

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week it has been at South Lee Prep School and Nursery!

We kicked off the week with our NSPCC Assembly, which I had the pleasure of hosting. It was inspiring to see our pupils so engaged with such an important cause. A special highlight for me was sharing lunch with our fantastic Pillar Award winners – a well-deserved treat for their outstanding achievements and character shown last term.



Tuesday saw the excitement of our very first Reception Roadshow, and what a success it was! It was heartening to welcome so many families, and with spaces filling up fast, it's clear South Lee continues to be the school of choice for many.

On Wednesday, our sports' teams truly shone. We enjoyed some fantastic fixtures, with our senior teams playing against Thetford Grammar and our U11s facing Ipswich High. The spirit and teamwork on display were simply brilliant! I was especially proud of some of our Year 6 girls, who stepped up with courage and skill to play within the senior team – a true testament to their resilience and growth.

Thursday kept the momentum going with a productive District 9 Head's conference, where I had the opportunity to share insights and learn from other schools in our area. Our Year 4 parents were also able to join us for lunch in another of those very unique and special South Lee occasions. On Friday we hosted a delightful Year 1 coffee morning – always a lovely chance to connect with our parents – and our Year 3 & 4 pupils took part in their first fixtures of 2025, showcasing determination and enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, our character strength focus next week will be Empathy, a value we hold close as a community. Our original timetable will resume on Monday, and tutors will be sharing these details with you in their weekly communication emails. A huge thank you to Madame Swayne for stepping in for Madame Barker.

Thank you all for making South Lee such a special place – your energy, support, and positivity continue to make this school such a great place to be.....

Warmest wishes, have a lovely weekend.

Best regards,
Mrs Catchpole



JANUARY JOYS!



TUE, 07TH:	DISNEY KARAOKE	AM BREAK
WED, 08TH:	HIDE & SEEK WITH Y8 OUTSIDE	AM BREAK
THU, 9TH:	LOOM BANDS	AM BREAK
FRI, 10TH:	HAMA BEADS	AM BREAK
MON, 13TH	FREESTYLE TO YOUR FAVOURITE FRENCH/ SPANISH TUNES	AM BREAK
TUE, 14TH:	MAKING POPCORN IN THE FOOD TECH ROOM	AM BREAK
WED, 15TH:	TOWER BUILDING COMPETITION	AM BREAK
THU, 16TH:	LISTENING TO A STORY AND MINDFUL READING	AM BREAK
FRI, 17TH:	SCAVENGER HUNT	AM BREAK
MON, 20TH:	HIT THE BUTTON CHALLENGE - BEAT THE TEACHER	LUNCHTIME
TUE, 21ST:	DISCO DANCING FREESTYLE	AM BREAK
WED, 22ND:	DRAW WITH ROB	AM BREAK
THU, 23RD:	MR A'S BIG QUIZ!	AM BREAK
FRI, 24TH:	SOUTH LEE EARLY MORNING WORKOUT	8:40AM
MON, 27TH:	BEAT THE TEACHER AT TABLE TENNIS IN THE HALL	AM BREAK
TUE, 28TH:	HOT CHOCOLATE AND A CARTOON	AM BREAK
WED, 29TH:	SARDINES WITH MR. M	AM BREAK
THU, 30TH:	BOOMWACKER BAND YOGA (YEARS 3-8)	AM BREAK LUNCHTIME
FRI, 31ST:	HOOK-A-DUCK	AM BREAK

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY 2025

Week 4: Character Strength for the Week - Honesty

Monday, 20th:	13:15 - 14:15 Year 2 NSPCC Workshop 13:50 - 14:50 Years 5 & 6 NSPCC Workshops
Tuesday, 21st:	13:30 Eco-Warrior Meeting 15:00 U9 Dodgeball Tournament (H)
Wednesday, 22nd:	14:30 U13 Netball v Stoke College (H) 14:30 U13 Football v Stoke College (H) 14:30 U11 Netball v Thetford Grammar (H) 14:30 U11 Football v Thetford Grammar (H)
Thursday, 23rd:	Year 5 Entrance Scholarship Day (Current Year 4 Pupils - Academic)
Friday, 24th:	08:30 Year 2 Parent Coffee Morning 14:15 U8 Tag Rugby v Framlingham Prep & OBH (A) 14:15 U9 Rugby v Framlingham Prep & OBH (A) 14:15 U9 Hockey v Framlingham Prep & PBH (A)

Week 5: Character Strength for the Week - Empathy

Monday, 27th:	Pre-Prep Verse Speaking Launch 13:50 - 14:10 Academic Focus Group
Tuesday, 28th:	16:30 - 18:30 Ski session @ Suffolk Ski Centre 10:00 U13 Suffolk Schools Dodgeball Competition (A) 13:30 Food Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 29th:	Chinese New Year Feast 14:30 U11 Netball v Holmwood House (A) 14:30 U11 Football v Holmwood House (A)
Thursday, 30th:	Enrichment - Egg Cups for Easter & Mothers' Day Mugs 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

Regular Font: Pupils Only

Italic Font - Parents' Invited

Important Reminder: Footballs from Home

Please be reminded that **children must not bring in footballs from home**. They should only use the footballs provided by the school during playtimes and other activities.

