



Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week it has been! We have enjoyed a lovely second week back at South Lee, and it has been great to see the children settling so confidently into their routines, embracing new opportunities and making the most of everything school life has to offer.

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of hosting our first Catchpole Club lunch of the term. This is a special privilege lunch for our senior pupils in Years 7 and 8, who join me for a delicious meal, complete with one of Chef Rachael’s very special desserts! These lunches are always a highlight of my week. It is lovely to spend time with our senior pupils away from the classroom, enjoying their company and having such interesting and mature conversations. It is also a wonderful opportunity for them to come together as a group, enjoy each other’s company and celebrate being the senior members of our school.

Wednesday saw our first Pre-Prep and Prep School Council meetings of the academic year. Mr C was extremely positive about the contributions made by our newly appointed representatives, and I was delighted to hear just how many thoughtful ideas the children had put forward. Discussions included the possibility of bringing back Enrichment Afternoons or introducing an Enrichment Week, themed days such as a Water Day, a potential pickleball club, playground equipment and ways to keep our sandpit area tidy. The children also discussed introducing some clear rules for the slide.

We are already looking at their suggestions and considering what we can put into practice. I am a firm believer that children should have a genuine voice in their school. It is not enough simply to ask for their opinions; they need to see that we listen, take their ideas seriously and act upon them wherever possible. Our School Council representatives will be sharing their discussions with their classmates, and I look forward to hearing more of their ideas at our next meeting.

There has also been plenty to celebrate on the sports pitches this week, with some excellent wins at Orwell Park. Our Year 3 and 4 pupils also enjoyed their first away fixture of the year at Holmwood House. For some of our younger pupils, representing South Lee away from home is a particularly exciting occasion, and I am always proud to see them wearing their school colours, supporting one another and showing such enthusiasm. Well done to everyone who has represented the school this week.

On Thursday, we welcomed over 25 Reception parents into school for a very special lunch with their children. Our catering team prepared a delicious roast chicken dinner, followed by apple crumble and custard. What a treat! It was wonderful to see so many parents joining us and enjoying the opportunity to share a little part of their child's school day. These occasions are such an important part of our South Lee community, and I hope our Reception parents enjoyed the experience as much as we enjoyed having them here.

This morning, it was the turn of our Pre-School families, who joined us for our Pre-School Café. Our youngest chefs were very busy serving their parents iced coffees, orange juice and a selection of breakfast treats. There is something rather special about watching the children take such pride in preparing and serving something for their parents. Thank you to our Pre-School team for organising such a lovely morning and to all the parents who came along to support their little chefs.

This afternoon, we have also welcomed our Governors into school for our annual strategic meeting. I know I often mention our Governing Body, but I do think it is important to recognise the tremendous support they give to South Lee. So much of their work takes place quietly behind the scenes, yet their commitment, encouragement and guidance make an enormous difference to me and to the wider school community. Having spoken to other Heads over the years, I appreciate just how fortunate I am to work with such a supportive and dedicated group of people. They care deeply about our school, its future and, most importantly, the children and staff who make South Lee what it is. I am very grateful for the time, expertise and commitment they give so generously.

Looking Ahead to Next Week...

We have another exciting week ahead, with our Book Fair coming into school. I hope the children will enjoy browsing the wonderful selection of books and perhaps discovering a new favourite author or story. There is nothing quite like seeing a child become completely absorbed in a good book, and I hope the fair will inspire plenty of reading at home too. We recommend £10 for a book.

On Tuesday, we will also be celebrating European Languages Day with a non-uniform day. We look forward to seeing the children joining in with the celebrations and enjoying another opportunity to learn about the different countries and cultures that make up Europe.

As we come to the end of our second week, I have been thinking about how much courage children show in the little things they do every day. Whether it is putting their hand up in class, making a new friend, representing the school for the first time, sharing an idea at School Council or simply having another go at something they find difficult, each of these moments matter.

I often remind the children that being brave does not mean never feeling nervous or uncertain. It means having the confidence to give something a go, even when it feels a little daunting. At South Lee, we want every child to feel secure enough to take those little risks, knowing that they have people around them who believe in them.

I will leave you with a little thought for the weekend:
"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" Mary Anne Radmacher

Warmest wishes,
Sarah Catchpole
Head

18th September 2026

Upcoming Dates

Character Strength: PATIENCE



Key Dates for Next Week:

Monday 21st:

Scholastic Book Fsir
13:30 Pupil Food Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22nd:

Scholastic Book Fair
European Day of Languages Non-Uniform
12:50 Pillars Lunch

Wednesday 23rd:

14:30 U13 Rugby v Orwell Park & OBH (H)
14:30 U11 Hockey v Fairstead House & OBH (H)
14:30 U11 Rugby v Fairstead House v OBH (H)

Thursday 24th:

12:10 Pre-School Parents Lunch

Friday 18th:

08:30 South Lee Macmillan Parent Coffee Morning
14:30 U9 Mixed Netball v Ipswich High (A)

Quick Clicks

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Celebration Assembly Awards:

Head Awards: Amelia N, Mabel J, Melodi F, Rudra K, Eva T, William L, Leon D, Henri S, Raif W, Jenson B-S, Will H,

Learning Dispositions Award: Ottilie H, Muhammad N, Cora M, Fiachra L, Riyan P, Archie S, Frida F, William J-W, Beau G, Callum K, Ewan B

Musician of the Week: Nelly W

Artist of the Week: Sadie S

Drama Award: Harry R

Style Award: Sonny M

Female Sports Award: Ava G

Male Sports Award: Harry R



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