

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Dear Parents,

We have had a really lovely week and, as always, it has been a very busy one. There have been lots of lovely moments, but I thought I would share one particular highlight. I was walking a visitor around school on Wednesday afternoon when a Year 3 child opened the door for us, even though he was laden with bags himself. "Good afternoon" he said. The visitor was quite shocked at this and said, "my goodness, how polite, you wouldn't see that in many schools these days". It's at these moments that I feel incredibly proud that I am Head of a school with such amazing pupils. I often find myself chuckling away at what I see and hear in this school. Working with your children is a privilege and we are fortunate to work in such a warm and caring environment where we all genuinely care for one another. The visitor was right, you definitely do not find that in every school.



On Monday, we had our weekly assembly, and this was based on our character strength of Empathy. Mrs Martineau also talked about Dyslexia as a superpower as it is Dyslexia awareness week.

On Tuesday, our Year 6, 7 and 8 took part in their scholarship pathway afternoon where the children follow their talents and have an afternoon excelling in their favourite subjects.

On Thursday, we had lots of parents join us for our Pre-Prep Harvest Festival. The children performed brilliantly, and we were able to help our local foodbank with all of your food donations.

Looking ahead to next week we have our Reception to Year 8 pastoral Parents Evenings on Monday and Tuesday evening. Please book in via ENGAGE if you have not done so already.

On Thursday, we will be acknowledging Mental Health Day. The Year 8's will be collecting donations of £1 at the door on Thursday morning. All donations will be going to Young Minds, which is a charity very close to our hearts here at South Lee Prep. I have invited the children to wear something yellow. I have suggested a hairband, socks, a yellow wristband, a yellow t-shirt etc.

On Thursday evening we are hosting an amazing event brought to us by Oundle School in collaboration with Imperial College London entitled 'The Wonderful World of Maths'. This will be an excellent event for all children from Year 3 and upwards to attend. Parents are most welcome to join us. The show begins at 5pm and should last for approximately one hour. This is one not to be missed!

Our character strength next week is Kindness.

Have a wonderful weekend!

S Catchpole
Mrs. Catchpole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 2024

Week 6: Character Strength for the Week - Kindness

- Monday, 7th: 16:30 - 18:30 Pastoral Parents' Evening (Reception - Year 8)
- Tuesday, 8th: Year 7 Entry Scholarship Assessment Day
16:30 - 18:30 Pastoral Parents' Evening (Reception - Year 8)
- Wednesday, 9th: 14:30 U13 Rugby v The Perse (A)
14:30 U13 Hockey v Holmewood House (A)
14:30 U11 Hockey v St Margaret's (H)
14:30 U11 Rugby v St Margaret's (H)
- Thursday, 10th: Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow for Young Minds
08:40 Whole School Workout
17:00 Martineau Lecture - Oundle School
- Friday, 11th: 09:00 - 12:00 Open Morning
14:30 U9 Netball v Brookes UK (A)
14:30 U9 Football St Joseph's College (H)

Week 7: Character Strength for the Week - Gratitude

- Monday, 14th: Recycling Assembly
- Tuesday, 15th: 12:10 Reception Class Parent Lunch
- Wednesday, 16th: 14:30 U11 Rugby v OBH (A)
14:30 U11 Hockey v OBH (H)
17:00 PTA AGM
- Thursday, 17th: 10:00 RHS Cross Country (A)
- Friday, 18th: Non-Uniform Day: Genes for Jeans
09:00 Hilltop Departs
- Sunday, 20th: 11:30 Hilltop Returns

Week 8: Character Strength for the Week - Humility

- Monday, 21st: 16:30 Teatime Tunes
- Tuesday, 22nd: 08:40 House Meetings
- Wednesday, 23rd: 17:00 PTA Halloween Disco (Pre-School)
17:30 PTA Halloween Disco (Reception - Year 8)

Thursday, 24th October 2024 - Friday, 1st November 2024: INCLUSIVE HALF-TERM

NOVEMBER 2024

Week 10: Character Strength for the Week - Self-Discipline

- Monday, 4th: 13:50 Diwali Celebration Assembly
- Tuesday, 5th: 12:50 Catchpole Club Lunch
- Wednesday, 6th: 14:30 U13 Rugby v Framlingham Prep (A)
- Thursday, 7th: Upper Prep Skills and Enterprise Morning
12:50 Year 1 Parent Lunch
- Friday, 8th: 08:30 PTA Meeting
08:30 Year 6 Parent Coffee Morning
14:30 U9 Netball Tournament at OBH (A)
14:30 U9 Hockey Tournament at OBH (A)

Regular Font: Pupils Only

Italic Font - Parents' Invited

USEFUL REMINDERS

Pupil Absence Request

For a child to reach their full educational achievement a high level of school attendance is essential. South Lee Prep is committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all our pupils and we endeavour to provide an environment where all pupils feel valued and welcome. Parents and pupils play a part in making our school so successful. Every child has a right to access the education to which he/she is entitled. Parents and teachers share the responsibility for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality for all.

