

# 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
- Awards of the Week
- Staff Spotlight
- Community Spotlight
- Photo Highlights

Dear Parents,

So off we go to Hilltop Outdoor Centre for another fun filled weekend in North Norfolk! This is one of the South Lee Prep school traditions that Mr C and I have now been doing for over 18 years! (This is Mr C's 23rd visit!) The forecast looks great for today and it is looking likely that it will not be too cold with a slight chance of drizzle on Saturday. I do hope that everybody has a wonderful time and when we return on Sunday, the children can fill you in on all the positive experiences they have enjoyed. Although please be prepared for tired children!



We arrive back at school on Sunday morning at approximately 11.30am. The gates will be shut until the coach arrives, so please park at the Victory Grounds and walk across. We will keep everyone updated on our private Facebook page [Hilltop Facebook page](#).

Dare I say it, this week has been a relatively quiet week, compared to previous weeks. They do say that there is always calm before the storm! We had a lovely Reception class parent lunch on Tuesday, amazing results in our matches against OBH and Norwich School on Wednesday. On Thursday, I was extremely proud of some of our Year 6-8 pupils who travelled to RHS for cross country, they all did brilliantly.

More exciting news, Denbury Homes, a housing developer approached us over the summer about designing a child's bedroom for one of their showrooms in Bury St Edmunds. We have now chosen 10 finalists and these children's designs will go on Denbury Homes social media and the public will vote for their favourite. So, in essence, one of our children's designs will be brought to life by a professional interior designer, what an amazing achievement. Well done, to all of the finalists. Thank you, Mrs T and Ms Pereira, for organising this.

Half term is nearly upon us, we break up next Wednesday. We have our Teatime Tunes Concert at 4.30pm on Monday, our first House Meeting of the term on Tuesday and then the PTA Disco from 5.30pm-7.00pm on Wednesday.

An additional date for the diary is a visit from the new MP for Bury St Edmunds - Dr Peter Prinsley. He will be joining Year 7 and 8 for lunch and taking questions on Friday 8th November.

### **Our Character strength next week is... Humility**

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Catchpole

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## OCTOBER 2024

### Week 8: Character Strength for the Week - Humility

- Monday, 21st: *16:30 Teatime Tunes*
- Tuesday, 22nd: 08:40 House Meetings
- Wednesday, 23rd: 17:00 PTA Halloween Disco (Pre-School)  
17:30 - 19:00 PTA Halloween Disco (Reception - Year 8)

### Thursday, 24th October 2024 - Friday, 1st November 2024: INCLUSIVE HALF-TERM

## NOVEMBER 2024

### Week 10: Character Strength for the Week - Self-Discipline

- Monday, 4th: 13:50 Diwali Celebration Assembly
- Tuesday, 5th: 12:50 Catchpole Club Lunch
- Wednesday, 6th: *14:30 U13 Rugby v Framlingham Prep (A)*
- Thursday, 7th: Upper Prep Skills and Enterprise Morning  
*12:10 Year 1 Parent Lunch*
- Friday, 8th: 08:30 PTA Meeting  
08:30 Year 6 Parent Coffee Morning  
*14:30 U9 Netball Tournament at OBH (A)*  
*14:30 U9 Hockey Tournament at OBH (A)*

### Week 11: Character Strength for the Week - Integrity

- Monday, 11th: Anti-Bullying Week  
10:50 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Tuesday, 12th: *12:10 Year 2 Parent Lunch*
- Wednesday, 13th: *14:30 U13 Rugby v Thetford Grammar and Brookes UK (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Hockey v Thetford Grammar and Brookes UK (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Rugby v St Joseph's College (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Hockey v St Joseph's College (A)*
- Thursday, 14th: Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Christmas Jar)
- Friday, 15th: *08:30 Year 5 Parents' Coffee Morning*  
10:45 Year 3 Cake Sale  
*14:30 U9 Netball v Fairstead House (A)*  
*14:30 U9 Football v Fairstead House (A)*

### Week 12: Character Strength for the Week - Optimism

- Monday, 18th: First Round of Verse Speaking Competition (Year 4 - Year 8, In Classroom)
- Tuesday, 19th: *10:30 U11 Suffolk Dodgeball Competition (A)*  
*14:45 Martineau Lecture 'The Building Blocks of Philosophy - King's Ely'*
- Wednesday, 20th: *14:30 U13 Rugby v Stoke College (A)*  
*14:30 U13 Hockey v Stoke College (A)*  
*14:30 U11 Hockey v Fairstead House (H)*  
*14:30 U11 Rugby v Fairstead House (H)*
- Friday, 22nd: *08:30 Year 4 Parents' Coffee Morning*  
10:45 Year 2 Cake Sale  
*14:00 U9 Netball Tournament at Ipswich School (A)*  
*14:00 U9 Hockey v Ipswich School (A)*  
*19:30 PTA Sip & Paint*

Regular Font: Pupils Only

*Italic Font - Parents' Invited*

# USEFUL REMINDERS

## Pupil Absence Request

Regular attendance is essential for children to achieve their full potential. At South Lee Prep, we are committed to providing a high-quality education in a welcoming environment, where every child has the right to learn. Parents and teachers share the responsibility for supporting excellent attendance and punctuality.

