

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term! I hope this letter finds you all well and that you enjoyed a restful and restorative break with your families. There is a real buzz of happiness around the school today, and all the staff are excited for the summer term ahead.



While many of us may have had a chance to slow down, the school has remained a hive of activity over the holidays. Our wonderful Nursery has been open throughout, and a huge thank you goes to Mrs Williams and her team for their continued dedication and for making the Nursery look even more inviting. The new sensory room is nearly ready and promises to be a fantastic space for the children. A huge thank you to the office and finance team too.

Our site team have also been busy, and the school is looking especially lovely as a result of their efforts. We have created three additional parking spaces next to the minibuses in case you need extra time at drop off and collection.

This is always a very busy time of year, not least because the children are working hard on our upcoming production of Shrek. A gentle, but important plea from me: if your child is involved in the show and is required for Thursday rehearsals after school, please do all you can to ensure they are able to stay. The performance is fast approaching, and every rehearsal counts to help the children feel confident and prepared.

Mrs Macfarlane has asked me to ensure you are aware that next week is looking to be warm so please remember, sun hats, suncream and filled water bottles to keep hydrated.

I have spoken with the amazing PTA today about our upcoming colour run at Nowton Park on Friday 6th June at 2pm. Parents are warmly invited to take part or just be there to encourage our pupils. There will be a barbecue back at school for the children after the run with refreshments available to parents from around 3pm onwards. Please sponsor your child/ren online via our Just Giving link here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/southleecolourrun>. On a separate note, our PTA Chair, Mrs. Lucy Farrow, would very much appreciate new members to join the PTA.

As always, we are here to support your child's learning and wellbeing. If you have any questions or concerns as we start this final term of the academic year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,
Mrs Catchpole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2025

Week 2: Character Strength for the Week - Nurture

Monday, 28th:	Year 2 Swimming starts Pillar Lunch <i>16:00 Mini Red Tennis v Culford, OBH and Barnardiston Hall (A)</i>
Tuesday, 28th:	Reception Swimming starts 09:30 Year 2 visit to Pizza Express <i>16:00 U9 Soft Archery Tournament at KEGS (A)</i>
Wednesday, 30th:	<i>14:15 U13 Mixed Cricket v OBH (A)</i> <i>14:15 U11 Girls Kwik Cricket v Fairstead House (H)</i> <i>15:15 U11 Boys Cricket v Fairstead House (H)</i>

MAY 2025

Thursday, 1st:	Pre-School & Reception visit to Colchester Zoo
Friday, 2nd:	International Space Day 10:45 Pre-School Cake Sale 11:15 - 12:45 Pre-School into Reception Transition Morning <i>14:00 U9 Dodgeball County Finals at Ipswich School (A)</i>

Week 3: Character Strength for the Week - Honesty

Monday, 5th:	Bank Holiday - School and Nursery Closed
Tuesday, 6th:	09:30 Year 6 Pizza Express Trip <i>12:00 Pre-School Grandparent Lunch</i> 13:20 Eco Warrior Meeting
Wednesday, 7th:	08:30 School Council Meeting <i>14:15 U13 Mixed Cricket v Barnadiston Hall (A)</i> <i>14:15 U11 Girls Kwik Cricket v Barnadiston Hall (H)</i> <i>14:15 U11 Boys Cricket v Barnadiston Hall (H)</i>
Thursday, 8th:	Ground Force Afternoon 12:10 VE 80 th Anniversary Celebration Lunch - Non-Uniform day: Wear Red, White or Blue <i>17:00 LAMDA Showcase</i> <i>19:00 PTA Parent Social Wine Tasting at Vino Gusto</i>
Friday, 9th:	South Lee Prep Open Morning 09:00 Martineau Lecture - Food as Medicine 10:45 Reception Cake Sale <i>14:15 U9 Girls Kwik Cricket v Fairstead House (H)</i> <i>14:15 U9 Boys Kwik Cricket v Fairstead House (H)</i>

Regular Font: Pupils Only

Italic Font - Parents' Invited

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**](#)

USEFUL REMINDERS

Upcoming Bake Sales

Our popular Friday cake sales return this term, with each year group taking a turn to bring in and sell sweet treats. Thank you in advance for your support – all funds raised go towards PTA initiatives.

