

20th November 2026

Dear Parents,

Christmas is certainly beginning to creep into South Lee Prep, and there is a growing sense of excitement around the school as we head towards the festive season. However, please be assured that, despite the Christmas music, rehearsals and preparations, lessons and learning continue as normal throughout the final three weeks of term. There is still plenty of hard work taking place in our classrooms!

It was lovely to welcome so many of our Year 2 parents into school this week for our Parents' Lunch. These occasions are always a wonderful opportunity for families to spend time with us and enjoy a little glimpse of school life. Our new Chef, Angela, is settling into life at South Lee, and the children have welcomed her with open arms. She is doing a fantastic job of keeping us all well-fed, and I am grateful for the hard work she is putting into her new role.

On Tuesday evening, we held our Reception 2027 Roadshow, providing prospective parents with the opportunity to meet our fabulous specialist subject teachers and discover more about the exciting opportunities available to our youngest pupils as they begin their journey into Reception. It was lovely to share just how much our Reception children experience beyond the classroom and the benefits of being part of a prep school from such an early age. Wednesday saw another busy afternoon of sporting fixtures, with our children doing us proud, as always. Their determination, teamwork and sportsmanship continue to shine through, and I am grateful to our staff for the time and commitment they give to school sport.

Yesterday, we held our annual Christmas Jar Non-Uniform Day, which is always a lovely tradition at South Lee. The children arrived in their own clothes, bringing beautifully filled Christmas jars in exchange. Thank you to all our families for supporting this event and for the thought and effort that went into filling the jars.

Last night, I had the great privilege of watching our South Lee pupils singing at the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Lights Switch-On. What a wonderful occasion! Standing there watching our children represent the school so beautifully was one of those moments when I felt incredibly proud to be Headteacher of South Lee. Seeing their confidence, enthusiasm and smiles as they performed in front of the wider community was a reminder of just how special our children are. Thank you to everyone involved in making this such a memorable evening.

And the Christmas spirit continued this morning! As I arrived at school, I was greeted by the wonderful sight of our Head Boy and Head Girl dancing outside the school entrance, welcoming our younger pupils with Christmas music, big smiles and plenty of enthusiasm. It was such a lovely way to start a Friday morning and brought a smile to so many faces. Sometimes it is these little moments, the spontaneous acts of kindness, the laughter and the sense of belonging, that remind me what makes South Lee such a special place.

This afternoon, our U9 teams were also in action at Framlingham, rounding off another busy week of sport and school life.

Christmas Carol Service: Friday 11th December at 14:00.

A reminder that our Christmas Carol Service will take place at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral at 14.00 on Friday 11th December. This is one of my favourite events in the school calendar, and I do hope that as many of our families as possible will be able to join us as we come together to celebrate Christmas. Please note the time change from 14.30 on our calendar.

Please remember that term will finish immediately following the service. All children must be collected directly from the Cathedral, as there will be no transport returning to school and no clubs or childcare available afterwards.
As we head into the final three weeks of term, I am looking forward to all the special moments that Christmas at South Lee brings. It is a busy time, but a wonderful one, and I hope the children enjoy every moment whilst continuing to work hard in their lessons.

I will leave you with a little thought this week:

"*The best things about a school are not always found in its classrooms, but in the kindness, laughter and sense of belonging that fill its corridors.*"

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.
Mrs Catchpole

Upcoming Dates

Character Strength: CURIOSITY

Key Dates for Next Week:

Monday 23rd:
Years 3 - 8 Verse Speaking Competition

Tuesday 24th:
Year 6 - 8 Scholarship Pathway Afternoon

Wednesday 25th:
14:00 Full Board Governors Meeting
14:30 U11 Rugby v Culford School (A)

Thursday 26th:
12:00 Whole School Thanksgiving Lunch

Friday 27th:
09:00-12:00 Open Morning
14:30 U9 Mixed Hockey v OBH & Culford School (A)
19:00 PTA Wreath Making

Quick Clicks

Menus
Absence Request Form
Term Dates
Full Calendar
Medication at School

Pupil Spotlight



Nelly W

This week Nelly attended the Suffolk dance competition, she managed to come away with :

- The 5 and under cup winner
- 1st place in her song and dance solo
- 1st place in her modern solo
- 1st place in 10 and under song and dance group

Furthermore, she competed in her first tumble and trampette competition at her gymnastics club. She came away with :

- 3rd place in the level 1 advanced tumble
- 3rd place in the level 1 advanced trampette

This was also an amazing achievement because Nelly was competing against girls 2 years older!



Amalie, Eliot, Percy, Elizabeth & Sammy

We are incredibly proud to celebrate a remarkable achievement for our school this year. Our Prep School and Early Years children were awarded Gold Medals in the Bury in Bloom competition, recognising their hard work, creativity and commitment to enhancing our environment.

To add to this success, the whole school was honoured with the prestigious 'Pride in our Patch 2026' Award, a testament to the collective effort of our pupils, staff and the wider school community.

Special congratulations must go to Mrs Carter and her Soft Toy Making Club, whose beautifully crafted Winnie the Pooh-themed toys helped make our entry so memorable and showcased the creativity and dedication of our pupils.

We would also like to give special recognition to Percy, who went above and beyond by designing and creating a personalised large signpost in his own time at home. His enthusiasm, craftsmanship and commitment made a wonderful contribution to the project and impressed everyone involved.
These awards reflect the pride our children take in their school and surroundings. We are delighted to celebrate the creativity, teamwork and community spirit that made this success possible.



Raif

We are delighted to celebrate Raif's fantastic achievement of receiving a Grade 3 Merit in his Piano Exam!

Learning a musical instrument takes dedication, perseverance and many hours of practice, making this a wonderful accomplishment. Raif should be incredibly proud of all his hard work and commitment.

Congratulations, Raif! We are so proud of you and look forward to hearing about your future musical successes

This Week:


SOUTH LEE PREP








Welcome to South Lee Prep School




Welcome to South





















Celebration Assembly Awards:

Head Awards: Grace L, Ifeoluwa A, Arabella W, Tripp R, Fiachra L, Flynn L, Elliot M, Shonagh O'SJ, Emily S, Maverick F, Agnes L, Callum K, Oliver B.

Learning Dispositions Award:
Sebastian K, Ivo T, Hugo A-B, Mason H, William C, Phoenix F, Sophia C, Zara S, William T, Eliot C, Shia W-B, Thomas Wr, Harry R.

Musician of the Week: Raif W

Artist of the Week: Henry W

Drama Award: Percy B

Style Award: Zara S

Female Sports Award: Agnes L

Male Sports Award: Harry S