

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. The children have come back fully refreshed and ready to start what is the most wonderful time of the year, plus one of the busiest. Please can I encourage you to read the newsletter below. We try really hard to communicate with parents as best we can, and this half term has so many amazing events going on that we do not want you to miss out on. An invitation to our annual Christmas Carol Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral is on Friday 6th December. (Invitation attached) The service begins at 2.30pm. This is a slight change to our calendar time of 2pm.



This week has flown by. We started the week with an amazing Diwali assembly hosted by our wonderful Hindu families. Thank you so much to them for bringing in traditional costumes for staff and children to wear plus a special sweet treat for everyone to enjoy. Year 7 and 8 pupils enjoyed a 'Catchpole Club Lunch'. This is always a fun event; the children are really good company and we all enjoyed a fizzy drink and doughnut as an extra special dessert for our older children. On Thursday, Year 7 and 8 took part in an engaging, real-world business challenge set by an entrepreneur: designing a robot to assist with everyday household tasks. This formed part of our Upper Prep Skills and Enterprise morning. We also launched our Fiver Challenge. We have given each group of children £5.00 to build a business. So, if you see children out on the driveway persuading you to purchase goods, this is why! All profits will be going to the PTA this year.

Next week, is Anti-Bullying week. I will be talking to the children about bullying in our assembly on Monday and about being an 'Upstander' (somebody who stands up for someone if they see or hear something that isn't right.) We will also hold our pupil Remembrance Assembly on Monday 11th November. Please ensure that your child comes into school in their full uniform, including their blazer.

Our character strength next week is 'Integrity'.

We have Year 2 Parent Lunch on Tuesday, please email the office if you would like to attend.

Thursday is NON UNIFORM day. This is in exchange for a wrapped and filled Christmas treat jar for the PTA Christmas Fayre. Although it is non-uniform day, those children participating at the 'Bury St Edmunds Christmas Lights Switch on' must have their uniform with them for their performance in the afternoon.

I have just returned to my office from spending a splendid few hours with our local MP. Mr Peter Prinsley. He thought the pupils and staff were just amazing. The children enjoyed lunch with him and also had a Question and Answer session where they were able to ask questions about being an MP. Thank you to both my Head Boy (Ben) and Head Girl (Molly) for showing Mr Prinsley round, they both did a great job. We have had a really lovely time, and I am so very proud of our school and more importantly our wonderful pupils.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs. Catchpole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 2024

Week 11: Character Strength for the Week - Integrity

- Monday, 11th: Anti-Bullying Week
 10:50 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Tuesday, 12th: 12:10 Year 2 Parent Lunch
- Wednesday, 13th: 14:30 U13 Rugby v Thetford Grammar and Brookes UK (A)
 14:30 U11 Rugby v St Joseph's College (A)
 09:30 - 2:15pm Sing Up! Suffolk at Royal Hospital School
- Thursday, 14th: Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Christmas Jar)
 15:25 - 15:40 Bury Christmas Light Switch-On (Selected pupils from Year 4 - 8 participating)
- Friday, 15th: 08:30 Year 5 Parents' Coffee Morning
 10:45 Year 3 Cake Sale
 14:30 U9 Netball v Fairstead House (A)
 14:30 U9 Football v Fairstead House (A)

Week 12: Character Strength for the Week - Optimism

- Monday, 18th: First Round of Verse Speaking Competition (Year 4 - Year 8, In Classroom)
- Tuesday, 19th: 10:30 U11 Suffolk Dodgeball Competition (A)
 14:45 Martineau Lecture 'The Building Blocks of Philosophy - King's Ely'
- Wednesday, 20th: 14:30 U11 Hockey v Fairstead House (H)
 14:30 U11 Rugby v Fairstead House (H)
- Thursday, 21st: 9:00 - 12:00 Reception Class 2025 Open Day
 14:00 - 15:00 Reception Class 2025 Open Day
 16:45 - 17:30 School Choir Singing at Dobbies Garden Centre (Selected pupils participating)
- Friday, 22nd: 08:30 Year 4 Parents' Coffee Morning
 10:45 Year 2 Cake Sale
 14:00 U9 Netball Tournament at Ipswich School (A)
 14:00 U9 Hockey v Ipswich School (A)

