

SOUTH LEE PREP SCHOOL & NURSERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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

Dear Parents,

This week, I had the absolute pleasure of joining our Year 8 pupils, alongside Mr C, for a truly memorable few days away. One particular highlight was a 10-mile walk through the stunning scenery of the Peak District, an impressive achievement for all involved. The pupils tackled the challenge with good humour, resilience, and not a single complaint (well, perhaps one from me!).



Throughout the trip, their behaviour, teamwork and camaraderie were exemplary. Members of the public commented on how polite and well-mannered they were, and I could not have been prouder. They were a real credit to their parents and to the school, and it was lovely to hear so much laughter and shared happiness among them.

These experiences reflect just how important it is for our pupils to remain with us through Years 7 and 8. These final years at South Lee provide a valuable bridge between childhood and adolescence, allowing pupils to grow in confidence, step into leadership roles, and take on the responsibilities that come with being the oldest in the school. It is during this time that they can really come into their own, academically, socially, and personally, all within an environment where they feel secure, supported, and known.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and belief in South Lee. Your trust enables us to provide these rich, formative experiences for the children, experiences which, we hope, they will carry with them long into the future. Mr C has even more exciting plans for our Year 8 pupils in their final few weeks.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share some staffing news as we look ahead to the next academic year:

- Mrs Sam Witthuhn, who has been part of South Lee for over 23 years, as both a colleague and a parent, will be leaving at the end of this term to pursue a new challenge outside of education. Sam has contributed so much to both Nursery and Pre-Prep, and we wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her life.
- Mrs Louise Thompson will join us in Reception in September. Louise is an experienced Early Years practitioner and is currently based at Ickworth Primary School.
- Miss Tiffany Sharpe will be leaving to take up a new role at a senior special needs school in Quidenham. Having recently got engaged and relocated closer to family in Norfolk, we wish her every success. Mrs Natasha Hobbs, currently our Year 4 form tutor, will move into the Year 2 teaching role in September. I know she will be great!
- Miss Jade Francis will not be returning from maternity leave, having accepted a position closer to home in Norfolk. We thank her for all she has contributed during her time at South Lee.
- Mrs Jen Arnold, our Head of Learning Support, will be expanding her role next year. In addition to her existing responsibilities, she will be teaching across Years 3 and 4, as well as continuing as Form 6 tutor.
- We are also delighted to welcome Miss Kimberley Hill, who joins us from Thetford Grammar School as a part-time Teaching Assistant in the Prep School.

I will make my formal goodbyes on Speech Day, as I know that you would like to share in my appreciation for all those that are leaving us.

I sent details of your child's form teacher for the next academic year via email yesterday. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Catchpole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE 2025

Week 9: Character Strength of the Week - Self-Discipline

Monday, 16th:	<i>National Sports Week</i> <i>15:30 U11 Tennis Tournament (H)</i> <i>16:30 Tea Time Tunes</i>
Tuesday, 17th:	<i>15:30 Mixed Rounders Tournament (H)</i> <i>17:30 Staff v Parents Cricket Match</i>
Wednesday, 18th:	<i>14:15 U13 Mixed Cricket v Framlingham Prep (A)</i> <i>14:15 U11 Girls Kwik Cricket v Fairstead House (A)</i> <i>14:15 U11 Boys Cricket v Fairstead House (A)</i>
Thursday, 19th:	<i>14:00 Full Board Governors Meeting</i> <i>14:00 - 17:30 Production Rehearsal</i>
Friday, 20th:	<i>08:30 Years 7 & 8 Head's Breakfast</i> <i>10:45 Year 4 Cake Sale</i> <i>11:15 - 12:45 Pre-School into Reception Transition Morning</i> <i>14:00 Years 4 - 8 Inter House Swimming Gala at Moreton Hall Health Club (A)</i> <i>14:15 U8 Boys Kwik Cricket v Brookes UK (H)</i>

Week 10: Character Strength of the Week - Integrity

Monday, 23rd:	<i>14:00 South Lee Pre-School Graduation</i> <i>15:00 New Starter and Reception 2025 Welcome Tea Party</i>
Tuesday, 24th:	<i>Eco Warrior Non-Uniform Day</i>
Wednesday, 25th:	<i>14:15 Prep School Dress Rehearsal</i> <i>18:00 Prep School Production</i> <i>Year 8 Self-Defence Training</i>
Thursday, 26th:	<i>Year 8 Tenpin Bowling at Bury Bowl</i> <i>18:00 Prep School Production</i>
Friday, 27th:	<i>Year 8 Visit to Southlake Aqua Park</i> <i>08:30 PTA Meeting</i> <i>09:30 Nursery Sports Day</i> <i>14:00 Pre-Prep Sports Day (Reception - Year 3)</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](#).

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.

USEFUL REMINDERS

Upcoming Bake Sale

Our final bake sale for this term will take place on **Friday, 20th June 2025**, and will be hosted by Year 4. May we kindly remind parents that all baked goods should be nut-free. Thank you, as always, for your support—funds raised go towards PTA initiatives.

Tea Time Tunes

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our next Tea Time Tunes on **Monday, 16th June 2025 at 4:30pm**. This informal gathering is a lovely opportunity for pupils to share their musical progress in a relaxed setting.