To make the most of the opportunities available, children should attend school every day unless absence is unavoidable. Good habits around attendance and punctuality also prepare children for future expectations in the workplace.

If you plan to take your child out of school, please complete the Absence Request Form: [Absence Request Form](#)

---

## Hilltop Pick-Up

We are scheduled to arrive back at South Lee on **Sunday, 20th October 2024 at 11:30am**. For pick-up, please park at the Victory Grounds to allow the coach easy access to the driveway.

---

## Pupil Bake Sale

We are pleased to announce our upcoming pupil bake sales. Kindly send your child in with £1 to purchase a delicious homemade treat. Your generosity will encourage our pupils' creativity and help support our school community initiatives. Please ensure all baked goods are nut-free. Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

**15th November: Year 3 Bake Sale**

**29th November: Year 1 Bake Sale**

**22nd November: Year 2 Bake Sale**

**5th December: Reception Bake Sale**

---

## Parent Coffee Morning

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming Coffee Mornings, offering an opportunity for informal discussion, camaraderie among parents, and a chance to connect with the wider school community. Please email the office to confirm your attendance at [office@southlee.co.uk](mailto:office@southlee.co.uk).

**8th November: Year 6 Parent Coffee Morning**

**22nd November: Year 4 Parent Coffee Morning**

**15th November: Year 5 Parent Coffee Morning**

---

## Teatime Tunes

Parents are warmly invited to Teatime Tunes on **Monday, 21st October 2024, at 4:30pm**, where children taking peripatetic lessons will be showcasing their musical talents. We look forward to seeing you there!

---

## PTA Halloween Party

The Halloween Party is on **Wednesday, 23rd October 2024**. The schedule is as follows: 5:00pm – 6:00pm for pre-school children, and 5:30pm – 7:00pm for Reception to Year 8 pupils. **Children in pre-school to Year 2 must be accompanied by a parent**. Snacks, drinks, and sweets will be available for purchase, so please bring some pocket money!

Tickets are £5 each, payable in advance to the PTA account or by cash/card at the door.

PTA Account Details:

- Account Number: 60838624
  - Sort Code: 20-16-12
- 

## Year 1 Parent Lunch

Year 1 Parents are warmly invited to join us for the Year 1 Class Parent Lunch on **Thursday, 7th November 2024, at 12:10pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to spend time with your child and experience a typical lunchtime here at South Lee. It will also be a great chance to meet and chat with other parents, as well as members of the staff. **We kindly ask that you confirm your attendance with the [school office](#) in advance**, so we can ensure everything is in place for an enjoyable afternoon.

---

## PTA Meeting

The PTA would like to invite all parents to the upcoming PTA Meeting on **Friday, 8th November 2024, at 8:30am**. Your input and ideas are valuable, and everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Pupil of the Week

**Agnes L** for being an amazing buddy to Lily on her Taster Day

## Artist Award of the Week

**Samantha L, Benjamin A, Luke S, Maggie P, David O'S-J, Oscar T, Evie D, Ivanna K, Lola G and Ruby D** for being chosen as the finalist of Denbury Homes Child's Bedroom Design



## Player Award of the Week

**Aarun V** for Rugby (for his agile running and try scoring ability) and **Charlotte B** for Hockey (for her speed on the ball and the determination to score goals)

## Drama Award of the Week

**Freddie D** for a confident performance of his devised Murder Mystery script



## Musician Award of the Week

**Greer P** for super singing

## Style Award of the Week

**Alexander K** for always looking smart in his uniform





# AWARDS OF THE WEEK



## Head Awards

*Pre-School:* **Hudson M** for being so brave when having his eyes tested | *Reception:* **Flynn L** for wonderful, expressive puppet play | *Year 1:* **Oliver T** for showing brilliant independence throughout his learning | *Year 2:* **Edison L** for being more mindful in his lessons and having a caring attitude towards his peers | *Year 3:* **Zuri J** for careful and considerate work throughout the week | *Year 4:* **Beau G** for trying really hard in his bumper spelling test | *Year 5:* **Iris C** for being exceptionally welcoming to our new pupils | *Year 6:* **Harry R** for his enthusiasm and commitment to her fitness session on Wednesday afternoon | *Year 7:* **Ivanna K** for her enthusiasm and commitment in her fitness session on Wednesday afternoon | *Year 8:* **Ben A** for displaying a mature attitude to learning a tricky concept in Mathematics