Week 13: Character Strength for the Week - Perseverance

- Monday, 25th: 13:50 House Meetings
 Year 6 - Year 8 Scholarship Pathway Afternoon
- Tuesday, 26th: 10:00 U9 and U11 Cross Country at Thetford Grammar (A)
 11:00 - 12:30 Year 3 Visit to Bury Fire Station
- Wednesday, 27th: 14:30 U13 Hockey v OBH (H)
 14:30 U13 Rugby v Orwell Park (A)
 14:30 U11 Rugby v Orwell Park (A)
- Thursday, 28th: 12:00 Whole School Pupil Thanksgiving Lunch
 14:00 Governor's Meeting
- Friday, 29th: 09:00 Verse Speaking Final (Year 4 - Year 8)
 10:45 Year 1 Cake Sale
 18:00 PTA Wreath Making Evening

Regular Font: Pupils Only

Italic Font - Parents' Invited

USEFUL REMINDERS

Pupil Absence Request

Regular attendance is essential for children to achieve their full potential. At South Lee Prep, we are committed to providing a high-quality education in a welcoming environment, where every child has the right to learn. Parents and teachers share the responsibility for supporting excellent attendance and punctuality.

To make the most of the opportunities available, children should attend school every day unless absence is unavoidable. Good habits around attendance and punctuality also prepare children for future expectations in the workplace.

If you plan to take your child out of school, please complete the Absence Request Form: [Absence Request Form](#)

New Instrument Lessons Starting January

Starting in January 2025, we are introducing flute and clarinet lessons for pupils interested in expanding their musical skills. These lessons offer a great opportunity to explore a new instrument under professional guidance. For more details or to express interest, please email [Mrs Combes](#).

Pupil Bake Sale

We are pleased to announce our upcoming pupil bake sales. Kindly send your child in with £1 to purchase a delicious homemade treat. Your generosity will encourage our pupils' creativity and help support our school community initiatives. Please ensure all baked goods are nut-free. Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

15th November: Year 3 Bake Sale

29th November: Year 1 Bake Sale

22nd November: Year 2 Bake Sale

5th December: Reception Bake Sale

Parent Coffee Morning

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming Coffee Mornings, offering an opportunity for informal discussion, camaraderie among parents, and a chance to connect with the wider school community. Please email the office to confirm your attendance at office@southlee.co.uk.

15th November: Year 5 Parent Coffee Morning

22nd November: Year 4 Parent Coffee Morning

Year 2 Parent Lunch

Year 2 Parents are warmly invited to join us for the Year 2 Class Parent Lunch on **Tuesday, 12th November 2024, at 12:10pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to spend time with your child and experience a typical lunchtime here at South Lee. It will also be a great chance to meet and chat with other parents, as well as members of the staff. **We kindly ask that you confirm your attendance with the [school office](#) in advance**, so we can ensure everything is in place for an enjoyable afternoon.

Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Christmas Jar)

Thursday, 14th November 2024, is a non-uniform day. Children are welcome to wear home clothes in exchange for a wrapped Christmas jar filled with Christmas treats, which will be used at the Christmas Fayre. Thank you for your support!

Bury Christmas Light Switch-On

We are pleased to announce that selected pupils from Years 4 to 8 will be representing South Lee Prep at the annual Bury St Edmunds Light Switch-On event, taking place on **Thursday, 14th November 2024, starting at 3:20pm**. **Pupils will need to be in their full school uniform for the event**. Mrs. Combes has emailed the parents of the participating pupils with further details, and we kindly request that permission slips be returned to the school as soon as possible to ensure all arrangements are in place.