This helps ensure everyone has access to safe and suitable equipment during their time outside.

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](#)

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 to update your preferences. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

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!

24th January: Year 2 Coffee Morning at 8:30am

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

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

Pre-Prep Swimming

A reminder that swimming sessions for Years 1 and 2 take place on the following days:

- Year 2: Every Monday (*Year 2 children will return to school at 4:15pm or can be picked up directly from swimming at 4:00pm*)
- Year 1: Every Tuesday (*Year 1 children will return to school at 3:15pm or can be picked up directly from swimming at 3:00pm*)

Please let either [Miss Gisbey](#) or [Miss Sharpe](#) know if your child will be attending and whether you plan to collect them from the pool. Kindly ensure that children bring their swimming kits with them to school on their swimming days.

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.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Pupil of the Week

Malakai A-W for pushing himself to achieve at new levels.

Artist Award of the Week

Edith A-B for her focused approach to her work.



Player Award of the Week

Aaron V for Football (for his all-round high work rate helping his team achieve a successful result) and **Amalie C** for Netball (for stepping up into the U13 team and giving 100% throughout the match).

Drama Award of the Week

Malakai A-W for his energy and dedication on his LAMDA work and **Reuben T** for his hilarious improv skills in drama.



Musician Award of the Week

Shonagh O'Sullivan-James for perseverance and progress in her second piano lesson.

Style Award of the Week

Freddie C for always looking smart in his uniform.



Linguist of the Week

Hubert B, Dominic B, Ezmai B, Mariah B, Paul C, Eliot C, Beatrice D, Freya F, Zuri J, William J-W, Alexander K, Saoirse L, Oliver O'C, Edward S, William T, Tavin W and William W for turning up to class on Monday and throwing themselves into the lesson with great energy and focus

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Head's Award

Pre-School: River B for settling into Pre-School so well. | **Reception: Maxim W** for wonderful explanation of evaporation. | **Year 1: Beatrice B** for her insightful answers about pool safety in our swimming lesson. | **Year 2: Reuben T** for having a great level of imagination when writing a story in English. | **Year 3: Paul C** for a fantastic Dragon design and description in English. | **Year 4: Lily G** for being a very kind and caring individual, always looking out for her friends. | **Year 5: Malakai A-W** for displaying an outstanding learning attitude in English which has resulted in great progress being made. | **Year 6: Christian M** for speaking eloquently during Year 4 parent lunch. | **Year 7: Lola G** for focused approach to her work. | **Year 8: David O'S-J** for a focused approach to his work in History.



Learning Disposition Awards

Pre-School: Hudson M for showing **enthusiasm** during Stave House and **Rudra K** for working with a team using fantastic **communication** and helping his friends. | **Reception: George W** for amazing **perseverance** in his spider colouring and **Emily G** for volunteering to collect litter - **Community**. | **Year 1: Lincoln T** for showing **perseverance** in his 'Big Write' in English and **Donnacha L** for **communicating** brilliantly in partner talk, when explaining how he knows something is right or wrong. | **Year 2: Akira P** for showing great **concentration** and creativity in her English lessons this week and **Cooper L** for having fantastic **perseverance** in his phonics.

IN THE NEWS

SOUTH LEE PUPILS EXCEL IN NATIONAL BEBRAS CHALLENGE

Three pupils from South Lee Prep School & Nursery have achieved exceptional success in the national Bebras Challenge, with **Percy B, Lennon P, and Henry D** earning **Gold Certificates** for placing in the top 10% nationally. In addition, 12 other pupils were awarded Distinctions: **Elizabeth C, Bruce F, Samantha L, Lily G, Thomas W, Derrick D, Mollie P, Alton R, Harry R, Molly F, David OSJ, and Luke S.**



The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to pupils worldwide, with over 3 million participants from more than 80 countries last year. Open to pupils aged 6 to 19, the challenge involves completing interactive online tasks that encourage logical thinking and problem-solving. Each participant has 45 minutes to tackle a variety of challenges, with tasks marked automatically by the competition system.

Mrs. Sarah Catchpole, Head of South Lee Prep School & Nursery, commented, “We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their success in the Bebras Challenge. This competition provides a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their computational thinking and problem-solving skills—essential abilities in today’s digital world. It’s wonderful to see so many of our pupils excelling on a national level.”

Mr. Simon Clinch, Head of Digitally Enhanced Learning at South Lee Prep, added, “The Bebras Challenge offers our pupils an engaging way to apply their computational thinking to real-world problems. It encourages them to develop digital skills that will serve them well throughout their education and beyond.”

Organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation in partnership with the University of Oxford, the Bebras Challenge is designed to allow pupils from all backgrounds, whether strong in maths or computing or not, to demonstrate their potential.

PHOTO'S HIGHLIGHT



*A huge congratulations to Reuben T in Year 2 for having his book, **The Stone Age Adventure**, published.*



Congratulations to Maggie Parker! Her winning design will feature in the Denbury Homes show home's child's bedroom—a fantastic achievement!



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!



Our Pillar Award winners enjoyed a special lunch with Mrs. Catchpole. Congratulations to all our winners—it's wonderful to recognise their contributions to school life!