

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

I'm sitting at my desk with a huge smile and a heart full of pride after watching our Year 4-8 finalists in the annual Verse Speaking competition. Their performances were truly outstanding. Equally impressive were our Pre-Prep children, who sat beautifully for an hour, listening intently to their older peers.

During our House meetings on Monday, the school came alive with Spice Girls songs as everyone rehearsed for the House Shout competition.

Tuesday saw our Cross-Country runners compete at Thetford Grammar, where they achieved remarkable success, taking first place overall in both the Under-9 and Under-11 categories. On Tuesday, our Year 6-8 students participated in their Scholarship Pathway afternoon, an event they always look forward to with great enthusiasm. Wednesday brought further success as we celebrated victories over OBH and Orwell Park in both Rugby and Hockey matches.

There have been many highlights this term, but Thursday's Thanksgiving lunch stands out as one of the best moments. The whole school came together to share what felt more like a feast than just a meal. Watching the older children chatting happily with the younger ones was a sight to behold. Earlier in the week, Mrs. Macfarlane remarked to me as she watched a couple of Year 8 children take the hand of a slightly wobbly Reception child and guide them down the corridor: *"Mrs. C, where else would you ever see this, apart from here at South Lee? This school has a uniqueness that makes it feel so safe and warm."* I couldn't agree more. As I reflect on my first term as Head, I'm struck by how special this community is. While there have been a few moments of panic along the way, overall, it's been an incredibly happy and fulfilling term.

Next week, the festive season will be in full swing. The Pre-Prep children will perform their production of 'I'm Gonna Shine' for parents and grandparents. Our chosen charity this year is the St Nicholas Hospice at West Suffolk Hospital, and our choir will visit the hospice to sing carols for patients later in the week.

We will also be supporting another charity close to our hearts, The Children's Trust, through our annual Elf Run on Thursday. This organisation holds special significance to us as they cared for our wonderful Hubert and his family during his recovery. Please consider donating online to this worthy cause via the South Lee Prep fundraising page.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to our beautiful Christmas Carol Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Friday 6th December at 2:30 pm. This event is open to the entire South Lee Prep community, so please feel free to bring extended family along. Children can be collected directly after the service, and I look forward to seeing you all there.



S Catchpole
Mrs. Catchpole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2024

Week 14: Character Strength for the Week - Creativity

- Monday, 2nd: 14:30 Pre-Prep Dress Rehearsal to the whole School
- Tuesday, 3rd: Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
10:00 - 12:00 Ipswich Town Foundation Festival @ Portman Road
14:00 Pre-Prep Christmas Production
- Wednesday, 4th: *10:00 Pre-Prep Christmas Production*
14:30 U13 Rugby v The Leys (A)
- Thursday, 5th: 10:30 Reception Cake Sale
11:00 Whole School Elf Run
14:00 Carols at St Nicholas Hospice
- Friday, 6th: *14:30 Christmas Carol Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral*

Week 15: Character Strength for the Week - Courage

- Monday, 9th: 11:00 Upper Prep Carols, Games & Lunch at Nowton Court Village
15:00 Nursery Nativity
- Tuesday, 10th: *10:00 Nursery Nativity*
11:00 Carols at Stradbroke Court
14:10 House Matches
- Wednesday, 11th: Nursery Christmas Party
Reception - Year 6 Christmas activities & Pantomime Trip 'Aladdin'
Year 7 & 8 Christmas Trip to London 'Wicked'
- Thursday, 12th: Drama Club Pantomime
Christmas Jumper Day
15:00 - 17:00 South Lee PTA Christmas Fayre
- Friday, 13th: Non-Uniform Day
10:30 Crinkly Cup
12:00 Whole School Christmas Lunch
14:30 Final Assembly
TERM ENDS

JANUARY 2025

Week 1

- Friday, 3rd: 09:00 Staff INSET (SCHOOL & NURSERY CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS)

Week 2: Character Strength for the Week - Resilience

- Monday, 6th: 09:00 Staff INSET (NURSERY OPEN TO ALL-YEAR ROUND PUPILS ONLY)
- Tuesday, 7th: **TERM BEGINS**
- Wednesday, 8th: *14:30 U11 Netball v Fairstead House and St Joseph's College (H)*
14:30 U11 Football v Fairstead House and St Joseph's College (H)
- Friday, 10th: *08:30 PTA Meeting*
14:30 U8 Tag Rugby v Fairstead House (H)
14:30 U9 Rugby v Fairstead House (H)
14:30 U9 Hockey v Fairstead House (H)

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](#)

The Fiver Challenge

The Year 7&8 children have begun their 'fiver challenge' and will be selling their goods at breaktimes and lunchtimes. Items on sale are as follows:

Snack Shack – selling American snacks ranging from £1 - £2 | **Fidgets** – selling fidget toys ranging from 50p -£1
Slushy Slush – selling slushies Ranging from £1 -£2 | **3D printed toys** - £3 | **Sweet bags** - £1

New Instrument Lessons Starting January

Starting in January 2025, we are introducing flute and clarinet lessons for pupils interested in expanding their musical skills. These lessons offer a great opportunity to explore a new instrument under professional guidance. For more details or to express interest, please email [Mrs Combes](#).