Christmas Carols at Dobbies Garden Centre

We are pleased to announce that selected pupils from Years 4 to 8 will be representing South Lee Prep at the **Christmas Carols event at Dobbies Garden Centre on Thursday, 21st November 2024, starting at 4:45pm**. **Pupils will need to be in their full school uniform for the event**. Mrs. Combes has emailed the parents of the participating pupils with further details, and we kindly request that permission slips be returned to the school as soon as possible to ensure all arrangements are in place. Thank you for your cooperation!

USEFUL REMINDERS

Pre-Prep Christmas Production

We warmly invite parents to join us for our Pre-Prep Christmas Production, which will take place on **Tuesday, 3rd December, and Wednesday, 4th December 2024**. This festive performance is a highlight of our calendar, and we are delighted for families to share in this joyful celebration with us.

On Tuesday, we will be serving tea and coffee from 1:30pm, allowing you time to settle in before the performance begins at 2:00pm. On Wednesday, tea and coffee will be available from 9:30am, with the show starting at 10:00am.

Ticket bookings **open today, and each child is entitled to two tickets per show, per day**. As tickets are limited, they will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage families to reserve theirs early to secure a spot. To book your tickets, please email office@southlee.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating the festive season together!

South Lee Prep Elf Run 2024

South Lee Prep School is excited to announce this year's Christmas Elf Run, taking place on **Thursday, 5th December 2024**, with all pupils from Reception to Year 8 taking part. This festive event aims to spread joy and raise funds for our chosen charity, The Children's Trust.

We invite you to join us in supporting this worthy cause by sponsoring participants or making a direct donation through our JustGiving page: [South Lee Prep School Elf Run 2024](#). Every contribution, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference to children with brain injuries.

As you consider supporting our fundraising efforts this year, we encourage you to read [Hubert's story](#), which highlights the incredible work The Children's Trust does and the life-changing impact it has on the children and families it helps. Hubert's journey is a true reflection of the hope and resilience our fundraising aims to support.

Your generosity, plays a crucial role in spreading warmth and hope during this festive season. Many thanks for your support, and may the spirit of giving continue to shine bright in our school community.

South Lee Prep School & Nursery Christmas Carol Service

We invite parents to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service, a highlight of our festive season, taking place at the beautiful St Edmundsbury Cathedral on **Friday, 6th December 2024, with the service beginning at 2:30pm (*please note the change in time)**. This special event brings our school community together to celebrate the spirit of the season with traditional carols, readings, and reflections. We look forward to sharing this special tradition with you.

Nursery Nativity Performance

Parents are invited to attend our Nursery Nativity performances, which will be held on **Monday, 9th December, and Tuesday, 10th December 2024**. We look forward to sharing this charming production with you and celebrating the children's hard work and holiday spirit.

On Monday, tea and coffee will be available from 2:30pm, with the performance starting at 3:00pm. For our Tuesday performance, refreshments will be served from 9:30am, and the show will begin promptly at 10:00am.

Bookings for the Nursery Nativity open on 15th November 2024, and Mrs. Williams will be reaching out to Nursery parents shortly with all the details on how to reserve tickets.

Reception - Year 6 Pantomime Trip

A friendly reminder for parents of Reception to Year 6 pupils: our much-anticipated Pantomime trip to Theatre Royal to see Aladdin will take place on Wednesday, 11th December 2024.

The cost of the trip is £18, and if you have not yet made the payment, we kindly ask that you do so at your earliest convenience to ensure your child's place. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a fun-filled outing!

