



Newsletter 1 – 5th September 2025

DAY	WHAT'S ON
EVERYDAY	Cygnets: bring reading books, reading records, spelling books, water bottles Swans: bring water bottles, a healthy snack Wear PE Kit on Monday and Thursdays
MONDAY 8TH SEPT	• After School Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm (at the field weather permitting) • ASC pick up at 5.15pm at school
TUESDAY 9TH SEPT	• Individual School Photos in the morning. • Lunchtime Chess Club • KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPT	• Mr Bateman & Mr Meade Music Lessons • Forest School Rec, Year 1 & Year 3 • Lunchtime Nature Club (Y2-6) • Meet the Teachers 2.45pm • PTA AGM 3.00pm • ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 11TH SEPT	• Country Dancing Club 3.15-5.15pm • KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 12TH SEPT	• ASC 3.15-5.15pm
MONDAY 15TH SEPT	• Year 3&4 Trip to Giffords Circus, Stratton Meadow, Cirencester (BRING A PACKED LUNCH) • Sports Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 16TH SEPT	• Lunchtime Chess Club • KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPT	• Forest School Rec, Year 1 & Year 4 • Lunchtime Nature Club (Y2-6) • KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 18TH SEPT	• Country Dancing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm • ASC 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 19TH SEPT	• Deadline for Thank You Card Competition • Musical Mania Lessons • ASC 3.15-5.15pm

Stars of the Week

Well done to this week's stars. Charlie in Swans for settling in so well to Southrop School and Digby in Cygnets for being so mature and kind as a Year 1.



Head Teacher's Lunch

Congratulations to Digby, Connie, Amber, Bonnie, Molly, Maggie and Adam who had lunch with Miss Davies today.

Message from Miss Davies

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. It has been a real pleasure to see the children return full of energy, curiosity, and excitement for the year ahead.

At the end of last term and over the holidays, the staff, governors and I took time to reflect on what we currently offer at Southrop. These reflections have shaped our School Development Plan for the year ahead. A summary of the plan is attached to this newsletter. The School Development Plan is aligned with current Ofsted expectations, and you'll notice the headings reflect this. However, as Ofsted frameworks are expected to change this year, the plan may be adapted in response. We will keep you updated on our progress throughout the year and will welcome your feedback and involvement as we move forward together.

Inclusion remains at the heart of our school vision. Southrop is an inclusive school, and we want every child to be able to access their learning. This year, we are committed to meeting the diverse needs of all our pupils. Our focus includes adapting learning for every child, with particular attention to strengthening our support for pupils with dyslexia. As part of our wider commitment to inclusive education, I'm pleased to share that all staff will be completing Autism Level 2 training this term. This training will further equip our team with the knowledge and strategies needed to better understand and support children with autism, ensuring our school remains a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

We also remain focused on supporting our children's mental health and wellbeing, providing them with an environment where they feel safe, nurtured, and confident to take risk even when things don't go to plan. With that in mind, Mrs Paterson will continue her fantastic work as an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), and Mrs Martyn will begin her ELSA training this year too, further strengthening our pastoral support team.

It has been lovely to see some parents popping their heads around my door already—thank you! I will be teaching on Mondays and in the office Tuesday to Friday. If you would like to speak with me, please do email or message the office in advance so we can arrange a suitable time. Of course, in an emergency, my door is always open.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Let's work together to make this a positive, productive, and joyful year for all our children.

Attendance

We believe that good attendance is essential for every child's success in school. Regular attendance ensures that children have the best possible opportunity to learn, build friendships, and develop the routines that will support them throughout their education. While we understand that illness and exceptional circumstances can affect attendance, we encourage families to aim for at least 96% attendance over the school year. Every day really does count, arriving on time and being present helps children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn. If you ever have concerns or need support around your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to speak with us, we're here to help.

Book Club

In the Swans there are two Book Clubs. I would like to be part of these again this year, and I would like you to be too. I would like you and your child to share the book and both of you to attend the club meeting. You could have it as their bedtime story, read a bit each, read it separately and discuss. It could be their book, from library, or download it onto a kindle. The aim is you, as a family, are sharing the book and the love of reading. The clubs will at 3.00pm, obviously some parents will be working so I understand if you cannot come to each meeting but maybe you could email your thoughts, zoom in or send a note with your child.

Year 5 & 6 Book Club will be on Thursday 2nd October 3.00-3.30pm, book choice to follow.

Year 3 & 4 Book Club will be on Tuesday 30th September 3pm – 3.30pm, book choice to follow.

Please email Miss Davies at mdavies@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk if your child wants to take part in Book Club.

Individual School Photos Tuesday 9th September

LoveKids Photography will be in school on Tuesday to take the individual school photos. If you have pre-school siblings and would like group photos taken then please wait at drop off and the pictures will be taken first.

Meet the Teachers Wednesday 10th September at 2.45pm

You are invited to come along and meet the class teachers on Wednesday 10th September at 2.45pm. This will be followed by the PTA AGM in the Swan Classroom at 3.00pm. There will be staff in the Cygnet Classroom to supervise the children during the AGM.

Buddy Readers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to support our Buddy Reading programme. If you have a little spare time during the week and would enjoy reading with our children, we would love to hear from you. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference by helping to develop confidence and a love of reading in our pupils. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

Thank You Card Competition

We're excited to launch a "Design a Thank You Card" competition! This is open to all pupils and is a lovely way to encourage gratitude and creativity. The winning design will be professionally printed and used as our school's official thank you card. Entries should be submitted to the Office or Class Teachers by Friday 19th September. We can't wait to see the children's beautiful and thoughtful designs!

Term Dates

Term Dates for 2025/26 with inset days are attached and can also be found on the school web site.

