16th October 2026

Dear Parents,

Another busy week at South Lee has flown by, and we have certainly ended it with plenty of excitement as our Year 4 to 8 pupils head off on their annual Hilltop residential trip!

We started the week with Mr C's assembly for Years 3 to 8, which was all about Hilltop. For those of you who may not know, every year, just before October half term, we take our Year 4 to 8 pupils away for a residential weekend. It is always one of the highlights of our school calendar and a wonderful opportunity for the children to challenge themselves, develop their independence and, for some, overcome the fear of simply being away from home for two nights.

A huge thank you to Mr C, Mrs Macfarlane, Miss Amy, Mr Jack, Mr M, Mr A and Miss Gross for giving up their weekend to accompany the children. Without the willingness and commitment of our staff, opportunities like this simply would not be possible, and I am extremely grateful.

This week also saw our wonderful PTA hold their Annual General Meeting. Thank you to all the parents and staff who attended and, in particular, to Mrs Farrow, Mrs Bird and Mrs Chuter, who have kindly agreed to continue in their roles, alongside the rest of the PTA committee. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive group of parents who give up their time to organise events and raise funds for the school. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

On Wednesday, we welcomed Suffolk County Council back to South Lee to run an Eco Club session for our Year 3 pupils. This followed on from last week's recycling workshop and was another lovely opportunity for the children to think about the environment and the small changes we can all make to look after our planet.

Thursday saw a fantastic turnout of Year 1 parents joining their children for lunch. It is always so lovely to welcome parents into school, and I know how much the children enjoy having you join them for these occasions. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along.

As mentioned above, today is Hilltop departure day, and I am delighted to be joining the team again this year. I absolutely love seeing the children develop and grow in confidence throughout the weekend.

One of the things I particularly love about Hilltop is its ethos of 'Challenge by Choice'. It is not about forcing children to do something they are uncomfortable with, but encouraging them to take that next step, move out of their comfort zone and into their stretch zone. For some children, this might mean tackling a high ropes activity, whilst for others, simply trying something new is an enormous achievement. Every child's challenge is different, and every achievement deserves to be celebrated.

I often remind the children that being brave doesn't mean you aren't frightened. Being brave means feeling nervous or scared but having the courage to give something a go anyway. That is exactly what Hilltop is all about, and I cannot wait to see what our pupils achieve over the weekend.

For parents whose children are attending Hilltop, please remember that we have set up a dedicated Facebook page where we will share photographs and updates throughout the weekend, so you can see what we have all been getting up to!

We now have just a few days left until our well deserved half term break, with our Halloween Disco to look forward to next week. I am sure the children are already planning their costumes!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, and to our Hilltop parents, I look forward to sharing plenty of stories and photographs from what I am sure will be another fantastic residential trip.

Best wishes,
Mrs Catchpole

Upcoming Dates

Character Strength: ADAPTABILITY

Key Dates for Next Week:

Monday 19th:

Assembly - Adaptability
Reception Trip to Pumpkin Patch
16:30 Teatime Tunes

Tuesday 20th:

Nasal Flu Vaccinations
09:00 SEND Roadshow - Coffee Morning

Wednesday 21st:

16:45-17:15 Cygnets, Swans & Pre School Disco
17:30-18:45 Reception - Year 8 Disco

Thursday 22nd:

Half Term

Friday 23rd:

Half Term

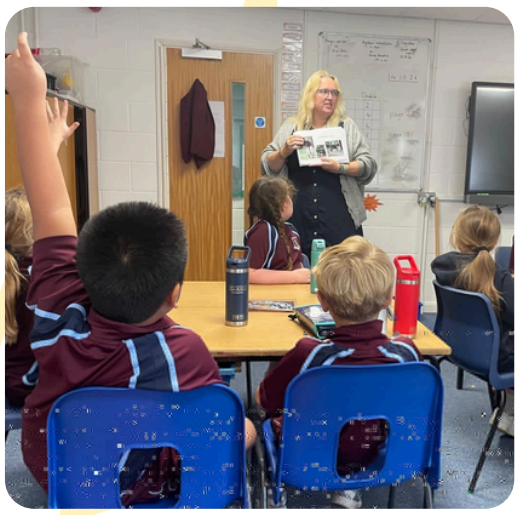
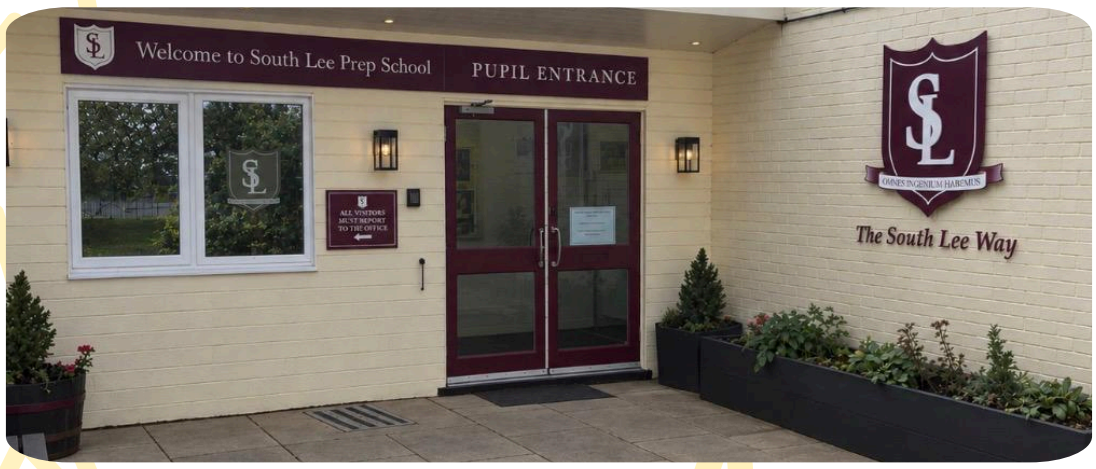
Quick Clicks

Menus
Absence Request Form
Term Dates
Full Calendar
Medication at School

Pupil Spotlight

Sener W

Sener competed for the first time as a member of the Suffolk Junior Chess team in the East Anglian Chess Union tournament against Norfolk and Cambridgeshire in Cambridge.

Sener managed to record his first competitive win in a tournament and, although Suffolk came 3rd he enjoyed the experience and managed to come through some early nerves!

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