## Apple Awards

*Pre-School:* **Jack C** for becoming a big brother and **William C** for becoming a big brother | *Reception:* **Aiden M** for being so brave and joining in with puppet play and **George W** for creating amazing 3D shapes using construct o'straws | *Year 1:* **Fraser K** for fantastic concentration in English this week and **Beatrice B** for amazing zest when singing and dancing | *Year 2:* **Axel G** for writing an amazing acrostic poem about elephants and **Akira P** for having a positive and patient approach to creating 3D shapes out of nets | *Year 3:* **Eliot C** for great work in Maths with addition and subtraction and **Edward S** for great reading and writing in English



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## MR. DAN ABBOTT



We are pleased to celebrate Mr. Abbott's recent achievement in the Oxford Half Marathon, which took place on Sunday, 13th October 2024. This event marks his third half marathon, following his previous runs in Cambridge in March 2022 and March 2024. Congratulations to Mr. Abbott for showing remarkable dedication to his training, as he achieved a personal best time of 1 hour and 55 minutes—an impressive improvement from his last race time of 1:59.

As shown in the accompanying photos, Mr. Abbott ran alongside Mr. Thistlethwaite, who is the husband of our very own Mrs. Thistlethwaite. Mr. Thistlethwaite finished with an incredible time of 1:42, which is especially noteworthy considering he was coming back from an injury. Their camaraderie and support for one another during the race exemplify the wonderful community spirit we cherish here at South Lee Prep.

Both runners were all smiles before and after the race, highlighting the fun atmosphere of the event. They enjoyed the beautiful course and the charming city of Oxford, making the experience even more memorable. It's not just about the race; it's about the friendships and shared experiences that come along with it.

Looking ahead, Mr. Abbott has set his sights on his next challenge: the Cambridge Half Marathon in March 2025. With a goal of finishing in 1:49, he is already gearing up for training. We can't wait to follow his journey and see how he progresses.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Abbott on his fantastic accomplishment and wishing him the best of luck as he prepares for his next race!

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## PTA Christmas Wreath Making Evening

The PTA are hosting a Christmas Wreath Making Evening on **Friday, 29th November at 6:00pm**. This event is for adults only and costs £40.00 per person, which includes all materials and instruction to create your own beautiful wreath.

Drinks and nibbles will also be provided. Please ensure you purchase your tickets by 15th November 2024 to secure your place.

PTA Account Details:

- Account Number: 60838624
- Sort Code: 20-16-12



## SNOWDASH

A Snow Dash is coming to Norton Park, Bury St. Edmunds!

Brave Futures, a local children's charity, is hosting this brand-new event on Sunday, 1st December. This 5K event welcomes participants of all ages and abilities—whether you're walking, jogging, or sprinting through the course. Expect a winter wonderland experience with snow cannons placed around the track, along with music, festive entertainment, and surprises for the whole family.

To book, please visit <https://bravefutures.org/events/snow-dash-norton-park/>. Use the discount code **SCHOOL10** at checkout for 10% off. It looks like a great day out for a great cause!

## School's Out Activities

Looking for something to keep the children busy over the October half-term? School's Out has an exciting range of activities planned, from sports and games to arts and outdoor adventures – perfect for all interests!

School's Out is offering South Lee parents an exclusive 15% discount. Simply use the code **SOUTHLEE** when booking to take advantage of this offer.

To learn more and secure your child's spot, visit: [School's Out Activities](https://www.schoolsoutactivities.co.uk).





# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Technology and STEM Camp this Christmas

Next Thing Education Camps are looking to host an exciting Technology and STEM themed camp at our school this Christmas break from the 16th - 20th December for children in Years 1 - 6.

The Tech Camp adventure this December will be filled with Christmas Circuitry 🎄, Enchanting Engineering builds ⚙️, Rocking Robotics 🤖, NEW & Improved Fantastical virtual reality, plus laser tag, Lego and so much more!

[Here is a video](#) of some of our activities in action, inspiring young inventors and the next generation of tech enthusiasts!

To see if the camp is feasible, Next Thing Education need an idea of how many children would be interested.

Please could you click on the following link and complete the following 30 second survey to register your interest for this camp: <https://nextthing.typeform.com/to/JKzoxJu0>

We will be in touch very soon to confirm it is going ahead.



**Next Thing**  
education camps



# PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



*Our Reception children had a great time sharing lunch with their parents today! Smiles and delicious food all around!*



*This week in Year 2, we've had great fun exploring shapes! Today, the children transformed flat nets into exciting 3D creations – from cubes to pyramids, they've brought their maths skills to life!*



*Year 2 had a fantastic day learning all about the lively Brazil Carnival! The children created their own colourful carnival masks – a brilliant burst of creativity!*