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Pupil of the Week

Theo G for always being so happy around school and being a fabulous member of the South Lee community

Artist Award of the Week

Oliver T for wonderful colour mixing



Player Award of the Week

Derrick D for Rugby (for his outstanding tackling and rucking technique) and **Amalie C** for Hockey (displaying drive, determination and a real competitive attitude when playing up an age group)

Drama Award of the Week

Anna C for working hard in classroom drama and having patience waiting in the wings for her part as the Fox



Musician Award of the Week

Zuri J for excellent singing and leadership in rehearsals; fabulous positivity in string orchestra; learning new notes to play the US National Anthem on piano

Style Award of the Week

Emilia L for always looking smart in her uniform



AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Head Awards

Pre-School: **Annabelle F** for following instructions so well | *Reception:* **Anastacia B** for always being inquisitive, asking questions - Communication | *Year 1:* **Fraser K** for learning and projecting his lines for the Nativity so brilliantly | *Year 2:* **Cooper L** for demonstrating fantastic listening skills | *Year 3:* **Beatrice D** for writing a fantastic poem in English | *Year 4:* **Jameson T** for trying really hard in his lessons | *Year 5:* **Freddie P** for making good choices in his learning | *Year 6:* **Aarun V** for so brilliantly presenting the Diwali festival in our whole school assembly. Lovely communication skills! | *Year 7:* **Alton R** for his constructive and knowledgeable contribution to class discussion | *Year 8:* **David O'S-J** for displaying a positive all round attitude towards his learning this week



Apple Awards

Pre-School: **Arjun P** and **Fiachra L** for looking so smart in their new uniform | *Reception:* **Archie H** for settling so quickly after drop-off - Perseverance and **Eva T** for always just getting on with it - Concentration | *Year 1:* **Wyatt C** for concentrating brilliantly when writing sentences in English and **Olivia P** for showing fantastic perseverance when tackling tricky Maths problems | *Year 2:* **Frida F** for being able to numerically order 5-digit numbers in Maths and **Reuben T** for having a factual and enthusiastic start to Ancient Egyptians in Topic | *Year 3:* **William T** for excellent enthusiasm in rehearsals this week and **Zuri J** for a wonderful work ethic in lessons this week

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

PTA Christmas Fayre

We are pleased to share details of the upcoming Christmas Fayre, organised by the PTA, which will take place on **Thursday, 12th December 2024, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.**

The fayre will feature a variety of Christmas stalls, Santa's Grotto, and a selection of festive treats and refreshments.

It promises to be a wonderful event for all the family, and everyone is welcome to join in – feel free to invite friends and family; the more the merrier!

We look forward to seeing you there for an afternoon of festive fun.



SNOWDASH

A Snow Dash is coming to Nowton Park, Bury St. Edmunds!

Brave Futures, a local children's charity, is hosting this brand-new event on Sunday, 1st December. This 5K event welcomes participants of all ages and abilities—whether you're walking, jogging, or sprinting through the course. Expect a winter wonderland experience with snow cannons placed around the track, along with music, festive entertainment, and surprises for the whole family.

To book, please visit <https://bravefutures.org/events/snow-dash-nowton-park/>. Use the discount code **SCHOOL10** at checkout for 10% off. It looks like a great day out for a great cause!

SGL Training

SGL Training offers specialist fitness classes and one-to-one personal training sessions at South Lee Prep School. These sessions focus on enhancing fitness, building strength, and boosting athletic performance, complementing our existing sports programmes.

Led by Sam Last, who specialises in child confidence and is also a health and wellbeing coach for adults, the training provides a fantastic opportunity for both pupils and adults to develop both physically and mentally.

To book, visit <https://bookaby.me/sgltraining> or call **07765 695049**.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Technology and STEM Camp this Christmas

Next Thing Education Camps will be hosting a variety of tech filled activities at South Lee Prep School, on the **16th – 20th December from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day for children aged 5 to 11 years old.**

Our mission is simple: to inspire, engage, and empower the next generation of innovators. We aim to spark curiosity and foster creativity using cutting-edge technology. Here's a glimpse of what awaits:

- 🤖 **LEGO ENGINEERING** - Create and build frames with axles and crankshafts that allow you to explore and learn about different functions like spinning or turning back and forth.
- 🚀 **FANTASTICAL VIRTUAL REALITY** - With the magic of VR, you can explore breath-taking virtual worlds, design your own adventures, and unleash your imagination like never before.
- 🎮 **3D FESTIVE CREATIONS** - Unlock your inner Tech Artist and create mesmerising three-dimensional creations, letting your imagination soar!
- 🏆 **LASER TAG** - Step into the action-packed world of laser tag! Engage in thrilling battles and team up with friends in the ultimate test of skill and strategy.
- ⚡ **CHRISTMAS CIRCUITRY AND ELECTRONICS** - Learn about electronics with circuit cubes and test your building skills with endless projects possibilities!

