



Newsletter 5 – 3rd October 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 6TH OCTOBER	- Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from School - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 7TH OCTOBER	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming. Packed lunches. - NO Lunchtime Chess Club Today - KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER	- Forest School Rec, Year 1 & Year 6 - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER	- Country Dancing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER	- Musical Mania Lessons - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER	- Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Year 3 & 4 to Cheltenham Literature Festival – Bring a packed lunch - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from School - ASC 3.15-5.15pm - DEADLINE Y 5&6 and Cygnets to book packed lunches for the Literature Festival.
TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming. Packed lunches. - Lunchtime Chess Club - KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER	- NO FOREST SCHOOL - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER	- Year 5&6 Cheltenham Literature Festival – Bring a packed lunch or order school packed lunch. - Country Dancing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER	- Cygnets Class to Cheltenham Literature Festival – Bring a packed lunch or order school packed lunch. - Musical Mania Lessons - ASC 3.15-5.15pm

Coming UP Mon 20th October Swans visit to the Ashmolean Oxford, Tuesday 21st October 3.00pm Book Viewing in the classrooms, Wed 22nd October End of Term at 3.30pm. 23rd & 24th October Inset Days, 27th – 31st October Holidays

Monday 3rd November Start of Term 2, Tuesday 4th Nov (early in person) & Thursday 6th Nov (late on-line) Parent Consultations (times tbc).

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week:

Swans – Leo for working so hard this week. Noah for his spellings.

Cygnets – Edmund for always trying his best.

Message from Miss Davies

This week has been very much about the 'first' again. We had our ...

First Cluster Sport Events

Congratulations to all the children who took part in our very first cross country event on Friday. The effort, determination, and teamwork on display made us very proud. At Southrop it is just as important to be a team member as it is to be a winner so well done to all.

Thank you to Roxi and Charlotte, who also attend the cheerleading event. I understand Charlotte practised her flying skills!

First Wings

Then of course, these children truly deserved their wings. Children are awarded their wings when they demonstrate taking a risk—whether academic or personal. Congratulations to Rupert, Charlie, Misty, Hector, Roxi, Charlotte, Mia, and Molly!

We are so proud of your courage and determination.

First Book Clubs

Our book clubs continue to grow! Children have really enjoyed sharing stories and recommending books to each other this week, as well as the hot chocolate and biscuits! A reminder that book club meets on once a month with a book to read in between as a family.

Year 3 and 4 Book Club The Midnight Fox – Betsy Byars

Next Book club will be on Tuesday 11th November, 3.00-3.30pm

Year 5 and 6 Book Club The Light Jar – Lisa Thompson

Next Book Club will be on Thursday 13th November, 3.00-3.30pm

First Uniform Sale

The PTA had a very successful second-hand uniform sale yesterday and today.

First Worship in Church – Harvest Festival

We started the week at church celebrating Harvest Festival. Thank you to the swans for leading the worship and the Cygnets for the prayers. I will be taking the School Council to the Cirencester Foodbank to drop off the donations next week.

First School Council Meeting

Our school council are meeting at lunch today to consider plans for this term. Look out for a Halloween lucky dip at the end of term and more long term plans for sustainability at Southrop

First Governor Learning Walk

Miss Patten, Mr Hall and Mr Scrivener came into school this morning for their first learning walks. They have come in to review actions taken towards our school development plan. All commented on how productive the learning was and could see how teaching and learning had been adapted for all the children.

First Head Lice and Threadworm incidents!

To help prevent the spread of head lice and threadworm, please could everyone check their children.

Head Lice (Nits):

Is very common in primary school children and can cause itching but are harmless if treated quickly. Please check your child's hair regularly with a fine-toothed comb.

Treatments are available from pharmacies, ask for advice on the best option. Everyone in the household should be checked.

Threadworms:

Small white worms sometimes seen in children's stools or around the bottom, especially at night.

Can cause itching and disturbed sleep. They are easily treated with medicine from a pharmacist—everyone in the family should be treated at the same time.

