



Newsletter 3 – 19th 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 22ND SEPT	- Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 23RD SEPT	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming Starts this week. Packed lunches. - Nasal Flu Vaccines (Moved from Friday 26th) - Lunchtime Chess Club - KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPT	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Rec, Year 1, Year 2 & Year 5 (note Year 2 attending) - Lunchtime Nature Club (Y2-6) - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 25TH SEPT	- Country Dancing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm - Year 3 & 4 Giffords Circus – Bring a packed tea. Return approx. 7.50pm.
FRIDAY 26TH SEPT	- Family Fellowship Walk 8.00am - Musical Mania Lessons - ASC 3.15-5.15pm - KS2 Cross Country at Kingshill 3.45-5.30
MONDAY 29TH SEPT	- Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 30TH SEPT	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming. Packed lunches. - Lunchtime Chess Club - Year 3 & 4 Book Club 3.00-3.30pm - KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 1ST OCTOBER	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Whole Cygnet Class Celtic Day - Lunchtime Nature Club (Y2-6) - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER	- Year 5 & 6 Book Club 3.00-3.30pm - Country Dancing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER	- Musical Mania Lessons - ASC 3.15-5.15pm

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

Swans – Freya for her hard work in morning lessons.

Cygnets – Ava-Lilley for always being her best.



Head Teacher's Lunch

Congratulations to Leo, Freya, Amber & Connie who had lunch with Miss Davies today.

Message from Miss Davies

This week has really felt like the moment of “bedding in” for the term. We’ve had a rollercoaster of emotions – from the disappointment of the circus being cancelled (and the excitement of new plans taking shape) to the joy of welcoming new chickens into our school community. Add in the highs and lows of school council voting, and it has truly been a week full of learning, resilience, and celebration.

Alongside all of this, our teachers have been working hard behind the scenes. Each member of staff carries subject leadership responsibilities, and it was a pleasure to sit with them this week as they shared their action plans with our Quality of Education Governor, Mrs Tipple. With their plans now agreed, they are moving into the exciting stage of putting their first actions into place and will be reviewing the impact in the weeks ahead.

Newsletters

Our weekly newsletter is an important way we keep our whole school community informed. Two years ago, following parent feedback, we streamlined its format, added a clear fortnightly calendar at the top, and provided multiple ways for you to access it easily.

Currently, the newsletter is sent as a link through our school portal, which you can access via email. The link takes you directly to a PDF copy. Or is uploaded onto the website.

Over the past year, however, we’ve noticed a decline in readership. As we begin this new school year, we kindly ask that you make a conscious effort to check the newsletter each week. It contains key dates, updates, and information to help you stay connected with everything happening in school.

We will of course update you through messaging if activities, dates or timings change, again through the portal.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping communication strong.

Healthy Lunchboxes and Snacks at Southrop

At Southrop, we are committed to supporting the health, wellbeing, and learning of every child. Research shows that a balanced diet helps children concentrate, improves behaviour, and supports long-term health.

In line with the School Food Standards (Department for Education, 2014) and the Children and Families Act 2014, we encourage all families to provide healthy, balanced lunchboxes and snacks.

While packed lunches from home are not legally covered by the mandatory standards, we ask parents to help us align with these guidelines so that all children benefit.

We know that a single piece of fruit is often not enough to sustain children through the morning. We have therefore always encouraged more substantial options at snack time—such as crackers, hummus and vegetables, or a small sandwich.

However, in recent weeks we have noticed more snacks and lunchbox items that do not support our healthy eating approach, as well as an increase in wrappers left on the playground.

To support you, here are some suggestions for a healthier lunchbox:

- ✓ At least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables
- ✓ Wholegrain bread, wraps, or pasta where possible
- ✓ A source of protein such as lean meat, fish, beans, or pulses
- ✓ A dairy item such as cheese, yogurt, or milk
- ✓ Water as the best drink choice – please avoid sugary drinks

We kindly ask that the following items are not included in lunchboxes:

- ✗ Fizzy or energy drinks
- ✗ Sweets or confectionery

School Council Elections



Congratulations to our new School Council representatives, Esme in Cygnets, Molly Y3, Rupert Y4, Amber Y5 & Juliette Y6. It was a very close call with lots of competition, particularly in Yr 4. Ideas included an international day where we bring in food and dress up from other cultures, a mini farm where we grow food to use in school dinners, improving the quality of school dinners and lots of dress up days to raise funds for charity.

CHICKENS!!!

Wednesday morning brought some very special new arrivals to the Southrop community – three chickens!

A huge thank you to Lisa (Molly's mum) and Imogen (Digby and Esme's mum) for all their hard work researching, planning, and preparing the Eglu, and to Lisa for collecting the chickens and helping them settle in.

The children are already very excited and can't wait to give our new feathered friends some names. Voting will take place next week. If your child has a fabulous or funny chicken name suggestion, please ask them to pass it on to the new School Council, who will be collecting ideas.