For children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered, it is vital that children are at school on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. The routines children develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff and future aspirations depend on good attendance.

We are of course aware that family holidays are experiences that are important especially with our busy lives. If you do intend on taking your child/ren out of school, please complete the following form to request absence: [Absence Request Form](#)

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.

8th November: Year 6 Parent Coffee Morning

22nd November: Year 4 Parent Coffee Morning

15th November: Year 5 Parent Coffee Morning

Pastoral Parents' Evening (Reception - Year 8)

We would like to remind parents that our Pastoral Parents' Evening for Reception to Year 8 pupils will take place on **Monday, 7th October 2024, and Tuesday, 8th October 2024, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm on both days**. Please book your appointment via the Parent Portal. **There will be no after-school clubs (Years 3-8), but Prep and After-School Care will run as usual.**

Wear Yellow for Young Minds

Thursday, 10th October 2024, we will be acknowledging Mental Health Day. The children are invited to wear something yellow (hairband, socks, a yellow wristband, a yellow t-shirt etc). Mr Catchpole leading a whole school workout on the playground at 8.40am

Exciting Maths Event at South Lee School – Thursday, 10th October

In collaboration with Oundle School and Imperial College London, South Lee Prep School is delighted to host an engaging Maths event on **Thursday, 10th October 2024 at 5:00pm**. This event is for **all pupils in Years 5, 6, 7, and 8, and attendance is required**. Parents are invited to join us. Year 3 and 4 pupils and their parents are also encouraged to join us.

Reception Class Parent Lunch

Reception Parents are warmly invited to join us for the Reception Class Parent Lunch on **Tuesday, 15th October 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.

USEFUL REMINDERS

PTA AGM

The PTA AGM will be held on **Wednesday, 16th October 2024, at 5:00pm**, and all are warmly invited to attend.

Non-Uniform Day: Genes for Jeans

Friday, 18th October 2024, will be a non-uniform day, and pupils are welcome to wear their favourite pair of jeans in support of Jeans for Genes. This initiative raises awareness and funds for children with genetic disorders.

Hilltop Residential Trip

Our residential trip to Hilltop **departs on Friday, 18th October 2024 at 9:30am**, for the children of Years 4 - 8. Please note that we are scheduled to **arrive back at South Lee on Sunday, 20th October 2024 at 11:30am**. When picking up your child, please park at the Victory Grounds to allow the coach easy access to the driveway. **Medical and dietary forms have been sent home in satchel post and need to be returned as soon as possible.**

Teatime Tunes

Parents are warmly invited to Teatime Tunes on **Monday, 21st October 2024, at 4:30pm**, where children taking peripatetic lessons will be showcasing their musical talents. We look forward to seeing you there!

Readathon

Just a reminder that we will be collecting Readathon forms from parents at the end of half term. If your child has misplaced their sponsorship form, payments can still be made directly. Participating in the Readathon not only encourages children to develop a love for reading and improve their literacy skills, but also fosters a sense of empathy and responsibility as they raise funds for a great cause. The money raised goes towards supporting hospitals by providing essential resources, such as books and educational materials, which help enhance the well-being and recovery of young patients. Thank you for your support!

[Sponsor a pupil - First find their school Readathon \(salesforce-sites.com\)](https://salesforce-sites.com)

PTA - Bags2School Collection

We are organising a Bags 2 School collection on **Monday, 21st October 2024** as part of our fundraising efforts. The school receives money based on the weight of the items collected. This is a great opportunity to clear out your wardrobes, with the company collecting bags of clothes from the school, weighing them, and donating funds based on the total collected. For more information, you can visit their website at **bags2school.com**.

They accept belts, socks, jewellery, clothes, shoes, bags, hats, bras, and scarves/ties. ***However, they will not take duvets/blankets, pillows/cushions, carpets/rugs, soiled or ripped clothes, school uniform (with or without logos), or corporate/work clothing.***

If you have any bags of clothes to donate, please bring them to the school office before Monday, 21st October 2024.

PTA Christmas Fayre - Stall Holders Wanted

The PTA would like to invite any parents **interested in having a stall at the Christmas Fayre on 12th December 2024 to get in touch**. If you have anything you'd like to sell, whether it's homemade items, food, gifts, jewellery, or if you run a small business, we'd love to hear from you.