Term Dates for 2026/27 are attached but do not include the inset days, these will be decided soon.

Reminder - Forest School Wed 10th September

Next week we start back at Forest School, Reception, Year 1 & **Year 3** will be going to Macaroni Woods. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather with long trousers, long sleeved tops and wellington boots. The following week **Year 4** will be going along with Reception and Year 1.

New Nature Club Starting on Wednesdays

Mr Chapman has kindly offered to start a nature club on Tuesday lunch times. There is no need to book and the club is open to pupils in Year 2 and above.

Year 3 & 4 Trip to Giffords Circus

On Monday 15th September Year 3 & 4 will be going to Giffords Circus in Cirencester. They will be out over lunchtime so, the children will need a packed lunch that day.

Important Message - Tortoises in need a winter break!

Jeremy and Shelly had a wonderful summer holiday exploring the Morris's and Pressdees's gardens and we are very grateful to these families. We are conscious that the nights are rapidly drawing in. In past winters the Harwood-Hopes, Mrs Dawson, Miss Hall and Mrs McLellan have looked after the tortoises at home. We are now looking for someone to have them over this winter; this support allows us to continue having them as school pets and they are very popular with the children. Please let your class teacher or Mrs Simmons know if you are able to help out for all or part of the winter.

Musical Mania and Musical Instrument Lessons

Our Music and Drama lessons start back next week. If anyone from Year 2 upwards is interested in starting Guitar, Ukulele, Drums, Piano or Musical Mania (drama or singing) lessons please speak to Mrs Simmons.

Pageticker

We have introduced this digital reading diary to:

- encourage a reading-for-pleasure culture,
- improve communication home-school communication about reading
- give teachers a greater ability to track progress in reading.

Download the app onto your device and set up your child using the voucher you will receive on a letter this week.

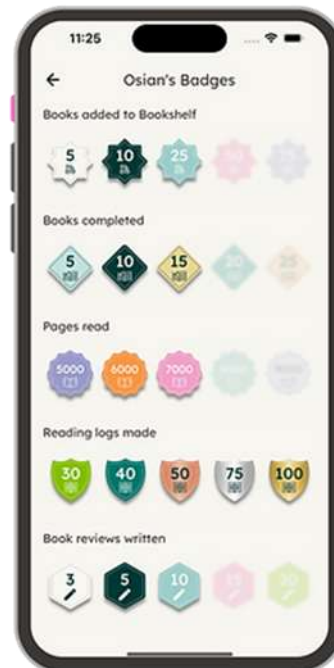
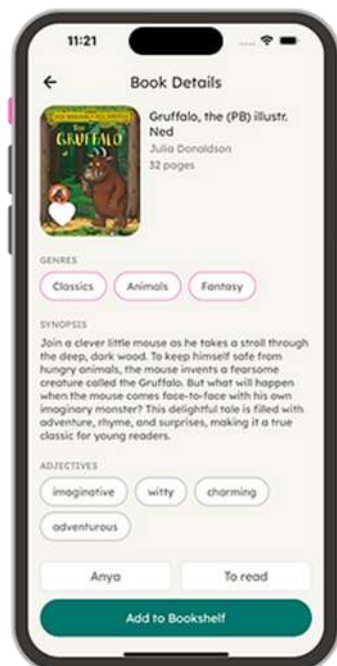
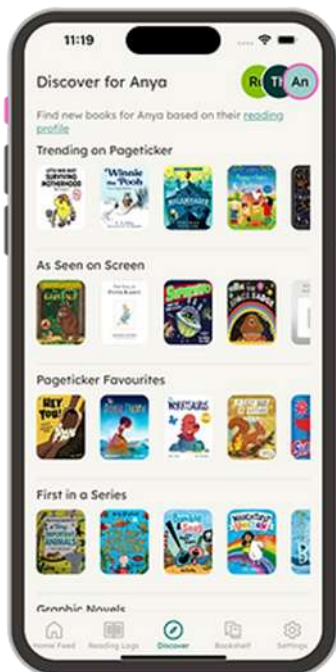
You add the books your child reads, record the pages read and log comments. School can also add books to your child's bookshelf. The children can submit book reviews and record words they find difficult.

The app:

makes book suggestions

gives book details

celebrates the reading your child has done



Welcome Back from the PTA!

Hello and welcome back from the PTA!

Southrop School PTA raise funds throughout the year to support the school and better the education for our children. We welcome all parents, carers and staff to support our events and get involved where they can. All funds raised go to supporting our children at Southrop School.

This year our AGM will be held on Wednesday 10th September, 3pm, in the Swan's Classroom, after Meet the Teachers. The AGM is a recap of what we achieved last year and also where we elect our new committee. Everyone is welcome, you don't have to join the committee if you attend (although it's great fun!) and your children are welcome to stay in the Cygnets classroom and be looked after if you wish to join the AGM. If you are interested in joining the PTA, please see our attached poster for some very good reasons why you may consider it 😊 (We are currently looking for a Secretary if anyone is able to help us out!)

Please see the Southrop School PTA website page for all AGM documents:

https://www.southrop.gloucs.sch.uk/school_life/pta/pta.html

There is a Cygnet and Swans whatsapp group. If you would like to join, please email your name and number to PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

If you need any preloved uniform, please let the school office know or email the PTA directly. Donations to the PTA are welcome.

Each Wednesday Southrop Village Hall hold a coffee morning. Everyone is welcome and this is a lovely place to catch up after drop off. They have fresh coffee and homemade cakes every week, there is a small shop with fresh vegetables and fruit, bread and a post office. Some weeks our Year 6 will be helping out there too!

A huge thank you to everyone that has supported the PTA over the years and we do hope you can join us at our AGM.

Kelly

Chair, Southrop School PTA