As you may remember, we do need families to help care for the chickens at weekends and during school holidays. The rota for this term is now ready. If you would like to be involved, please let us know – your help will make sure our chickens stay happy and healthy.

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

Year 3 & 4 Book Club will be on Tuesday 30th September 3pm – 3.30pm

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

Pumpkin Competition



With the amazingly hot weather we had this year it has been a tricky summer for growing fruit and vegetables, but we hope you have been successful in keeping your pumpkins alive. Could you please send in measurements of your pumpkins and photographs by **Friday 26th September** so that we can announce the winners?

Open Mornings

Our open mornings for Reception 2026 start on Tuesday 16th September at 9.30am, please pass on the dates to anyone you know who has children due to start in Reception in 2026. The other dates are 30th Sept, 16th October, Sat 8th Nov (time tbc), 20th Nov, 2nd Dec & 16th Jan 26, starting at 9.30am.

Forest School Next Week

Next week Forest School will include Rec, Year 1, Y2 and Year 5. The following week, 1st October will be a Celtic session for the whole Cygnet Class.



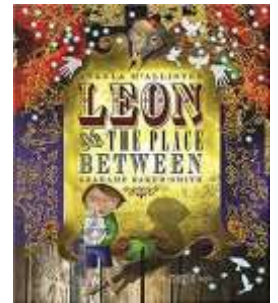
Music Lessons – APPEAL FOR STUDENTS

We are lucky to be in the position to offer a wide range of individual music lessons here at Southrop but the music teachers can only offer lessons if new pupils come on board. Please contact the office if your child is interested in Brass, Guitar, Ukulele, Piano, Drums, Singing or Drama lessons.

Swans

In English, Year 5 and 6 have been working on a unit inspired by the Three Little Pigs Project advert created by the Guardian. We have explored bias in our writing and considered different points of view on the same event. Through this unit, we have practised using the passive voice, relative clauses, adverbials and parenthesis.

Year 3 and 4 have been enjoying the beautiful circus book, *Leon and the Place Between*, to base our writing around. We are very lucky that an anonymous donor has given funds to allow us to purchase enough copies for each child to share the book with a partner as we are reading. We have been using our senses, abstract nouns, expanded noun phrases and figurative language to describe the circus and persuade others to visit it. Using powerful verbs and adverbial phrases we have created the atmosphere of the setting. The children have enjoyed freeze-framing some of the scenes and creating speech bubbles which express the emotions of the characters. They are now converting these into dialogue and starting to plan their own versions of the story. We are all very excited and inspired by our upcoming trip to see Giffords Circus next week.



Thank you for the support you have given your children getting setup for home reading on Pageticker – almost everyone is on now and clocking up their home reads. Children will get rewards if they achieve at least 4 reads each week. There are additional rewards of badges and certificates – bronze badge for 35 reads, silver for 120, gold for 170 and a certificate for 70 reads.

Don't forget you also have access to Accelerated Read for book quizzes, Spellingframe and Letterjoin (for handwriting) if these are helpful to your child. If you prefer to practise spellings on paper instead that is absolutely fine. A particular "well done" to the Y3 children who have been working hard at their spellings and doing very well in their weekly tests.

In Maths the Year 3&4 children have been continuing their work on place value, Year 4 considering 4 digit numbers and Year 3 three digit number. Year 4s impressed me with their rounding this week while Year 3 were busy ordering and comparing 3 digit numbers.

The children have embraced the 99 club with enthusiasm. I will be sending them home their marked sheets this week so that you can share their success. The idea is that they improve their score week on week so feel free to help them look at the gaps and practise. Well done to all the children busy doing their 20 mins of TTRS each week. We still have a number of children who haven't been on TTRS. If you are having any problems logging in please do let Mrs Dawson know.

In Maths, Year 5 and 6 have both been working on place value with different numbers of digits. We have explored the value of different digits, practised reading and writing numbers in numerals and words, identified numbers on a number line and compared and ordered numbers. Year 6 have also worked on rounding numbers and using negative numbers.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 have begun a unit on forces. We have explored gravity by investigating whether the mass of an object affects the speed at which it falls. We then investigated air resistance by creating and testing different parachutes to see which variables affected the speed at which they fell to the ground. Year 3 and 4 have been exploring the key food groups and what makes a healthy balanced diet, including looking at the ingredients and food traffic light labelling on common foods. We are now starting to investigate the function and different types of skeletons found in vertebrates and invertebrates. Ask your child to explain to you what hydrostatic, endo- and exo-skeletons are!

In Computing, Year 5 and 6 are working on an online safety unit. We have begun by exploring the permissions we give to different apps and how we can change these to protect our personal information. Year 3 and 4 are learning how the internet can be used to share beliefs, opinions and facts and that sometimes what we see will be "fake news". We have discussed the different effects internet use can have on our feelings and emotional wellbeing and what we can do if we see something that upsets us

Our History topic started with us puzzling out some clues - bandages, sand, 3D pyramid shapes, strange patterns and photos of desert landscapes – of course we are on an adventure to discover Ancient Egypt! Since then we have investigated when and where this era of history was, with Y5&6 finding out for us what other civilisations were in existence at the same time. We have also started to learn about the key importance of the River Nile to the success of Ancient Egypt.