Please email **ptachair@southlee.co.uk** to express your interest and secure a spot at this festive event.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Pupil of the Week

Henry D for always being thoughtful and engaging throughout the curriculum and displaying the six pillars

Artist Award of the Week

Archie H for being enthusiastic in Art



Player Award of the Week

Alton R for Rugby (working hard in rugby club which he then showed the skills he learnt in the match) and **Lola G** for Hockey (for her brilliant goal keeping saves that contributed to her team's success on the pitch)



Drama Award of the Week

Eliot C for always being enthusiastic and respectful in drama



Musician Award of the Week

Frida F for her wonderful singing, leadership and piano duet



Style Award of the Week

Sophia R-C for always looking smart in her uniform



AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Head Awards

Pre-School: **Rudra K** for being so kind to his friends and showing empathy | **Reception:** **Flynn L** for his positive, vibrant energy - full of zest | **Year 1:** **Wyatt C** for brilliant determination in his Maths and English tests | **Year 2:** **Frida F** for showing empathy and support to the people around her | **Year 3:** **William T** for brilliant effort with his writing in English | **Year 4:** **Kieran O'S-J** for more confidence with his reading | **Year 5:** **Percy B** for applying himself and being focused. His STEM bridge is legendary | **Year 6:** **Ruby D** for displaying resilience this week | **Year 7:** **Derrick D** for his vibrant and enthusiastic approach to school life | **Year 8:** **Maggie P** for being an approachable and mature member of the school community



Apple Awards

Pre-School: **Edward B** for sharing his knowledge of harvest and what happens on a farm and **Theadora R** for always showing beautiful manners | **Reception:** **Archie H** for showing such resilience when his Daddy and Grandma left the classroom and **Winnie H** for showing such determination when moving objects without touching them | **Year 1:** **Fraser K** for his amazing independent creativity in Sketch club and **Lucas F** for contributing brilliant ideas in our PSHE lesson | **Year 2:** **Edison L** for having great resilience when completing column subtraction in Maths and **Shonagh O'S-J** for writing amazing descriptive sentences in English | **Year 3:** **Dominic B** for excellent effort with his reading and **Ezmai B** for making a detailed mosaic in History

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MR CLINCH

HEAD OF COMPUTING AND DIGITALLY ENHANCED LEARNING

E-Safety Made Easy: Quick Tips to Secure Your Child's Devices

In today's digital age, children are more connected than ever. From smartphones to tablets and online games, technology is a key part of their lives. However, though the internet opens up a world of knowledge and fun, it also presents risks like cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content, and online predators. To help protect your child in this environment, it's important to implement safety restrictions on their devices and monitor their online activity.



Adapting to this new technological landscape is essential and it is incumbent upon us as parents/guardians to educate ourselves on the best ways to do so. Having said that, I fully understand that, for some, this can seem overwhelming and sometimes it's hard to know where to start.

Bearing this in mind, I have created a short guide which includes practical tips for safeguarding your child's digital experience and advice on managing features such as chat functions in online games.

1. Use Parental Controls on Devices

Most devices offer built-in parental controls that allow you to manage what your child can access, set time limits, and restrict certain functions.

Apple Devices (iPhones and iPads): Use Screen Time in the settings menu. You can limit app usage, restrict access to adult content, and even block specific websites.

How to Set It Up: Go to Settings > Screen Time > Turn on Screen Time > Set a passcode > Content & Privacy Restrictions. More Info: [Apple's Screen Time Support](#)

Android Devices: Use Google Family Link, a dedicated parental control app that allows you to monitor and control screen time, app usage, and purchases.

How to Set It Up: Download Google Family Link from the Play Store, link your child's account, and adjust settings such as screen time and content filters. More Info: [Google Family Link Guide](#)

2. Enable Safe Browsing and Search Filters

To prevent children from stumbling upon inappropriate content, it's essential to enable filters on search engines and browsers.

Google SafeSearch: This feature blocks explicit content in Google search results. You can enable it by going to Google Settings > Search Settings and turning on SafeSearch.

YouTube Restricted Mode: YouTube has a restricted mode that limits access to videos flagged as inappropriate. To enable it, go to the YouTube app or website, scroll to settings, and toggle Restricted Mode on.

3. Disable In-App Purchases and Limit App Downloads

Many games and apps have in-app purchases that can result in surprise charges. To avoid this, set purchase restrictions and limit the apps your child can download.

On Apple Devices: Use Screen Time to restrict app downloads and prevent unauthorised purchases.

On Android Devices: Use Google Play's parental controls to set purchase approvals and restrict access to specific apps.

4. Restrict Chat Functions in Online Games

Online games with chat functions can be a gateway to interactions with strangers, exposing children to risks like cyberbullying or inappropriate conversations. Fortunately, most platforms and games allow you to disable or restrict chat features.