Please encourage children to wash hands regularly, especially before eating and after using the toilet. Keep fingernails short to help prevent reinfection.

Remember: Both head lice and threadworm are very common and nothing to be embarrassed about. Quick treatment and good hygiene can help prevent them spreading.

Parking in the Turning Circle

The school has been asked to inform parents not to park by the wooden gate on the turning circle by the Mill House as access is required to the field. Thank you.

Book Viewing

On Tuesday 21st October parents will have the opportunity to come into the class room and view their child's work. Other dates for the year will be Thursday 12th February and Wednesday 20th May.

Open Mornings

Our open mornings for Reception 2026 are:

Tuesday 14th October with the PTA, Sat 8th Nov (10.30-12.30), Tuesday 18th November, Tuesday 18^h Nov, Tuesday 2nd Dec & Tuesday 6th Jan 26, starting at 9.30am. Please spread the word to anyone looking for places in Reception 2026.

Forest School Next Week

Next week Year 6 will be joining Reception and Year1 at Forest School. Please make sure they are dressed suitably for the weather and bring wellington boots or walking boots. Thank you.

Cheltenham Literature Festival

Week commencing 13th October we will be taking the children to the Cheltenham Literature Festival. Look out for a Portal message next year with details. I am afraid we are unable to book school packed lunches for Monday 13th but can for 16th & 17th. Thank you.

Swans

The year 3's and 4's have been working on their geometry over the last couple of weeks. The Yr 3's have been learning about horizontal and perpendicular lines. We then went onto properties of 2D and 3D shapes before starting our next unit 3 and 4 times tables. In Yr 4 we have been looking at triangles and parallelograms. The 99 club is getting very competitive and it is great to see the enthusiasm from the children to improve their scores week on week.

Year 3&4 have been finding out about the bones in the human skeleton, with our own skeleton. Bert, to help. They have gone on to identify the bones in other endoskeletons.

In history Year 3&4 have been finding out about hieroglyphs and Year 5&6 have been researching the role of Howard Carter in discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun, its role in advancing our knowledge of the Ancient Egyptians. They have also thought about the ethics of opening a tomb. We have all gone on to find out more about Egyptian beliefs and gods.

Year 3&4 have been continuing their stories inspired by Leon and the Place Beyond and their circus trip. They are currently excited about publishing their books in their nest handwriting with complementary illustrations

In English, Year 5 and 6 have completed a unit inspired by the Three Little Pigs Project advert created by the Guardian. We ended the unit by writing letters. Year 5 wrote letters to the judge in the court case to persuade them to either free the pigs or send them to jail. Year 6 wrote a series of letters from different perspectives to make a newspaper letters page that collects a range of opinions and writing styles. We have now begun a unit based on The Island by Armin Greder. We began the unit by imagining a new member of the class and ranking different actions towards them from hostile to hospitable.

In Maths, Year 5 have worked on place value with both 5 and 6 digit numbers. They practised comparing, ordering and rounding these numbers before moving on to working with negative numbers and Roman numerals up to 1000. Year 6 have looked at decimal place value, including

how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. They are now working on multiplication and division, with a focus on written methods of long division.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 have continued looking at forces. We have explored water resistance and the factors which affect an object's ability to move through the water. In Computing, we have looked at online bullying. We discussed the similarities and differences between online and offline bullying, before researching tips and advice to share with anyone that may be struggling with this.

In PE we have been thinking about keeping our focus, especially when our muscles are tired. We have been practising ball skills and keeping control even when there are distractions such as people in our space and noise.

In music we have been busy practising our harvest songs – we hope you enjoyed them on Monday.

In PSHE we have been thinking about a range of emotions we experience, their purpose and strategies we can use to control them.

In art the children produced some detailed paintings of fruit and vegetables which I hope you enjoyed on the harvest display. They have gone on to use a range of mediums to experiment with creating atmosphere on their pictures.

