

# SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Mrs Catchpole's Review: Highlights from the Week
- Dates for your Diary
- Useful Reminders
- Pupil Spotlight
- Photo Highlights: This Week's Best Moments

Dear Parents,

Although it has only been a four day week, it seems to have been as busy as ever.

Exciting News! We are pleased to share that South Lee School, with Mr Clinch leading, has been named a finalist in the National Teaching Awards in the category of Transformative Use of Digital Technology. Digitally Enhanced Learning has been a central part of our provision for the past four years, and this recognition reflects not only Mr Clinch's leadership in this area, but also the commitment of the staff team as a whole. As part of the judging process, there was a 90-minute interview involving staff, governors and pupils, highlighting the ways in which technology is used to support and enhance learning across the curriculum. We await the final outcome with interest.



On Tuesday afternoon, Henry, Ivanna and Lola from Year 7 took part in the Culford Debating Event, representing South Lee in front of pupils and staff from nine other schools. It was a challenging setting, but our children handled it with clarity and confidence. Their motion was 'This House believes that you should always be obedient, and they argued against it, stating that obedience without critical thinking can be dangerous. They referenced historical examples and presented their case with maturity and composure. Their performance was noted by several staff from other schools, and we will certainly look to build on this by entering more events of this kind in future.

Year 6 had the opportunity to visit Pizza Express, where they learned about ingredients, pizza-making, and had the opportunity to make and eat their own pizzas. Meanwhile, our Pre-School children hosted a lunch with their grandparents, which provided a lovely opportunity for the children to share part of their school day with special family members.

Wednesday saw the latest School Council meeting, where pupils put forward ideas for ways to improve various aspects of school life. In the afternoon, despite the cold weather, we hosted cricket fixtures against Barnardiston and our U13 team had an away fixture. The children were resilient and played with good spirit.

On Thursday, we marked VE Day 80 with themed classroom activities and a street party-style lunch, accompanied by music from the 1940s. This was a whole-school event and created a lively and enjoyable atmosphere. I hope you were able to sample a scone at pick up!

Thank you to those involved in organising and attending the PTA wine tasting event last night. I heard that it was a very enjoyable evening with so many parents supporting the school.

Today we welcomed prospective families to our latest Open Morning, and I was pleased to show them around and share what the children have been doing. The amount of families that commented on 'the positive vibe' really blew me away. One parent has already emailed to say that they left feeling quite emotional as they could just feel what a special place South Lee is. This is a huge testament to both your children and the amazing staff we have here.

We also held the latest in our Martineau Lecture series, where Dr Almoosawi delivered a talk on Food as Medicine to pupils in Years 6 to 8. It was very informative and very well received.

This weekend I will be heading to the Cotswolds to take part in my charity walk for breast cancer. If you would like to support the cause, my donation page can be found here: [Just Giving- Sarah Catchpole](#)

Thank you to all who have already donated. I may well be wearing flip flops on Monday!

Next week, I will be out of school from Tuesday to Thursday, as I will be taking part in an inspection of another school for the Independent School Inspectorate. I look forward to returning to South Lee on Friday morning. I am still contactable via email, but I will be leaving the school in the very capable hands of Mr C, Mrs T and Mrs Martineau.

I hope you have a good weekend.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Sarah Catchpole

Head

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2025

---

## Week 4: Character Strength for the Week - Empathy

- Monday, 12th: Mental Health Awareness Week  
Whole School Prospectus Photography
- Tuesday, 13th: 16:00 U9 Girls Benchball Tournament at KEGS (A)
- Wednesday, 14th: LAMDA Exams  
*14:15 U13 Mixed Cricket v Thetford Grammar (H)*  
*14:15 U11 Girls Kwik Cricket v Orwell Park (A)*  
*14:15 U11 Boys Cricket v Orwell Park (A)*
- Friday, 16th: 10:45 Year 1 Cake Sale  
11:15 - 12:45 Pre-School into Reception Transition Morning  
*14:00 U9 Girls Kwik Cricket v Ipswich High (A)*  
*14:00 U9 Boys Kwik Cricket v Ipswich High (H)*

---

## Week 5: Character Strength for the Week - Kindness

- Monday, 19th: Years 5 - 8 Assessment Week Begins
- Tuesday, 20th: 15:30 U11 Dodgeball Tournament (H)
- Wednesday, 21st: 13:30 Pre-School, Reception, Years 1 & Year 2 Visit to Piddly Circus  
*14:15 U13 Mixed Cricket v Thetford Grammar (A)*  
*14:15 U11 Girls Kwik Cricket v St Joseph's College (H)*  
*14:15 U11 Boys Cricket v St Joseph's College (H)*
- Thursday, 22nd: Years 5 - 8 Assessment Week Finishes
- Friday, 23rd: 08:30 PTA Meeting  
09:00 - 11:00 EYFS Family Fun Morning - Shrek  
Year 1 - Year 8 Visit to Bewilderwood