Fortnite: To restrict voice chat and text communication in Fortnite, go to the settings menu, then navigate to Audio or Parental Controls and turn off Voice Chat and Text Chat. More Info: [Epic Games Parental Controls Guide](#)

Minecraft: Minecraft offers parental control options to block chat and multiplayer interactions. Visit the Microsoft Family Account settings and customise privacy settings for multiplayer games. More Info: [Minecraft Chat and Privacy Guide](#)

Roblox: Roblox has detailed parental controls that allow you to disable chat or restrict it to a filtered, friend-only mode. Head to the Settings > Privacy section to adjust the chat settings. More Info: [Roblox Parental Controls](#)

Nintendo Switch: Many multiplayer games on the Nintendo Switch, including Splatoon and Super Smash Bros., allow parental controls to limit communication features. Use the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app to manage chat options. More Info: [Nintendo Parental Controls](#)

5. Monitor Social Media and Messaging Apps

Social media platforms and messaging apps can be particularly risky for children if used without supervision. Each platform offers settings to help you control privacy and interaction with strangers.

Instagram and TikTok: Both platforms allow parents to restrict direct messaging, limit who can comment on posts, and block inappropriate content. How to set it up:

Instagram: Go to Settings > Privacy > Message Controls.

TikTok: Use Family Pairing to link your account with your child's and control their settings, such as direct messaging and screen time. More Info: [Instagram Parental Guide](#) | [TikTok Family Pairing Guide](#)

WhatsApp: While WhatsApp doesn't have parental controls, you can ensure your child's account is set to private by adjusting the privacy settings to allow messaging from Contacts Only.

6. Teach Your Child About Online Safety

No amount of technology can replace open conversations about online safety. Equip your child with the knowledge to recognise dangers and make smart choices online:

- Encourage them to avoid sharing personal information.
- Make sure they know how to block or report users who make them uncomfortable.
- Let them know that they can always come to you if they encounter something unsettling online.

Recommended Websites for E-Safety Guidance

For more detailed information on how to set restrictions on various devices and platforms, these websites provide comprehensive e-safety advice:

Internet Matters: A website with easy-to-follow guides on setting parental controls for devices, apps, and gaming platforms. www.internetmatters.org

NSPCC - Keeping Children Safe Online: The UK-based NSPCC offers advice and guides for parents on online safety, including how to restrict chat features and manage device usage. www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

Common Sense Media: A resource for reviews and age-appropriate recommendations for games, apps, and websites, along with practical tips for managing device usage. www.commonsensemedia.org

Childnet International: Provides useful tips and step-by-step guides on setting up parental controls across different platforms and devices. www.childnet.com

By setting up parental controls, restricting chat features, and having open discussions, you can create a safer online environment for your child. I hope this guide has been useful, but please do get in touch if you need any more information or support.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

DR A PRABHAKAR



Akira from Year 2 was proud to share that her dad, Dr Prabhakar, completed the Berlin Marathon in an impressive time of 3 hours and 33 minutes on 29th September 2024. This achievement is a significant milestone, and we're thrilled to celebrate it within our school community.

Congratulations to Dr Prabhakar on this fantastic accomplishment! We look forward to seeing what he takes on next!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

PTA Halloween Party

Join us for the Halloween Party on **Wednesday, 23rd October 2024**. The schedule is as follows: 5:00pm – 5:30pm for pre-school only, and 5:30pm – 7:00pm for Reception to Year 8.

Children in pre-school to Year 2 must be accompanied by a parent. Tickets are £5 each, payable in advance to the PTA account or by cash/card at the door.

PTA Account Details:

- Account Number: 60838624
- Sort Code: 20-16-12

Snacks, drinks, and sweets will be available for purchase, so please bring some pocket money!



SGL Training

We're pleased to announce that SGL Training is now available at South Lee Prep School. They offer specialist classes and one-to-one personal training sessions.

SGL Training will enhance fitness, build strength, and boost athletic performance, complementing our existing sports programmes. Sam Last, who specialises in child confidence and is also a health and wellbeing coach for adults, will lead the sessions.

Book online at <https://bookaby.me/sgltraining> or call 07765 695049.

StageCoach Bury St Edmunds & Stowmarket

Stagecoach Performing Arts offers performing arts classes for children aged 4-18 years in Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. Their aim is to nurture young people's potential through singing, acting, and dance, helping to develop confidence, physical awareness, communication, and articulation in a fun and educational environment. For more information or to book a free trial class, visit [Stagecoach Bury St Edmunds](https://www.stagecoach.co.uk/burystedmunds)

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Our Year 5 pupils had a fantastic time at their campfire evening this week! They enjoyed toasting marshmallows and spending time together around the fire. It was a lovely evening full of laughter and fun.



A big thank you to all the parents who came to watch the Pre-Prep Harvest Festival this morning! What a beautiful performance by our Pre-Prep pupils – I'm sure you're as proud of them as we are. And thank you for your generous food donations to our local foodbank the Gatehouse!



Our pre-schoolers have been celebrating Harvest this week by exploring a variety of fruit and vegetables.



They had great fun selling their produce in their farm shop and even had a go at tasting lemons!