



Dear Parents,

What another busy week we have had at South Lee, with plenty happening across the school!

We started the week with our Pastoral Parents’ Evenings, welcoming parents from Pre-School through to Year 8. It is always lovely to see so many of you in school and to have the opportunity to catch up with quite a few of you personally. These meetings are such an important part of our partnership with parents, allowing us to share how the children are settling, developing friendships and progressing pastorally. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Mrs Martineau also held her Academic Focus Meetings, giving pupils the opportunity to have a voice in their own learning. These conversations allow children to share what they enjoy about school, what they find more challenging, their thoughts on the curriculum and, importantly, how they feel they learn best. Pupil voice is incredibly valuable, and these discussions help us to reflect on our teaching and ensure that we continue to provide the very best learning experiences for every child.

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of interviewing a large number of our current Year 6 pupils as part of the Year 7 Scholarship Programme. It was wonderful to hear them speak so confidently about their interests, achievements and aspirations. I was particularly impressed by their enthusiasm and the pride they showed in their school. It is always a privilege to see just how much our pupils have grown in confidence and maturity as they move towards the senior years of South Lee.

Wednesday morning saw Suffolk County Council visit the school to deliver a recycling workshop for our Year 3 and 4 pupils. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and learnt more about the importance of recycling and the small changes we can all make to help our environment. Year 3 will be following this up next week with a recycling Eco Club activity at lunchtime, putting some of their new knowledge into practice.

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of watching our Swans pupils through to Year 2 pupils perform in their Harvest Festival. What a wonderful occasion it was! The hall was absolutely packed with parents and family members, and it was lovely to see so many of you supporting the children. They performed beautifully, and I know how much hard work goes into preparing these events. Thank you to all the staff involved and, as always, to our parents for your continued support.

Today has been another particularly busy day, beginning with a very successful Open Morning. We welcomed a number of prospective families into South Lee and had the opportunity to show them around our wonderful school. I am always so proud to share what makes South Lee such a special place, particularly our nurturing environment, the relationships between staff and pupils and the opportunities available to our children. Our Under 9 pupils have also hosted Orwell Park for netball today, adding to another busy week of sport.

We also have the pleasure of hosting our STEM Roadshow, 'The Wonder of Flight', in association with Oundle School and Imperial College London this evening. What an exciting opportunity for our pupils to experience science in such an engaging and inspiring way! I am very much looking forward to sharing this event with you. Opportunities such as these are a wonderful way to bring learning to life and encourage curiosity beyond the classroom. Huge thanks to Mrs Martineau for organising this event.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

On Tuesday at 16.30, we will be holding our Annual PTA General Meeting. It would be wonderful to see as many parents there as possible. Our PTA plays such an important role in school life, not only through fundraising but also by helping to create the wonderful sense of community that we value so much at South Lee. I would personally like to extend a huge thank you to our fantastic PTA members, who give up so much of their own time to support the school and organise events for our children. Your efforts are very much appreciated, and I would encourage any parents who would like to become involved to come along on Tuesday.

Next Friday, we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day, with a non-uniform day for all pupils across the school. We are requesting a donation of £2 per pupil, and our Year 8 pupils will be at the front door on Friday morning with collection buckets. Children are welcome to wear their own clothes, but I would ask that sensible and appropriate footwear is worn for the school day. Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile cause.

Also, on Friday morning most of Year 4 - Year 8 will be departing for our residential weekend trip to Hilltop, which is an activity centre in North Norfolk. Mr C has sent out all the relevant paperwork for this. Huge thanks to him for organising this.

Some Lovely News to Finish

I have already written to our Reception parents, but I would like to finish this week's letter by sharing some lovely news with the wider school community.

Mrs Phillips, our Reception teacher, is expecting her third baby! She will begin her maternity leave in February and is due to return to South Lee in September.

I am delighted to share that Mrs Emilia Lenzen will be joining our teaching team to cover Mrs Phillips' maternity leave from February until July. Mrs Lenzen is a qualified teacher who also holds a Master's degree in Education. She brings with her a wealth of teaching experience, and we are looking forward to welcoming her to South Lee in the new year. There will be a carefully planned handover to ensure continuity for our Reception children.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Phillips and her family on their exciting news. We wish her all the very best over the coming months.

As always, thank you for your continued support of South Lee and for everything you do to make our school community so special.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Catchpole

9th October 2026

Upcoming Dates



Character Strength: DETERMINATION

Key Dates for Next Week:

Monday 12th:
Hilltop Assembly

Tuesday 13th:
16:30 PTA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14th:
13:20-13:50 Suffolk County ECO Club
14:30 U13 Hockey v Ipswich High (H)
14:30 U13 Rugby v Ipswich High (H)
14:30 U11 Hockey v Ipswich High (H)
14:30 U11 Rugby v Ipswich High (H)

Thursday 15th:
Year 1 Parent Lunch

Friday 16th:
Non Uniform Day - Jeans for Genes
09:30 Hilltop Depart
14:30 U9 Mixed Netball v Culford School (A)

Saturday 17th:
Hilltop

Sunday 18th:
11:30 Hilltop Return

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Pupil Spotlight



Mollie P

Mollie has been recognised for her dedication to the Performing Arts.

She works incredibly hard in all of her drama and music lessons at school, consistently showing enthusiasm, confidence and talent. Outside of school, Mollie is starring as Inspector Baskerville in her local pantomime production of *The Rocky Horror Monster Show*.

We are very proud of her commitment and achievements, both in and out of the classroom, and wish her the very best for the production.





Celebration Assembly Awards:

Head Awards: Barney B, Harry T, Finley J, William C, George Wr, Lucas F, Shonagh O'SJ, Samuel K, Samantha L, Callum K, Ruby D

Learning Dispositions Award: Archie P, Luca B, Verity L, Rudra K, River B, Donnacha L, Luxmi P, Iliyas T, Bruce F, Jenson B-S, Oliver B

Musician of the Week: Hugo A-B

Artist of the Week: Harry S

Drama Award: Mollie P

Style Award: Emily S

Female Sports Award:

Male Sports Award: Maverick F



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