

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another academic year, I wish to take this opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished together and to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support.

In every corner of South Lee, from the classrooms to the corridors, the sports fields and the playground, there is a clear sense that our pupils are secure, stimulated and thriving. This is a school where children are happy, and we know that it is only when a child is truly happy that meaningful learning can take place. A happy child does not learn merely academic content but learns how to think, how to ask questions and how to explore the world with confidence and curiosity. South Lee remains a small, nurturing school in which every child is known, every child is valued and every child is given the space and encouragement to grow.



This year has brought various challenges, not least the introduction of VAT on school fees, a decision entirely beyond our control. Your trust and ongoing belief in this school have been greatly appreciated by us all. I extend my deepest gratitude to you, our parent body, for your steadfast commitment and support.

Our current direction remains strong, and this year we have welcomed a significant number of new families into our community. This is clear evidence of the strength of our provision and reputation.

Today you will receive your child's school report in printed format. I made the decision to return to printed copies because I believe they hold enduring value. These reports are not merely academic summaries; they are an important part of each child's story and a keepsake for years to come.

Alongside the reports, you will also receive our termly educational supplement and, for the first time, a new publication explaining how we are delivering education at South Lee. Together with my Senior Leadership Team and our dedicated staff, I continue to shape what I believe an exceptional education should be.

We have undertaken extensive research into metacognition, engaged in in-depth discussions about learning processes and designed a curriculum that is modern, meaningful and forward-thinking. Whether you have known me for many years or are among the families who have more recently joined our community, you will know how deeply I care about education. I hold a firm belief in a broad curriculum that nurtures curiosity, creativity and depth of understanding.

At South Lee we believe that breadth and substance are of greater value than teaching solely to a test. Our aim is to open doors for our pupils, not to narrow their paths. Our teachers are true specialists in their subjects. Their passion for their areas of expertise inspires the same passion in our pupils. This is how genuine interests are discovered and cultivated. For this reason, we continue to embed critical and creative thinking into every subject, ensuring that our pupils gain a strong foundation for lifelong learning, problem-solving and for becoming confident, curious and open-minded individuals.

Central to all of this is our unwavering commitment to our pupils' wellbeing. Throughout this year, we have continued to help each child become the very best version of themselves. Their authenticity and kindness towards others were identified in our inspection as a key strength of South Lee, something of which I am extremely proud. Following a very successful Moving Up Morning last week, our Form Tutors are fully prepared to support their new classes with the same dedication to each pupil's pastoral care on a daily basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

I was particularly proud of our Prep School pupils during Sports Day this year. They demonstrated remarkable determination, team spirit and encouragement for one another. It was a true reflection of the values we hold dear at South Lee, both on the sports field and beyond.

As we look ahead to September, please be assured that we shall continue to place the wellbeing of every child at the heart of all that we do. Before the first day of the new term, each family will receive a telephone call from their child's new Form Tutor. This will be an opportunity to hear about your summer and to ensure that the children feel confident and prepared for the new academic year. We also recognise that some children may benefit from a gentle return to school. Therefore, we shall invite any pupils who may find the transition challenging to join us on Tuesday the 2nd of September for a short settling-in session to help ease any feelings of anxiety.

Thank you once again for your trust, your partnership and your support throughout this year. I wish you all a peaceful, restful and enjoyable summer holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you and your children back to South Lee in September, ready for another year of curiosity, learning and growth.

With my sincere good wishes,

Sarah Catchpole
Head

SEPTEMBER 2025

Week 1: Character Strength of the Week - Resilience

Monday, 1 st :	STAFF INSET DAY School and Nursery Closed to children
Tuesday, 1st	STAFF INSET DAY Nursery Open to All-Year Round Children Only
Wednesday, 3rd:	TERM Begins Clubs Begin 09:00 Welcome Back Assembly 16:10 Pre-Prep Parent Drop-In 16:30 Prep Parent Drop-In
Friday, 5th:	Upper Prep Peer Mentoring Training 12:50 Captain's Lunch

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](#)

Looking Ahead to the New Term

We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Wednesday, 3rd September 2025, with the day starting at 8:30am. Until then, we wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.

FINAL ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Head's Award

Pre-School: Poppy O'C for coming on so well in her confidence over the year. | **Reception: Eva T** for her maturity and organisation around the classroom. | **Year 1: Lucas F** for brilliant improvement and achievement in English. | **Year 2: Luxmi P** for being such a kind and considerate person when caring for a new friend. | **Year 3: Tavin W** for his enthusiasm and energy throughout the week. | **Year 4: Anna C** for her determination and positivity in the classroom. | **Year 5: Isaiah N** for his calm and optimistic approach to the last week of term. | **Year 6: Charlotte B** for all her contribution to South Lee sport through the year. | **Year 7: Evie D** for showing enthusiasm and good commitment to our end of term activities. | **Year 8: Benjamin A and Molly F** for delivering outstanding speeches at our annual prizegiving.