Different activities each day, to find your camp specific activities please check out our website!

All staff are DBS Checked and qualified to run the greatest sessions in the safest environment. For more information check out our flyer attached and visit our website to [BOOK HERE](#).

We look forward to seeing you at camp!

Next Thing
NEXT THING EDUCATION CAMPS PRESENTS
XMAS TECH CAMP
Ages 5-11
Virtual Reality
3D Festive Decorations
Engineering
Rocking Robots
Ofsted Registered
16TH - 20TH DECEMBER 2024
£39.99 PER DAY or £175 FOR 5 DAYS
Ages 5 -11, 9 am - 4 pm daily
CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.nextthing.education

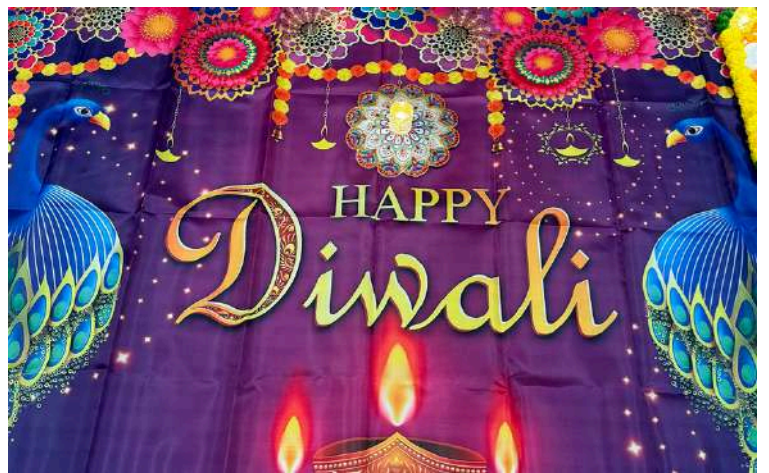
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2024
What else is on?
Light Up Cards
Magical Minecraft
Ingenious Inventions
Comet Crackers
Festive Filming
Different activity theme each day, please check our website for your camp activities.

What to bring ...
Packed Lunch and Snacks
Water Bottle
Medication
Weather Appropriate Clothing

HOW TO BOOK
SCAN THE QR CODE
FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP
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The BEST camp around!
"My daughter is fully inspired and won't stop talking about the amazing time she had! The staff were experienced, welcoming and encouraging"
★★★★★
www.nextthing.education
E: info@nextthing.education
T: 01442 873150

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



A huge thank you to our wonderful parents for organising a memorable Diwali assembly! Our South Lee Prep family celebrated this special festival of lights together, sharing joy, music, and traditions.



A big thank you to our Year 1 parents who took the time to join their children for lunch today! They were absolutely delighted to have you with them, and it made their day extra special.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Yesterday, Stoke College visited South Lee to introduce our Year 7 and 8 students to the Young Enterprise program. Students tackled a real-world business challenge to design a household-assisting robot, with ideas ranging from robotic toothbrushes to smart fridges that reorder favourite foods! Their creativity, problem-solving skills, and presentation abilities made it a truly inspiring morning!



Thank you to Peter Prinsley MP for visiting South Lee Prep School & Nursery, joining our Years 7 & 8 for lunch, touring the school, and thoughtfully answering the children's many questions. We hope you enjoyed your visit as much as we enjoyed hosting you!