

# SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of another busy week, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful experiences we have shared as a school community.

This week, we have embraced both **Children's Mental Health Week** and **National Storytelling Week**. It has been lovely to see the joy that stories bring to our children

One of my highlights was having all of **Year 1 and 2** snuggled up in my office, completely captivated by Room on the Broom. Their enthusiasm has inspired me to introduce a weekly story session, and from now on, Year 1 and 2 will join me **every Thursday** for a special reading time. Mr C has also been busy in **Reception and Nursery**, bringing stories to life for our younger children, fostering a love of books and storytelling from an early age.

On Monday evening, Mr James, Miss Gross and I took to the **dry slopes**, hoping to inspire our young skiers. Much to my dismay, I discovered that my athletic abilities are not quite what they once were! While my beginner session thankfully went unrecorded, it gave me even greater admiration for our pupils, whose resilience and determination never cease to amaze me.

On Tuesday Mr James took our Under 11 team to compete in the Suffolk Schools Dodgeball finals at Suffolk One in Ipswich. This is an activity in which we have had great success over the past few years and this occasion was no different with the team picking up a well deserved bronze medal. A special mention goes to Thomas Wright who picked up the 'most valuable player' award.

On **Thursday**, our **Year 6-8** pupils were fortunate to attend a **Martineau Lecture on Career Pathways**. It was fascinating to hear their ambitions and aspirations, and **Year 8** followed this up with a **PSHEE career analysis quiz**, which provided valuable insights into their future goals.

Looking ahead, Monday marks our **final ski session**, and on **Tuesday**, Mr Clinch will be hosting a **Parent Online Safety Evening at 4.30pm**. This is a valuable 45-minute session on keeping your child safe online. If you would like to attend, please email the office. This event is for parents only; however, children can attend **clubs or prep** during this time.

On **Thursday evening**, we look forward to the **PTA Valentine's Disco**—a fantastic way for the children to celebrate before the half-term break. Please see the newsletter for further details. Finally, we will round off next week with our **Pre-School Parent Coffee Morning** on **Friday**, marking the beginning of **half-term**.

While we celebrate all the exciting events taking place, we also have some bittersweet news. After **26 years** of dedication, **Mrs Gisbey**, our **legendary Reception teacher**, has decided to hang up her boots. Her energy, enthusiasm, and unwavering positivity have been a true gift to South Lee, and we will miss her dearly. Fortunately, she will continue to volunteer, so we hope to see her around from time to time. If you would like to write a message or contribute to her leaving gift, please contact the office for details. **Mrs Gisbey, you have left an indelible mark on our school, and we are so grateful for all that you have given.**

As we bid farewell to Mrs Gisbey, we also extend a warm welcome back to **Mrs Phillips** following her maternity leave. Mrs Phillips will be joining our **Reception class** after half-term and we are excited for her to embark on this journey with us. Many of you will remember Mrs Phillips from when she was our Year 1 teacher.

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead as we approach the half-term break.

Best regards,

*Mrs Catchpole*



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2025

## Week 7: Character Strength for the Week - Gratitude

- Monday, 10th: 13:50 House Shout Rehearsal  
*LAPS Swimming (A)*  
16:30 - 18:00 Ski session @ Suffolk Ski Centre
- Tuesday, 11th: Safer Internet Day  
*16:30 Internet Safety Parent Talk with Mr Clinch (no children)*  
Scholarship Pathway Afternoon (Years 6 - 8)
- Wednesday, 12th: *14:30 U13 Netball v Stoke College & Barnardiston Hall (H)*  
*14:30 U13 Football v Stoke College (H)*  
*14:30 U11 Netball v Thetford Grammar (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Football v Thetford Grammar (A)*
- Thursday, 13th: *17:30 - 19:00 PTA Valentine's Disco*
- Friday, 14th: *08:30 Pre-School Parent Coffee Morning*

## 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)*

Regular Font: Pupils Only

*Italic Font - Parents' Invited*

## 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.

# 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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## 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!



## 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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## PTA Valentines Disco

The PTA Valentine's Disco will be held on **Thursday, 13th February, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm** and is open to Pre-School to Year 8 pupils. **Tickets are £5 per child, ideally paid by BACS to the PTA account in advance, though cash will be accepted on the night.**

Parents are required to stay for preschool and Pre-Prep children, while older children can be dropped off and collected later. Additional money will be needed for food and glow sticks, with hot dogs, donuts, sweets, and drinks available to purchase.



## 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!

**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**

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Pupil of the Week

**Amalie C** for consistently upholding such positive values.

## Artist Award of the Week

**Luke S** for creating a brilliant repeat pattern.



## Player Award of the Week

**Derrick D** for Football - his courageous effort in goal and producing fantastic saves throughout the game and **Molly F** for Netball- her positive energy and enthusiasm and leading by example.