---

**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> May - Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May: Inclusive Half-Term**

---

## Week 7: Character Strength for the Week - Gratitude

- Monday, 2nd: 16:00 Mini Green Tennis v OBH, Culford and Finborough School at OBH (A)
- Tuesday, 3rd: 14:30 U11 Mixed Cricket Tournament (H)  
16:00 Mini Orange Tennis v Culford, OBH and Barnardiston Hall at Culford (A)
- Wednesday, 4th: 09:00 Martineau Lecture - Mr. Wall  
14:00 U11 Girls Kwik Cricket v Ipswich High (H)  
14:00 U11 Boys Cricket v Ipswich High (H)  
14:15 U13 Mixed Cricket v Town Close (A)  
14:15 U11 Mixed Kwik Cricket v Brookes UK (A)
- Thursday, 5th: World Environment Day
- Friday, 6th: D-Day Anniversary  
09:00 Year 1 visit to Great Cressingham  
10:45 Year 2 Cake Sale  
11:15 - 12:45 Pre-School into Reception Transition Morning  
14:00 Colour Run and BBQ
- Sunday, 8th: Year 8 Leavers Residential Trip to Peak District Departs

---

Regular Font: Pupils Only

*Italic Font - Parents' Invited*

# USEFUL REMINDERS

## 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](#)

---

## Reminder About Nuts

We kindly remind all families that South Lee is a **strictly no nut school**. We have pupils with severe nut allergies, and it is very important that no snacks or lunch items containing nuts are brought into school. This includes items such as cereal bars, spreads, and other packaged snacks that may contain nuts or nut traces. We are very grateful for your continued support in helping us keep all our children safe.

---

## Walking for a Cause - Supporting Breast Cancer Now

Mrs Catchpole, together with her daughters Ellie and Katie and her sister Julie, will take part in the Pink Ribbon Walk at Blenheim Palace on Saturday, 10 May 2025 to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now. This cause is very close to her heart, having lost her mother to the disease and now supporting a close friend who is undergoing treatment.

If you would like to help, please visit her JustGiving page: [Sarah Catchpole – JustGiving](#).

---

## 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.

**Year 1: Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Year 3: Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Year 2: Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Year 4: Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

---

## Pre-School, Reception, Years 1 & 2 Visit to Piddly Circus

Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be visiting the Piddly Circus on **Wednesday, 21st May 2025**. This outing offers a wonderful opportunity for the children to enjoy an afternoon of fun and discovery in a new environment. Further details will be shared with parents closer to the time.

---

## Years 1 - 8 Visit to Bewilderwood

Year 1 to Year 8 will be visiting Bewilderwood on **Friday, 23rd May 2025**. This is a friendly reminder to submit completed consent forms and make payment as soon as possible to secure your child's place. Should you have any queries or require further assistance, please contact the School Office. We very much look forward to a wonderful day out.

---

## EYFS Family Fun Morning

We are very pleased to invite our **EYFS families to a Shrek-themed Family Fun Morning on Friday, 23rd May 2025**, from **9:00am to 11:00am** in our Forest School. There will be a variety of Shrek-inspired activities for families to enjoy together, including a bake sale, raffle, and a costume competition with a prize for the best Shrek look-alike. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mrs Williams at [k.williams@southlee.co.uk](mailto:k.williams@southlee.co.uk) to confirm your place. We look forward to welcoming you for what promises to be a very enjoyable morning.

---

## Colour Run and BBQ

We are looking forward to our Colour Run at Nowton Park on **Friday, 6th June 2025 at 2:00pm**. Parents are warmly invited to take part in the run or simply come along to cheer on the children. After the event, there will be a barbecue back at school for the pupils, with refreshments available for parents from approximately 3:00pm. If you are able to support, please consider sponsoring your child via our JustGiving page: [South Lee Colour Run 2025](#).

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Pupil of the Week

**Henry D, Lola G and Ivanna K** for doing such an amazing job at the Culford Debating Competition.

## Artist Award of the Week

**Lennon P** for her searching questions, joyful experimentation and love of making art.



## Player Award of the Week

**David O'S-J and Lola G** for Cricket.

## Drama Award of the Week

**Harry S** for being really enthusiastic with his participation in Shrek rehearsals.



## Musician Award of the Week

**Eliot C** for fabulous thinking and reasoning when learning new notes.

## Style Award of the Week

**Agnes L** for always looking smart in her uniform.



## Linguist of the Week

**Iris C** for taking on extra challenges in French and being able to form negative sentences **and Wyatt C** for his vocabulary retention, good pronunciation and focus during the lesson.

