

13th November 2026

Dear Parents,

Oh my goodness, it is so good to be back! Eight days of not being in school has felt more like eight months! It was absolutely lovely to see so many of you at pick-up yesterday and drop-off this morning. I have missed the children, the staff, the families and all the everyday hustle and bustle of school life. I would also like to say a huge thank you for all your kind messages. They have been so appreciated, and it really is wonderful to be back where I belong!

We started the week with our wonderful Diwali assembly, which was a lovely celebration of this important festival. A huge thank you to the families who gave their time to put together such an informative and colourful assembly. The children had a wonderful time learning about the history and traditions of Diwali, enjoying colourful dancing and even taking home some special sweet treats. It was a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn about and celebrate different cultures and traditions.

On Wednesday, we held our Service of Remembrance, where the whole school came together to remember and pay tribute to those who have given their lives in service to our country. The children were impeccably respectful throughout, observing the two-minute silence with maturity and understanding. It was a poignant occasion and a lovely reflection of the respect and compassion our children show at South Lee.
It has also been another busy week on the sporting front. On Wednesday, our U11 teams travelled to St Margaret's for their fixtures, while today our U9 teams have been in action against OBH and St Margaret's at home. As always, it is wonderful to see our children representing South Lee with enthusiasm, determination and good sportsmanship.

Next week, we will be recognising Anti-Bullying Week through our assemblies and PSHEE lessons. This provides us with an important opportunity to reinforce the values of kindness, respect and inclusion, which are so central to life at South Lee.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our Year 2 parents for a special parent lunch on Tuesday. Please ensure you book for this via the office so that we know how many to cater for. These occasions are always lovely opportunities for families to spend a little time together during the school day.

Our Reception Roadshow will also take place next week, this is for our current Pre-School parents. This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the exciting next stage of their child's educational journey and to meet some of our specialist teachers, who teach children from Reception right through to Year 8.

Wednesday brings another round of sporting fixtures, and on Thursday we have our Non-Uniform Day in support of the PTA Christmas Fayre. Rather than a monetary donation, we are asking each child to bring in a filled jar, wrapped in Christmas paper so that the contents remain a surprise! Jars could contain sweets, fidget toys, socks, lip balms or other little treats. These will then be sold by our wonderful PTA at the Christmas Fayre. I am sure the mystery jars will prove very popular!

Also on Thursday, some of our pupils from Years 5 to 8 will be singing at the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Lights Switch-On in the Market Square. What a lovely way to begin the festive season, and I know they will represent South Lee beautifully. If you are in town, do look out for them!

As I said at the beginning of this letter, I cannot tell you how pleased I am to be back in school. Being away has certainly reminded me just how much I love the ordinary moments of school life, the conversations on the door in the mornings, the sound of children laughing in the corridors and of course listening to the Nativity songs being sung in the hall this morning!

I had a lovely conversation with a parent this morning which really made me reflect on what we do here at South Lee and, more importantly, why we do it. It reminded me just how important strong foundations and shared values are in shaping the culture of a school. At South Lee, we work hard to teach our children not just academically, but also how to be good people. We teach them right from wrong, the importance of respecting one another, showing empathy, thinking about how we respond to others and, above all, striving to do the right thing, even when it is not always the easiest choice.

These are the foundations upon which our school is built. They are not simply words on a wall, but values that we aim to live and breathe every day, in our classrooms, on the playground and in the way we treat one another. A strong school culture does not happen by chance. It is built through the little things we do consistently, the expectations we set and the example we give our children. It is this culture that allows our school to flourish, and it is what makes 'The South Lee Way' so special.

I will leave you with a thought as we head into the weekend:
"Strong foundations are built not only on what we teach children to know, but on who we teach them to become."

Have a lovely weekend, everyone.
Mrs Catchpole

Upcoming Dates

Character Strength: PUNCTUALITY

Key Dates for Next Week:

Monday 16th

Anti Bullying Week
Whole School Assembly

Tuesday 17th:

12:10 Year 2 Parent Lunch
17:00 Reception Roadshow (Pre-School Parents)

Wednesday 18th:

14:30 U13 Rugby v Barnardiston Hall (A)
14:30 U11 Hockey v Barnardiston Hall & Framlingham Prep (A)
14:30 U11 Rugby v Framlingham Prep (A)

Thursday 19th:

Non-Uniform Day (Bring a Christmas Jar)
Bury Christmas Lights Switch On

Friday 20th:

14:30 U9 Mixed Hockey v Framlingham (A)

Quick Clicks

Menus
Absence Request Form
Term Dates
Full Calendar
Medication at School



















Celebration Assembly Awards:

Head Awards: Florence B, Freddie P, Lexi G, Bryan J, Spencer H, Archie S, Akira P, Shia W-B, Harry R.

Learning Dispositions Award: Ottilie H, Oscar F, Theodore A, Nelly W, Emily G, Narayah F, Aleksander R, Elizabeth C, Aarun V.

Musician of the Week: Archie H & Aiden M

Artist of the Week: Poppy O'C

Drama Award: Spencer H

Style Award: Emily S

Female Sports Award: Ezmai B

Male Sports Award: Michael A-H