## Drama Award of the Week

**Luke S** for fantastic concentration in Shrek rehearsals.



## Musician Award of the Week

**Cooper L** for fabulous listening and concentration on pulse and rhythm.

## Style Award of the Week

**Dominic B** for always looking smart in his uniform.



## Linguist of the Week

**Oliver T** for remembering so much vocabulary from our story book "La Chenille qui fait des trous" (The Very Hungry Caterpillar)

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Head's Award

**Pre-School:** Lucia L for coming in to school full of Zest and enthusiasm. | **Reception:** Anastacia B for independence across the curriculum. | **Year 1:** Lincoln T for displaying our value (Nurture) to the younger children around him. | **Year 2:** Emilia L for showing great progress in her communication skills. | **Year 3:** Tavin W for fantastic enthusiasm and effort throughout his lessons. | **Year 4:** Albert B and Kieran O'S-J for supporting each other in their learning and diligently policing the den! | **Year 5:** Freddie P for taking part in the entire games lesson for the first time. | **Year 6:** Ruby D for increasing engagement in school life. | **Year 7:** Lola G for showing a real desire to contribute to the South Lee Community by reading to Reception. | **Year 8:** Benjamin A for supporting a peer on another team who was struggling in PE.



## Learning Disposition Awards

**Pre-School:** Edward B for showing *empathy* and kindness to one of his friends and Tenley W for asserting his *independence* and showing a 'can do' attitude. | **Reception:** George W for showing such *curiosity* when melting ice and Flynn L for showing *empathy* and drawing a picture for a sad friend. | **Year 1:** Mateo V for using brilliant *concentration* in his reading test and Darren D for showing brilliant *independence* in English. | **Year 2:** Cooper L for showing careful *concentration* with his pencil grip and Luxmi P for showing great *perseverance* and imagination with her creative writing.

# PUPIL SPOTLIGHT



We are proud to share the remarkable achievement of one of our very own Year 2 pupils, Reuben T, who has embarked on an incredible journey of publishing his own stories. Reuben has always had a passion for storytelling, and it's been a joy to watch his imagination come to life over the years. When he was younger, Reuben would dictate his tales to his family, who would help him print them at home to share with relatives. Now, Reuben is independently bringing his stories to life, taking on the entire process with a level of creativity and dedication beyond his years.

Using his iPad, Reuben dictates his stories, and then sends the text to his mother, who runs her own publishing company. She helps him format and lay out the books, teaching him the skills needed to create a professional product. Together, they carefully select stock images or use image generation software to create the illustrations that accompany his words, ensuring that every book is as unique and imaginative as the stories themselves. Reuben's first two titles, *The Lost Amulet* and *A Stone Age Adventure*, are already available in print and ebook formats, and he is even working on creating audiobook versions for his readers who prefer listening to stories.

What makes Reuben's journey even more impressive is his generosity. ***He has committed to donating 40% of the profits from every book sold to support the PTA at South Lee.*** This wonderful act of giving back to the school community is a testament to Reuben's kind-hearted nature, and we are incredibly proud of his entrepreneurial spirit.

Reuben's books will be available for purchase on his website, [www.rubybluebooks.com](http://www.rubybluebooks.com), where you can find both the print and ebook editions, and soon, audiobook versions. This initiative showcases not only Reuben's remarkable talent and drive but also his ability to turn his creative dreams into reality.

We are truly inspired by Reuben's journey and look forward to seeing how he continues to grow as a storyteller and young entrepreneur. His achievement highlights the importance of nurturing creativity and ambition in our pupils, and we can't wait to support him every step of the way!

# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Mrs Carter reads to Year 2



Mr Catchpole reads to Pre-School

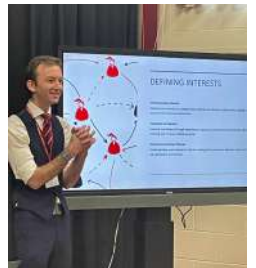


Mrs Catchpole reads to Years 1 & 2



Mr Macfarlane reads to Years 5 - 6

*Celebrating National Storytelling Week at South Lee!  
Our teachers have been bringing stories to life, captivating young minds with magical tales and exciting adventures. It's been a week full of imagination, laughter, and the joy of storytelling! What's your favourite story to share?*



*A big thank you to Mr. J Beckett, Deputy Head Academic at Stoke College, for his inspiring talk on Career Pathways at this morning's Martineau Lecture. Our pupils are now even more motivated to explore the exciting opportunities ahead!*



*Our first dance lessons are off to a fantastic start! The children enjoyed learning new steps, building confidence, and having fun while expressing themselves through movement. We're excited to see their skills grow each week!*