In RE we have been learning about the Christian creation story and the fall of Adam and Eve. We talked about times when we can be tempted to do things we are told not to and the consequences of our actions.

Cygnets

On Wednesday, our class had a fantastic time exploring and learning at Forest School! We were warmly welcomed by Sue, who introduced us to the exciting roles we'd be taking on during the day.

Our first task was to help "farm the land" around our woodland settlement. With Sue and Matt as our guides, we visited the pigs and fed them a delicious treat of apples and pig nuts—they were very happy! After that, we collected freshly laid eggs from the chicken coops. Every child was thrilled to discover an egg of their own!

After visiting the animals, we returned to our camp where the children were each given a special Celtic name— and they wore them with great pride! It was heart-warming to see how quickly they embraced their new identities, even beginning to use their Celtic names when speaking to each other.

Our day was filled with meaningful and exciting tasks, just like real members of a Celtic tribe. Our first challenge was to build a new settlement. We quickly discovered that constructing a roundhouse wasn't as easy as it looked! To help us shape the base, we cleverly used a tree to guide the circular structure.

Some children got creative making clay bowls and plates – just like the ones Celts would have used for their meals. Others crafted beautiful pieces of jewellery called torcs, which were highly valued

by the Celts. We also learned to weave intricate Celtic knots, which took a lot of concentration and teamwork.



One of the highlights of the day was building hurdles- a traditional method for making walls. The children placed pegs into the ground and wove sticks in and out to create a strong framework. Then came the messy part -mixing mud and water to form a natural insulating material for the walls. There were lots of muddy hands and even more smiles!



After a busy morning full of building, crafting, and exploring, it was time for a well-earned lunch. The children happily tucked into their packed lunches, recharging their energy for the afternoon ahead.

As they ate, Sue gave a fascinating demonstration on how the Celts might have made fire -a powerful reminder that there was no electricity, gas, or running water in those times! The children were amazed to see how much effort it would have taken to do something we now take for granted. Next, the children rolled up their sleeves to help cook a traditional Celtic meal. Using the fresh eggs they had collected earlier, they cracked them into a pan while Sue explained the importance of stirring them continuously until they were fully cooked. The eggs turned a beautiful golden yellow and filled the camp with a mouth-watering aroma.



To go alongside the eggs, Mr Scrivener and Sue made a simple dough using just flour and water - exactly as the Celts would have done. Each child was given a piece to knead and stretch, learning how this basic mixture could become a hearty bread.

But there was a challenge: how would we cook the bread without an oven? The children learned to safely whittle a stick of hazel wood, which they then used to spiral the dough around. These bread sticks were carefully cooked over the fire- and as you'll see from the photos, some cooked faster than others depending on where they were held over the flames!

As our exciting day drew to a close, there was just one final task to complete -preparing our beds for the night, just like real Celts would have done! The children carefully laid straw inside our shelter and took a well-deserved rest after a day full of hands-on learning, creativity, and adventure.



A huge thank you to Sue, Matt, and Mr Scrivener for bringing the day to life and helping create such a memorable experience for everyone. It was a truly magical day at Forest School - one we're sure the children will be talking about for a long time!



Little Farringdon Fireworks - Friday 7th November

Last year Little Farringdon Parish Council were kind enough to give £1,000 to help save our minibus. We have been asked if we can help with their Fireworks Night this year. If anyone is able to help it would be great to be able to support the event. If you are able to help with parking from 5.30pm, food stalls from 6pm or the children's stand from 6pm, that would be very much appreciated. Please let Kelly know or email PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

Recipe Book!

Please can you start getting together a recipe with your child/ren for our recipe book. It would be great to have their recipes in school from Monday 13th October. You can drop it off to the school office, or email PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk. The children will also be asked if they would like to add a drawing to their page. This will be for them to complete at home and a form will be given to them before the end of term. Thank you for your support!

Uniform Sale

A huge thanks to everyone that bought items and donated pre-loved uniform. Please use the following bank details to pay online or cash can be handed to the school office.

Southrop School PTA, 30-92-06, 01232310