Pupil Bake Sale & PTA Hot Chocolate

We are pleased to announce our upcoming pupil bake sales and PTA Hot Chocolate sales. Kindly send your child in with £1 or £2 to purchase a delicious homemade treat and/or hot chocolate. Please ensure all baked goods are nut-free. Thank you for your continued involvement and support.

5th December: Reception Bake Sale

Pre-Prep Christmas Production

Refreshments will be served on 3rd December 2024 from 1:30pm, with the Pre-Prep Christmas Production starting at 2:30pm, and on 4th December from 9:30am, with the production at 10:00am. This year, we are inviting donations for St Nicholas Hospice Care in Bury St Edmunds in support of their valuable work.

South Lee Prep Elf Run 2024

Our Christmas Elf Run is on **Thursday, 5th December 2024**, with all pupils from Reception to Year 8 taking part. This festive event will raise funds for The Children's Trust, supporting children with brain injuries.

We invite you to support this cause by making a donation through our JustGiving page: [South Lee Prep School Elf Run 2024](#). For a glimpse into the difference your support makes, read [Hubert's Story](#), which highlights the impactful work of The Children's Trust.

South Lee Prep School & Nursery Christmas Carol Service

We invite parents to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service, taking place at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral on **Friday, 6th December 2024, with the service beginning at 2:30pm**. This special event brings our school community together to celebrate the spirit of the season with traditional carols, readings, and reflections. **Children may go home directly from the cathedral with their parents after the service.**

Nursery Nativity Performance

The Nursery Nativity, taking place on **Monday, 9th December 2024, at 3:00pm, and Tuesday, 10th December 2024, at 10:00am**. For parents who haven't yet booked, please email Mrs. Williams at k.williams@southlee.co.uk to secure your tickets. **Each child is entitled to two tickets per day.**

Reception - Year 6 Pantomime Trip

The Reception to Year 6 pupils Pantomime trip to the Theatre Royal to see Aladdin will take place on **Wednesday, 11th December 2024**. Please ensure your children wear their full uniform for the trip. If you have any questions or need any help, please feel free to contact the school office.

Year 7 - Year 8 Trip to London

On **Wednesday, 11th December 2024**, we will be taking Years 7 and 8 to London for the day, to celebrate the end of term, by going to watch a matinee performance of 'Wicked the Musical'. Letters have gone home in satchel post today.

USEFUL REMINDERS

PTA Silent Auction: Christmas Trees

In the spirit of sustainability, this year South Lee is generously offering up its three Christmas trees for a silent auction.

We have two 7ft Nordmann Firs and one 10ft Nordmann Fir available. If you would like to make a bid for one, two, or all three trees, please email your bid to ptachair@southlee.co.uk by **9th December**.

The winning bidders will be notified by email on 10th December, and the trees will be ready for collection on the last day of term.

South Lee Prep Christmas Fayre

The South Lee Prep Christmas Fayre, organised by the PTA, will take place on **Thursday, 12th December 2024, from 3:00pm to 5:00pm**.

The event will feature a wonderful selection of stalls from our local community, including **Absolute Crochet by Nikki, Unique Handcrafted Jewellery, Party Bags by Bev, Sea Arts and Crafts by Hayley, The Book Den, Sparkly Glass, Leonora of Suffolk Candles, Arty-Crafty-Party by Trudi Edmunds, and Jo's Cookie Jar.**

Children can also visit Santa's Grotto, and there will be delicious treats and refreshments available. Friends and family are warmly invited – the more, the merrier!



SGL Training

SGL Training offers specialist fitness classes and one-to-one personal training sessions at South Lee Prep School. These sessions focus on enhancing fitness, building strength, and boosting athletic performance, complementing our existing sports programmes.

Led by Sam Last, who specialises in child confidence and is also a health and wellbeing coach for adults, the training provides a fantastic opportunity for both pupils and adults to develop both physically and mentally.

To book, visit <https://sgltraining.simplybookit> or call **07765 695049**.

