

6th November 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed a lovely half-term break and that the children have settled back into school life. It has certainly been a busy first week back, with plenty happening across the whole school.

As many of you know, I am currently recovering at home following my operation last week. I am pleased to say that my recovery is progressing, although I am certainly missing being at school, seeing the children and catching up with everyone. I am hoping to be back in school on Thursday, even if only for a little while to begin with.
Being away has reminded me just how fortunate I am to have such a wonderful team of staff at South Lee. I know that everything is in very capable hands, and I am enormously grateful to my colleagues for taking on the additional responsibilities in my absence. I am very lucky to work alongside such a dedicated and supportive team.
Despite my absence, I have been keeping up with everything happening at school, and it sounds as though the children have wasted no time getting back into their routines!

Monday saw the return of the children and the beginning of Nativity rehearsals. With the stage now in place, preparations for our Christmas performances are officially underway. I am sure the coming weeks will be filled with plenty of singing and excitement, as you all know this is my most favourite time of the year!

On Tuesday, Christmas carols made their first appearance in Hymn Practice, a sure sign that the festive season is approaching. Our Year 2 children also began their swimming lessons, which I hear they thoroughly enjoyed.

Wednesday was another busy day, with our Catchpole Club Lunch taking place, alongside sporting fixtures for our U13 girls in hockey and U11 boys in rugby. It is always lovely to see our children representing South Lee and enjoying the opportunities that come with being part of a team.

On Thursday, Manor House enjoyed their well-deserved celebratory lunch following their success in winning the House Cup last term. Congratulations once again to all the children in Manor House. I hope they enjoyed their special treat!

Today, we were delighted to welcome our local MP, Dr Peter Prinsley, to South Lee. Our Head Boy and Head Girl had the important responsibility of showing him around the School before he spent time with Year 3 discussing History and Year 5 exploring Maths. His visit concluded with a question and answer session with Year 8, providing our senior pupils with a valuable opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the role of a Member of Parliament. I am sure they represented the School extremely well, and I look forward to hearing all about the visit.

Our U9 children also braved the chilly afternoon at Orwell Park for their first hockey fixtures of the season. I hope they enjoyed the experience, despite the rather cold conditions! Thank you, as always, to our sports staff for providing these opportunities and to our parents for their continued support on the sidelines.

Looking ahead to next week, our Service of Remembrance will take place on Wednesday. This is always an important occasion in our school calendar, providing an opportunity for the children to reflect on the sacrifices made by others and the importance of remembrance. Please ensure that all children attend school in their full school uniform on Wednesday.

Being away from school has certainly made me appreciate those little everyday moments that we sometimes take for granted. The conversations in the corridors, the laughter of the children, popping into classrooms and simply being part of the hustle and bustle of South Lee. It is funny how much you miss the ordinary things when you find yourself not able to do them.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has, over the last couple of weeks, sent such kind emails, messages, cards, good wishes, gifts and even a home made family sized lasagne! I have been quite overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and support. I am very much looking forward to being back in my second home again, amongst my wonderful pupils and staff, and hopefully returning to some kind of normality very soon. I can't wait to hear all the nativity songs being sung in the corridors!

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
Best wishes,
Sarah Catchpole

Upcoming Dates

Character Strength: GENEROSITY

Key Dates for Next Week:

Monday 9th

13:50 Whole School Diwali Assembly
Pre Prep Drop Down Afternoon - Diwali Themed

Tuesday 10th:

BEBRAS Challenge Day
Year 2 Swimming

Wednesday 11th:

Rememberance Day Assembly
14:30 U13 Hockey v Holmwood House (H)
14:30 U13 Rugby v Holmwood House (H)
14:30 U11 Hocky v St Margaret's Prep (A)
14:30 U11 Rugby v St Margaret's Prep (A)

Thursday 12th:

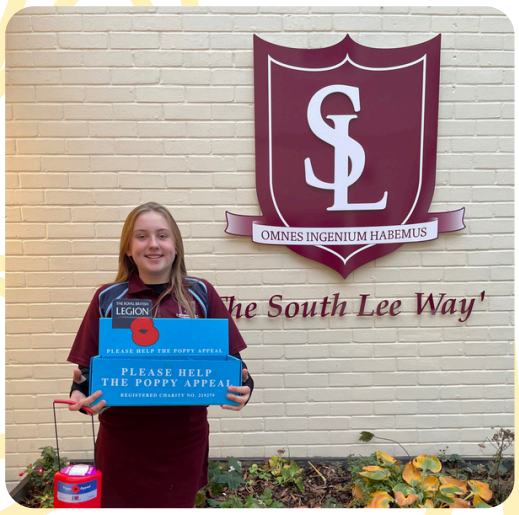
14:00 Governors Meeting

Friday 13th:

08:30 PTA Meeting
14:30 U9 Mixed Hockey v St Margaret's Prep & OBH (H)

Quick Clicks

Menus
Absence Request Form
Term Dates
Full Calendar
Medication at School























Celebration Assembly Awards:

Head Awards:
Jude J, Arthur L, Elizabeth L, Lara T, Alec B, Archie H, Alice B, Reuben T, Oliver O'C, Sofia R, Jenson B-S, Freddie C

Learning Dispositions Award:
Grace B-Y, Harry T, Daniel D, Adam K, Winnie H, Sadie S, Cooper L, Hubert B, Ethan T, Freddie P, Amalie C

Musician of the Week: Shia W-B

Artist of the Week: Aleksander R

Drama Award: River B

Style Award: Grace S

Female Sports Award: Elizabeth C

Male Sports Award: Beau G