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Head's Award

**Pre-School:** **Poppy O'C** for showing so much confidence in herself. | **Reception:** **Aiden M** for always trying his best in every lesson. | **Year 1:** **Lucas F** for his brilliant attitude towards his assessments. | **Year 2:** **Greer P** for being an amazing member of Year 2 and always making others smile. | **Year 3:** **Saoirse L** for showing great resilience and persevering throughout the week. | **Year 4:** **Beau G** for superb independent work in Science. | **Year 5:** **Thomas W** for his fantastic attitude, resilience and perseverance. | **Year 6:** **Aarun V** for continued excellence and active revision. | **Year 7:** **Freddie D** for a conscientious effort with his revision. | **Year 8:** **Maggie P** for continuing to show a real zest for school life in her final week.



## Learning Disposition Awards

**Pre-School:** **River B** for taking great care when colouring her picture and **Hudson M** for being brave at his dentist appointment. | **Reception:** **Emily G** for showing *empathy* and looking after her friends when they are sad and **Flynn L** for great *communication* when explaining the moral of our story so well. | **Year 1:** **Beatrice B** for amazing concentration during the assessment week and **Daphne B** for showing brilliant perseverance, especially when the learning is difficult. | **Year 2:** **Cooper L** for having great perseverance with his handwriting and **Frida F** for showing empathy to a friend when she was feeling sad.

# PUPIL SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Oliver, who took part in the 5km Park Run recently and achieved a new personal best time of 24 minutes and 15 seconds. This is a fantastic accomplishment that reflects Oliver's focus, determination and the consistent effort he has put into his running over recent months. Completing a timed run over that distance is no small feat, and we are incredibly proud of his achievement.

Oliver was joined and supported by Mr A and Mr M, who ran alongside him and helped with pacing throughout the course. Their encouragement and steady guidance undoubtedly made a difference, and it was lovely to see staff and pupil working together towards a shared goal. The support on display is a true reflection of the South Lee spirit, where effort is celebrated, and every success is shared as a community.

Opportunities like this are a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved with perseverance and support. Whether pupils are representing the school, setting personal goals, or simply taking part in something they enjoy, we are always proud to celebrate their journeys. Well done Oliver!

Congratulations to Thomas Wa, who represented the Ipswich Hockey Club U10 boys' team in the In2Hockey East of England Finals on Saturday, 26th April. Having already secured their place by winning the local tournament against Bury, Sudbury and IES, the team arrived with confidence and determination.

On the day, they put in a fantastic series of performances, beating Hertford, Chelmsford, Bedford, Saffron Walden and Harleston Magpies to earn a well-deserved place in the final.

In a closely fought match, the team were narrowly beaten 1–0 by the same Hertford side they had overcome earlier in the competition. Although there was understandable disappointment at missing out on the top spot, Thomas and his teammates should be incredibly proud of their efforts throughout the tournament. It was an outstanding achievement against some strong opposition, and a brilliant experience for all involved. Well done, Thomas!



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Year 6 had a fantastic time at Pizza Express last Tuesday, creating and baking their very own pizzas from dough to delicious finish!*



*It was a real joy to see our pre-schoolers sharing a special lunch with their grandparents this afternoon. Moments like these are so important for building strong, warm relationships and creating lovely memories. Thank you to all the families who joined us – it was such a happy afternoon!*



*Our school marked VE Day with activities that brought history to life and helped our pupils appreciate its significance. The celebration then continued in the hall for a truly special afternoon tea prepared by Chef Rachael, complete with freshly baked scones, sausage rolls, sandwiches and Victoria sponge. The room buzzed with warm conversation and smiles as everyone enjoyed the treats and came together in reflection and remembrance.*

# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Well done to Henry, Lola and Ivanna for doing such a brilliant job at the Culford Debate Competition. They represented South Lee with confidence, clarity and great team spirit.*



*This week in Nursery, the children explored different tuff trays, including a Five Little Ducks tray filled with textures to feel and talk about, and a colourful sensory scarf tray to support curiosity and fine motor skills. We've also been busy colouring tiles for our display board — a lovely mark-making activity that encourages creativity and confidence.*



*Our Pre-School children have loved exploring the theme People Who Help Us this week — especially getting into character during doctors' role play!*



*Years 3 and 4 rolled up their sleeves for Groundforce Afternoon — working together to tidy, plant and brighten up our school grounds!*