For Art we have been looking at the work of the illustrator Laura Carlin, but have taken a slight detour for a couple of weeks to carry out detailed drawings and paintings of fruit and vegetables, inspired by the paintings of Dennis Wojtkiewicz, which we will include in a harvest display in church.

In French Y3&4 have been learning to count to 10.

For PSHE our topic is Me and My Relationships. To give us the tools to manage relationships more smoothly we have been learning skills of collaboration, negotiation and compromise. This started with a competition for each worship group to work together as a team to create the tallest structure to support a marshmallow. The Red group won the prize for the tallest structure and the Green group the prize for best teamwork. We have also enjoyed some role-play to practise and improve our skills.

In PE the children have been practising their skills of passing and receiving, showing good eye contact, getting their hands in a good position to catch and moving their feet. This week we also looked at possession of the ball and skills in defence.

In Music the children have been learning a song about imagination. We then used to glockenspiels for composition and learnt about musical notation and how we can record our compositions on paper.

In RE the children have been looking at the creation story. We have been collecting items that give us awe and wonder and thinking about instruction on how we can look after them.

Cygnets

We have made a wonderful start to the academic year. The children have settled back into their year groups and are making new friends across the class.

We began the term by introducing our first topic, "**Brave**", through which we are learning about the Celts. During the first week, the children created Celtic costumes and then used them to hide in the bushes and ambush Ms. Davies! She was very surprised by the bows and arrows they had made.

In **English**, all the children have thoroughly enjoyed our first story of the year, *Cave Baby*. Through this text, we explored the characters' feelings—discussing how Mum, Dad, and the baby might have felt throughout the story. We also focused on describing animals, learning that we can use adjectives to describe nouns. The children used the adjectives they thought of to write wonderful sentences about cave animals. Over the next few days, we will be writing our own versions of the story.

Children in **Reception** have been working hard on their pencil grip and have started learning to write their names.

In **Maths**, all children have been exploring place value:

- **Reception** have been learning numbers up to five, using *Numberblocks* to support their understanding. They have also been counting objects and matching them to the written number.
- **Year 1** children have been working with numbers up to twenty. They have been counting, ordering numbers, placing them on number lines, and exploring one more and one less.
- **Year 2** children have extended their knowledge to numbers up to 100.

In **History**, we have begun learning about our personal histories—looking at how we have grown from babies to school-aged children. We will soon be comparing specific events from our own lives with those from the past.

In **Religious Education**, the children have been learning about the concept of **Creation** and how some religions believe that God created the world. We listened to the story of Creation and were amazed that it was said to have happened in just seven days! The children have painted beautiful pictures to represent what occurred on each day.

Reception and Year 1 have enjoyed visiting **Forest School** alongside some of the older children. We have been observing and discussing signs of autumn.

In **Science**, our focus has been the human body. We've explored internal organs such as the brain, heart, and lungs. We then moved on to learning about the eyes—discussing the iris and pupil, and how the amount of light affects what we see. This week, we've been learning about hearing and how sound travels through vibrations. We played a game of "Guess the Sound" and used adjectives to describe how each sound made us feel.

In **Design Technology**, we have started learning how to weave. This week, we practised using strips of paper to create colourful patterns.

Snack Money for Cygnets

Miss Davis & Miss Davies provide a healthy snack for the children each morning to supplement the School Fruit Scheme. Please can you bring £1 a week donation per Cygnet child the help cover the cost. Please leave this with Mrs Simmons in the school office. Thank you.

Reminder Fellowship Walk

Would you be interested in a school fellowship walk?

Going for a walk can be beneficial in itself, just to get outside, get out of your head and find space and peace. Walking can wake us up in body and spirit and walking with others in the beautiful Southrop countryside is a great way to start the day!

Please do come and join me on Friday 26th September, 8.00 – 8.45 am for a family fellowship walk. Everyone is welcome, including well behaved dogs on leads! Children need to be accompanied by their adults to take part. If you have a great route you would like to share please let me know and if you can't make 26th September don't worry-we are hoping to make it a regular event. **Mrs Dawson**

When the Lord was giving the promised land to Abraham, He said, "Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you" (Genesis 13:17).

KS2 Cross Country at Kingshill

Miss Davies has sent a message to all KS2 parents regarding the Cross Country event at Kingshill on Friday 26th September. At the moment only one child's parent has said that their child is interested in attending. If your child wants to take part please reply to Miss Davis's message. We will be unable to attend the event with one pupil. Thank you.



Gift Aid

Southrop School PTA is registered with HMRC for Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer, we are able to claim 25p in every pound that you donate to our PTA, or that is collected for sponsorship. There are strict guidelines as to what can be claimed and further information is found on the HMRC website. To help with collecting Gift Aid, please can you sign a copy of the Gift Aid Form attached or sign the hard copy which is being sent home with the children today. Please return these to the office or email a signed copy to pta@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk. Thank you. Southrop School PTA