Pre-School: Friday, 2nd May 2025

Reception: Friday, 9th May 2025

Year 1: Friday, 16th May 2025

Year 2: Friday, 6th June 2025

Year 3: Friday, 13th June 2025

Year 4: Friday, 20th June 2025

Reception and Year 2 Swimming Lessons

Reception and Year 2 children will begin their swimming lessons next week at Moreton Hall Health Club. Please ensure that your child brings their full swimming kit on the day of their lesson. If you wish to collect your child directly from Moreton Hall Health Club, kindly inform their form tutor in advance.

Lesson days are as follows:

• **Reception: Every Tuesday | 2:00pm - 3:00pm**

• **Year 2: Every Monday | 3:00pm - 4:00pm**

Year 2 and Year 6 Visit to Pizza Express

Children in Year 2 and Year 6 will be visiting Pizza Express for a fun and interactive workshop where they will learn how to make their own pizzas while exploring ingredients and healthy eating. This hands-on experience supports elements of the curriculum in a creative and engaging way. Consent letters have been emailed to parents, and the visit dates are as follows:

• **Year 2: Tuesday, 29th April 2025 at 9:30am**

• **Year 6: Tuesday, 6th May 2025 at 9:30am**

Pre-School and Reception Visit to Colchester Zoo

We are excited to announce that on **Thursday, 1st May 2025**, our Pre-School and Reception children will be visiting Colchester Zoo. This trip promises to be an engaging and educational experience, bringing learning to life in an exciting, real-world setting. The cost of the trip is **£17.00 per child**, and we kindly request payment to be made via bank transfer to the following account:

Account Name: South Lee School

Sort Code: 30-91-49

Account Number: 00388098

Pre-School Grandparent Lunch

We are very pleased to invite the grandparents of our Pre-School children to a special **Grandparent Lunch on Tuesday, 6th May 2025 at 12:00pm**. Please note that spaces are limited, and we are only able to offer places for two grandparents per child. To assist with our preparations, we kindly ask that you RSVP the **School Office** by **Wednesday, 30th April 2025**, including confirmation of attendance and any allergens or dietary requirements.

Non-Uniform Day - VE 80th Anniversary

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, we will be holding a **non-uniform day on Thursday, 8th May 2025**. We kindly ask that children come to school **dressed in red, white, or blue** to mark this important occasion in British history.

LAMDA Showcase

Parents are warmly invited to our LAMDA Showcase on **Thursday, 8th May at 5:00pm**, where pupils will perform selected pieces from their lessons. Children may bring their own costumes or wear a black long-sleeve top with black leggings or trousers. Please RSVP to the **School Office** if you plan to join us for the evening, as refreshments will be provided.

PTA Parent Social - Wine Tasting at Vino Gusto

Join us for a relaxed evening of wine tasting on Thursday, 8th May 2025 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Vino Gusto. Enjoy four wines paired with charcuterie boards in great company. Tickets are £30.00 per person. Please make payment directly to the PTA account:

Account No: 60838624 | Sort Code: 20-16-12

PUPIL SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Paul and Iris for their impressive equestrian achievements. During the holidays, Paul was part of a three-person team from the Newmarket and Thurlow Pony Club who took part in the regional Horse and Pony Care competition. The team performed exceptionally well, taking first place and securing their place at the national championships. This is a particularly special milestone, as it marks the first time the Newmarket and Thurlow branch has qualified to send a mini team to the national finals. The competition is designed for young riders, with the team including at least one member under eight years old as of 1st January, making this achievement even more noteworthy.

Not to be outdone, Iris represented South Lee in a show-jumping competition in Essex at the weekend. She rode with great skill and composure, securing another qualifying place for the Schools National Grassroots Championships at Hickstead. Iris has shown remarkable consistency in recent events and continues to represent the school with enthusiasm and determination.

The pair rounded off the holiday with a more relaxed outing, joining Oliver and Poppy O'C for a lovely local fundraising ride – no pressure, just ponies and fresh air!

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



The summer term is underway and it has been a joy to welcome our pupils back to South Lee. Classrooms are full of energy, laughter, and learning, with friendships rekindled and routines quickly restored. From morning lessons to lunchtime clubs, the term has already begun with great momentum. We look forward to all the opportunities and experiences the coming weeks will bring.