Staff v Parents Cricket Match - 17th June 2025

We warmly invite you to join us for our Staff vs Parents Cricket Match on **Tuesday, 17th June at 5:30pm**. There will be garden games for the children, including giant Jenga, and delicious food on offer – a BBQ in collaboration with Thurston Butchers, serving 6oz burgers and jumbo sausages (£5.00 each), along with homemade salads and strawberries and cream.

National Thank A Teacher Day - 18th June 2025

Who's made a difference to your child's day, week—or year? National Thank a Teacher Day is just around the corner, and we would love for our school community to get involved! Pupils, parents and carers can send a free thank you card to a teacher or member of staff who deserves a little recognition. It only takes a minute and means the world. Click [here](#) to send a free thank you card!

South Lee Pre-School Graduation

We are pleased to confirm that the South Lee Pre-School Graduation will take place on **Monday, 23rd June 2025**. This special occasion marks an important milestone for our youngest children, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements with you. To assist us with planning and catering, we kindly ask parents to RSVP to [Mrs Williams](#) by **Monday, 16th June 2025**. Further details about the event will be shared closer to the time.

Eco Warrior Non-Uniform Day

Tuesday, 24th June is our Eco Warrior non-uniform day. Children are welcome to come to school in their home clothes, and we kindly ask for a £1 donation to support the school's eco initiatives.

Shrek the Musical Jr. - Extra Tickets Available

We're pleased to let you know that extra tickets for this year's school production, Shrek the Musical Jr, are now available for Years 4 - 8 parents. The performance will take place on **Wednesday, 25th June and Thursday, 26th June 2025, both at 6:00pm**. Tickets are extremely limited and bookings will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to request extra tickets, please email the [school office](#) with your preferred number. Tickets will be distributed on Friday, 20th June 2025.

Years 4 - 8 Bawdsey Residential Trip

Thank you to the 45 pupils who have signed up for the Year 4–8 residential visit to Bawdsey Manor this October. Mr Catchpole is currently working closely with PGL to finalise the weekend activity timetable. **The second and final payment of £120 is now due**, and we kindly ask that this is made using the usual payment methods.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Pupil of the Week

Henry D for being a brilliant role model during rehearsals.

Artist Award of the Week

Ivanna K for amazing creativity in her set design.



Players Award of the Week

David O'S-J - for Cricket - for batting well and giving his team a chance in chasing down a big total, **Mollie P** for Cricket - her commitment in the field and her consistent bowling; and **Albert B** for playing in his first tennis county finals and winning all 4 of his singles matches.

Drama Award of the Week

Shia W-B for being really focused in drama.



Musician Award of the Week

Christian M for confidently leading the singing in the ensemble during Shrek rehearsals.

Style Award of the Week

Maxim W for always looking smart in his uniform.



Linguist of the Week

Lucas F for excellent vocabulary retention of his animals and colours.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Head's Award

Pre-School: Freddie T for showing fantastic manners and sharing in forest schools. | **Reception: Emily G** for her wonderful recall of our story using all the actions. | **Year 1: Shanmukha S** for his zest during the colour run. | **Year 2: Jack J-W** for being more vocal and enthusiastic in class discussions. | **Year 3: Paul C** for making some excellent castle designs while using TinkerCAD. | **Year 4: Kieran O'S-J** for a huge improvement in his attitude and effort in English. | **Year 5: Sophia R-C** for sustained effort across all subjects. | **Year 6: Sener W** for his hard work in English and Maths. | **Year 7: Evie D** for completing a pleasing piece of work on solving equations with unknowns on both sides. | **Year 8: Luke S** for being organised, proactive and helpful on the Year 8 Leavers Residential.



Learning Disposition Awards

Pre-School: Alec-Marcus B for helping a friend get down from the table at lunch and **Robin D** for showing good commutation when sharing. | **Reception: Maxim W** for his wonderful curiosity in and around the classroom and **Eva T** for taking such good care of our new role play area and using it so beautifully. | **Year 1: Wyatt C** for showing amazing independence in phonics and **Lincoln T** for showing incredible curiosity in Maths when learning division. | **Year 2: Emilia L** for consistently showing curiosity in her studies and **Axel G** for having an increased level of independence with his times tables.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Mr and Mrs C accompanied our Year 8 pupils on a two-night residential in the Peak District—a trip full of adventure, laughter and moments to treasure. From scenic walks and team challenges to shared meals and evening games, it was a brilliant few days away together.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



In Forest School, Flynn enjoyed working alongside Caroline to craft a charming photo frame from sticks and wool. Carefully selecting sturdy twigs, they experimented with weaving techniques to secure each corner before adding the wool. It was a delightful opportunity to explore creativity, develop fine-motor skills and take pride in a handmade keepsake.



We wished our U11 boys and girls all the best as they took to the field in their cricket matches against Orwell Park and Thetford Grammar. They played with confidence, supported one another, and enjoyed every moment—go South Lee!



The children in Nursery had a great time exploring a variety of tuff trays this week, including a musical tuff tray, a shaving foam tuff tray, and even one filled with natural resources. Meanwhile, the Pre-School children enjoyed a wonderful Forest School session, embracing nature and all it has to offer.



A big well done to our U9 Orange Ball Boys Tennis Team for securing the bronze medal at the County Finals at Framlingham College this morning! A fantastic achievement – congratulations, team!