South Lee Prep School & Nursery,
Bury St Edmunds

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A MONTH

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- OVER 60 CLASSES AVAILABLE
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- 2 MONTHLY BODY COMPOSITION SCANS TO KEEP YOU ON TRACK

SIGN UP NOW!
<https://sgltraining.simplybook.it/v2/>

1:1 and small group Personal Training sessions are also available!

SGL TRAINING GYM
SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL
VICTORY SPORTS GROUND
BURY ST EDMUNDS, IP33 2BT
07765 695049
sgltraining@outlook.com

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

ROUGHAM HALL NURSERIES

A big thank you to Rougham Hall Nurseries for their generous donation of three Christmas trees for our school, plus an extra tree for our Christmas Fayre! They offer a range of freshly cut, locally grown trees, including Norway Spruce and Nordmann Fir, from 4ft to 10ft.

Visit Rougham Hall Nurseries:

A14, Rougham, IP30 9LZ

RHN Plant Centre: Colethorpe Lane, Barrow, IP29 5BE

For more info:

Email: rhnsales@outlook.com

Phone: 01359 270577



Rougham Hall
NURSERIES



SNOWDASH

A Snow Dash is coming to Nowton Park, Bury St. Edmunds on Sunday, 1st December! Hosted by Brave Futures, this 5K event is open to all ages and abilities, featuring snow cannons, music, festive fun and surprises.

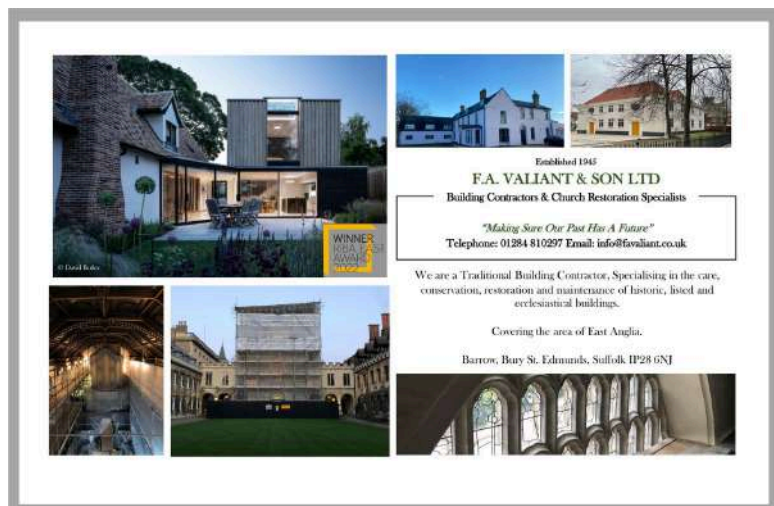
Book now at <https://bravefutures.org/events/snow-dash-nowton-park/> and use code **SCHOOL10** for 10% off! A great day out for a great cause!

Technology and STEM Camp this Christmas

Next Thing Education Camps will run tech-filled activities at South Lee Prep School from **16th to 20th December, 9:00am to 4:00pm, for ages 5 to 11.**

Highlights include LEGO engineering, virtual reality, 3D festive creations, laser tag, and Christmas circuitry.

All our staff are DBS checked and fully qualified to ensure the best and safest experience for your children. Secure your spot here: [Next Thing Education Camp](#).



Thank you to F.A. Valiant & Son Ltd, for your support of South Lee Prep School & Nursery.

F.A. Valiant & Son Ltd is an award-winning builder specialising in the restoration and conservation of churches, historic buildings, and exclusive homes across East Anglia.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Year 3 had a start of the week at Bury Fire Station!

From exploring the fire engines to trying out the hoses, they learned all about the amazing work our firefighters do to keep us safe. A huge thank you to the team for such an inspiring visit—who knows, we might have some future firefighters in our midst!



Huge congratulations to our amazing cross-country runners – you've made us so proud!

U9 Boys: Overall winners with 1st place William T, 2nd place Michael H-A, and 3rd place Alexander K.

U11 Boys: Overall winners with Aarun V in 3rd place.

U11 Girls: 1st place for Charlotte B.

Brilliant performances all round – well done, everyone!

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Our whole school came together to celebrate with a delicious Thanksgiving lunch prepared by our talented Chef Rachael. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great food and share in the spirit of gratitude. Wishing all our American friends a very Happy Thanksgiving!



A huge well done to all our talented pupils from Years 4 to 8 who participated in this year's Verse Speaking Finals. The standard of performances was truly impressive, and we are so proud of everyone who took part. Congratulations to our winners: Year 4 - Agnes L, Year 5 - Thomas W, Year 6 - Amalie C, Year 7 - Ivanna K and Year 8 - Maggie P. A big thank you to our guest judge, Mr. Dan Jones, Deputy Head at Framlingham College, for his insightful feedback and support of this special event.