammates throughout the game) and **Maggie P** for Netball (for her hard work and determination on the court).

## Drama Award of the Week

**Maxim W** for coming up with creative ideas in drama



## Musician Award of the Week

**Freya F** for fabulous listening and playing staccato and legato in her piano lessons.

## Style Award of the Week

**Saoirse L** for always looking smart in her uniform.



## Linguist of the Week

**Sophia R-C** for taking the Year 5 leader board on the Padlet by storm! And for her excellent pronunciation. Well done Sophia!!!

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Head's Award

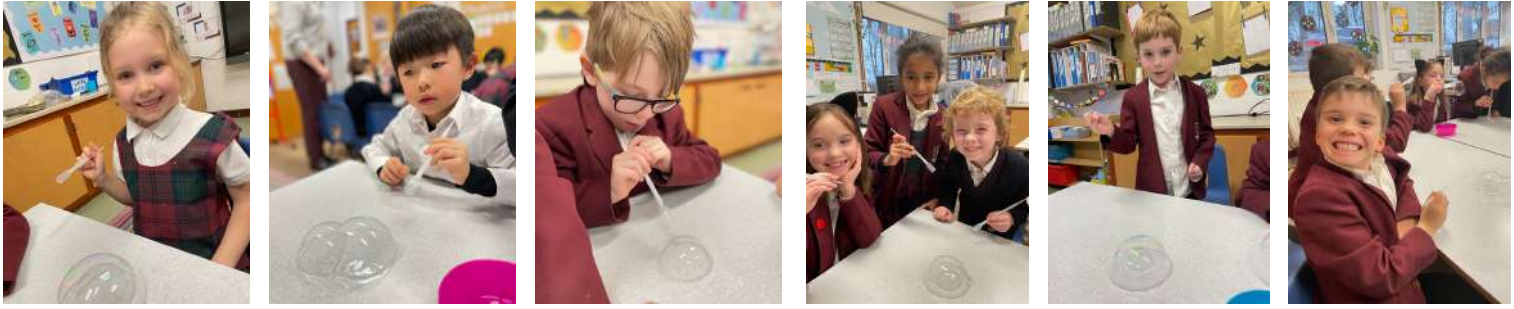
**Pre-School:** **William C** for showing confidence in our role play area. | **Reception:** **Eva T** for showing independence at the lunch table. | **Year 1:** **Mateo V** for settling in so well. | **Year 2:** **Greer Parker** for displaying more confidence within the classroom during group discussions. | **Year 3:** **Eliot C** for amazing effort and focus in his Maths lessons on column addition and subtraction. | **Year 4:** **Raif W** for speaking so brilliantly about climate change when asked about one thing that he would change in the world. | **Year 5:** **Sophia R-C** for always bringing positivity and energy to the classroom. | **Year 6:** **Freddie C** for always being a good role model and for beginning to enjoy reading. | **Year 7:** **Freddie D** for a calm and focused approach in Maths lessons. | **Year 8:** **Luke S** for always being organised in all aspects of school life and managing homework time effectively.



## Learning Disposition Awards

**Pre-School:** **Rudra K** for helping his friend who was struggling with their zip and **Poppy O'C** for sharing and understanding her friend's feelings. | **Reception:** **Aiden M** for showing curiosity when blowing shapes and **Winnie H** for great perseverance when bouncing and catching a ball. | **Year 1:** **Lucas F** for brilliant communication about his learning and **Olivia P** for showing fantastic independence in English. | **Year 2:** **Emilia L** for having more independence in her learning and **Edison L** for having greater levels of concentration when working towards his target in English.

# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Our Pre-Prep children had a bubbly time at Science Club, making and blowing bubbles with lots of smiles and curiosity!*



*What a lovely time we had at our Year 4 Parent Lunch! Thank you to all the parents who joined us—we hope you enjoyed sharing a meal with your children and getting a little taste of school life. It was lovely to have you with us, and we can't wait to do it all again. Until the next one!*



*A huge congratulations to our U9 team for their fantastic victory at the West Suffolk Dodgeball Tournament, hosted here at South Lee Prep School yesterday! Competing against 15 other schools, they showed incredible skill, teamwork, and determination to come out on top. Well done, team—what an amazing achievement!*



*Our music class has been buzzing with creativity as pupils explore rhythms, melodies, and new instruments. Meanwhile, orchestra practice is in full swing, with talented musicians coming together to create something truly special. From solo work to teamwork, it's amazing to see their passion for music grow every day! Bravo to all our young performers!*

# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*What an energising start to the day! The whole school came together for a lively morning workout, and a big thank you to our Year 2 parents who joined in the fun. A refreshing way to kick off the day!*