Learning Disposition Awards

Pre-School: Tenley W for showing support to a friend during graduation and **Lucia L** for always coming into pre-school with Zest. | **Reception: Archie H** for his excellent independence and maturity with transition and **Maxim W** for his concentration when creating new pieces of art in creative corner. | **Year 1: Shanmukha S** for brilliant concentration when improving his handwriting and **Donnacha L** for amazing concentration when writing Jack and the Beanstalk. | **Year 2: Reuben T** for his curious approach to his lessons and **Frida F** for her consistent empathy towards others.

Pupil of the Week

The whole School for their brilliant performances in our Prep school production of Shrek The Musical Jnr.

Artist Award of the Week

Amalie C for her lovely sketchbook presentation.

Music Award of the Week

Hubert B for such perseverance on the ukelele.

Drama Award of the Week

Freddie P for taking part in Shrek with such energy and enthusiasm.

Special Merits

Samantha L for her beautiful felt rabbit made in Toy Making club. | **Percy Bird** for his amazing FabFix Repair Kit made in STEM. | **Edith A-B** for her thoughtfully researched and interesting power point on Carl Linnaeus. | **Sener W** for his thoughtfully researched and interesting power point on Carl Linnaeus. | **Mollie P** for her thoughtfully researched and interesting power point on Carl Linnaeus. | **Luke S** for his thoughtfully researched and interesting power point on Special Diets.

Sports Captains

Rugby: **Henry D**

Hockey: **Lola G**

Lady Miriam & Richard Spring Cup

Lady Miriam: **Mollie P**

Richard Spring: **Tavin W**

FINAL ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Half Colours Tie

Sport: **Amalie C** for Swimming | **Freddie C** for Cricket and Tennis | **Aarun V** for Cricket and Tennis | **Molly F** for Cricket | **David O'S-J** for Cricket | **Benjamin A** for Cricket

Art: **Ivanna K** | **Mollie P**

Drama: **Ivanna K**

Full Colours Tie

Drama/ Music: **Molly F**

Spellings Award

Year 2: **Luxmi P** | *Year 3:* **Beatrice D, Freya F, Zuri J, Paul C, Saoirse L, Oliver O'C, Edward S, William T, Tavin W** and **William W**

Handwriting Progress Award

Year 2: **Cooper L** | *Year 3:* **Hubert B** | *Year 4:* **Ethan T** | *Year 6:* **Harry T** | *Year 7:* **Lola G** | *Year 8:* **Maisie B**

Termly Pillar Awards

Nurture: **Percy B**

Achievement: **Beau G**

Community: **Iris C** and **Sophia R-C**

Authenticity: **Edith A-B**

Communication: **Henry D**

Zest: **Dominic B**

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Moving Up Morning was full of energy and excitement as pupils teamed up with their new year groups, explored future classrooms, and got to know their class teachers. From games to group activities, our younger children had a brilliant time playing alongside the older ones and getting a fun-filled taste of what's to come in September!



From thoughtful recitations to uplifting musical pieces, our Evening of Music & Verse showcased the range and depth of our pupils' abilities – with every performance earning warm applause from a proud audience.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



A seaside morning in Felixstowe gave Year 8 the chance to unwind, take in the view and enjoy being together before they say goodbye to South Lee.



A wonderful afternoon at our Summer Fête!

Pupils from Years 4 to 8 ran a brilliant variety of stalls, bringing energy, creativity and plenty of fun. Thank you also to our PTA for the ever-popular tombola. We hope everyone enjoyed it!



Laughter, adrenaline and a few nervous screams filled the air as Year 8 took on the twists, turns and towering drops of Pleasurewood Hills. A brilliant day of thrill-seeking and memory-making.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



A proud day for South Lee as we celebrated the achievements, effort and progress of our pupils at this year's Speech Day and Prizegiving.



Sports Day for Years 4 to 8 was an action-packed event full of energy and excitement. Pupils raced, threw and jumped with determination, showing fantastic team spirit and enthusiasm throughout the afternoon. With house colours flying and plenty of cheers from the sidelines, every event was met with friendly competition and a real sense of camaraderie. From the sprint races to the relays, it was a day that showcased the true spirit of South Lee.