

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

What a week it has been! Our four-day inspection has now concluded, and while I must wait for the final report before sharing any outcomes, I can say with confidence that I am happy. It has been an incredibly intense few days, but I could not be prouder of our staff and children.



The lead inspector spoke very highly of our pupils, noting how polite and well-mannered they are. He also highlighted the strong and consistent way in which we prioritise the well-being of every child—a thread that runs throughout all that we do. Additionally, it was noted how wonderful the relationship between teachers and pupils is, and how lovely it is to see the interaction between them. Our children have a voice, and they feel listened to, which is incredibly important. On reflection, I can appreciate what an excellent learning experience this was, though I may not have felt quite so positive when I was in the thick of it on Wednesday night!

A heartfelt thank you must go to you, our wonderful parents. Your support has been truly humbling—from the delicious food for the staffroom and the thoughtful cards, to the warm hugs, kind words, and conversations with inspectors. Your overwhelmingly positive feedback in the parent questionnaires left a lasting impression. The inspector remarked on what a fantastic and supportive parent community we have, and I could only agree: I am incredibly lucky.

Beyond the inspection, school life continued in full swing! The week began with a trip to the ski slope for those heading off on the ski trip, Wednesday brought our fantastic Chinese feast (thank you, Chef Rachael, for the delicious food!), and on Thursday, we welcomed Pre-Prep grandparents for a wonderful roast turkey lunch. Finally, on Friday, we wrapped up the week with our Year 3 parent coffee morning—it was lovely to see so many of you there and have the chance to catch up.

Looking ahead, next week we will be focusing on KINDNESS as our character strength, and we will also be marking Children's Mental Health Week—a timely reminder of the importance of well-being and support for one another.

I will leave you with a quote from a child when asked by the inspector "If I had a magic wand and you could change one thing about South Lee what would it be?" The child responded " That it went up to Year 11, so I never have to leave" I'm not going to lie, that warm sentiment made me have a little cry!

Thank you once again for your unwavering support for the school and staff. Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Best regards,
Mrs Catchpole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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)
- Wednesday, 5th: 14:30 U13 Netball v Thetford Grammar & Brookes UK (A)
14:30 Football v Thetford Grammar (A)
- Thursday, 6th: 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 U9 Rugby v Orwell Park (A)
14:30 U8 Tag Rugby v Brookes UK (A)
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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: 16:00 U11 Table Tennis Tournament (A)
17:30 - 19:00 PTA Valentine's Disco
- Friday, 14th: 08:30 Pre-School Parent Coffee Morning
10:15 House Shout
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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 Pre-School - Year 8 Parents Evening
13:45 U13 Hockey v Orwell Park (A)
- Wednesday, 26th: 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 Pre-School - 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)
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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](#)

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 to confirm your attendance.

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

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 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

Whole School for being outstanding during our inspections.

Artist Award of the Week

Derrick D for really focusing on his drawing technique.



Player Award of the Week

Thomas W for Football and **Ruby D** for Netball.

Drama Award of the Week

Darren D for having the confidence to share his ideas.



Musician Award of the Week

Harry R for his enthusiasm with his learning of a musical instrument.

Style Award of the Week

Paul C and **Frida F** for always looking smart in their uniform.



Linguist of the Week

Lucas F for teaching the pre-prep to say 'Happy New Year' in Mandarin

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Head's Award

Pre-School: **Theodora R** for amazing effort and focus in welcome time. | **Reception:** **Emily G** for communicating so well with her peers. | **Year 1:** **Shanmukha S** for showing real zest. | **Year 2:** **Akira P** for consistently demonstrating the six pillars and being a good role model. | **Year 3:** **Dominic B** for fantastic effort and progress in his times tables. | **Year 4:** **Samantha L** and **Agnes L** for being so helpful at the end of food tech and drying up. | **Year 5:** **Lennon P** for representing the school so authentically. | **Year 6:** **Molly P** for being so positive and really helpful. | **Year 7:** **Henry D** for being so positive about school life. | **Year 8:** **Maisie B** for showing great perseverance.



Learning Disposition Awards

Pre-School: **Alec B** for showing *perseverance* when cutting out a snake for Chinese New Year and **Hudson M** for asserting his *independence* and showing a 'can do' attitude. | **Reception:** **Maxim W** for his fantastic *curiosity* about the weather and **Archie H** for his amazing *perseverance* in all areas of the curriculum | **Year 1:** **Oliver T** for brilliant *communication* in Topic lessons and **Daphne B** for amazing *perseverance* in English. | **Year 2:** **Jack J-W** for demonstrating consistency in punctuality and *independence* and **Frida F** for showing fantastic *curiosity* in Topic.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Our Years 4 - 8 pupils are off to a great start with their first ski session at Ipswich Ski Slope! They're getting ready for their exciting trip to Pra Loup, France this March. Bring on the slopes!



The whole school came together today to celebrate Chinese New Year, welcoming the Year of the Snake with a special themed menu. Well done and thank you to Chef Rachael for preparing such a delicious lunch – a wonderful way to mark this special occasion!



A big thank you to all the wonderful grandparents who joined us for today's special Grandparents' Lunch! It was a joy to have you with us.