



Newsletter 7 – 17th 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 20TH OCTOBER	- Mr Bateman Music Lessons moved to Wednesday - Swans trip to the Ashmolean, Oxford, bring a packed lunch - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from School - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming. Packed lunches. - Lunchtime Chess Club - Parents to view books in the classrooms 3.00pm. - KS2 Science Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER	- Mr Bateman Music Lessons - NO FOREST SCHOOL - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm - END OF TERM 1
THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER	INSET DAY
FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER	INSET DAY
MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER	- TERM 2 STARTS - Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from School - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming. Packed lunches. - Lunchtime Chess Club - Parents' Evening 3.30-5.00pm. Please book ASC if you are bringing your children. - ASC 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Rec, Y1 & Y3 - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER	- Year 3&4 Library Visit pm - ASC 3.15-5.15pm - Parents' Evening online 5.30-7.00pm
FIRDAY 7TH NOVEMBER	- Musical Mania - Little Faringdon Fireworks 6.45pm

Coming UP Saturday 8th November School Open Morning, Monday 10th November Remembrance Service 10.35 in Church.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our Star of the Week in Swans:

Charlie for his spellings.

Head Teacher's Lunch



Congratulations to Dolly, Freya and Charlie who had lunch with Miss Davies today.

Message from Miss Davies

What a Week!

It's been a long but lively one with three different trips to the Cheltenham Literature Festival, queues out of the door for our Open Morning, and an inspiring Design & Technology Day.

During the PTA Open Morning on Tuesday, our Year 5 and Year 6 children did a wonderful job showing families around the school. Meanwhile, the PTA parents provided coffee, cake, and friendly conversation about life at Southrop. Armed with a helpful prompt sheet, the children gave thoughtful and thorough tours, explaining so eloquently how Southrop offers not only strong academic opportunities but also genuine nurture and care for every child. We are very proud of the way they represented our school. Thank you to all the children and parents who helped make the morning such a success!

Our next open mornings are

Sat 8th Nov (10.30-12.30), Tuesday 18th November, Tuesday 18h Nov, Tuesday 2nd Dec & Tuesday 6th Jan 26, starting at 9.30am. Please spread the word to anyone looking for places in Reception 2026. ... Please could you share the dates with neighbours and friends.

Later in the week, we enjoyed some fantastic Design & Technology days, creativity and collaboration at their best.

- Year 5 and 6 designed and made pop-up books for the Year 1 children.
- Year 3 and 4 focused on designing and making torches, combining imagination with practical skills.

Thank you for making a consistent effort to ensure your children attend school regularly and on time, it really does make a difference. Good attendance is vital for learning, friendships, and wellbeing.

A gentle reminder that attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence. I have a duty to follow up with families when attendance falls below this level, and a plan will need to be put in place to support improvement. Persistent absence is the equivalent of missing one day of school every two weeks, or around four weeks of learning across the school year. Please also note that

arriving late after the register has closed is recorded as an unauthorised absence. Every minute counts, and being on time helps children start the day calmly and confidently, ready to learn.

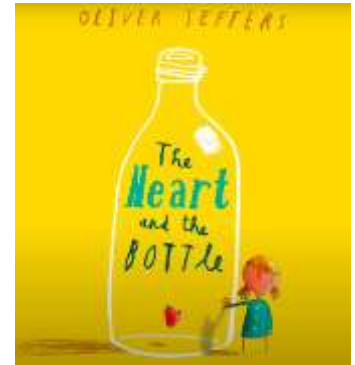
Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep attendance high and ensuring every child has the best chance to succeed.

Swans

In English, Year 3&4 have started a new book, which was introduced by a mystery chair appearing in the classroom. The children enjoyed using clipboards and their detecting skills to work out what it might tell us about the book, *The Heart and the Bottle*. It is a gorgeous tale of the



relationship between a young girl and her grandfather and their shared love of and curiosity about the wonders of the world. Through the book we have been learning to turn speech bubbles into correctly punctuated dialogue, exploring how the events of life can cause a character to change and writing postcards and diary entries using the present perfect tense. Of course we also enjoyed an inspiring trip to hear Cressida Cowell speak at the Literature Festival and get our books signed by her.



Year 5 and 6 have been continuing our unit based on *The Island* by Armin Greder. We have used passive voice to describe life on the island, made inferences about characters from their actions and compared them, used the subjunctive form to write a persuasive letter and written a news bulletin using the present perfect tense.

In Maths, Year 5 have been working with decimals, focussing on place value. We have represented and written decimal numbers, placed them on a number line and compared and ordered numbers with different numbers of decimal places. Year 6 have completed their lessons on written methods of long division and are now looking at reading and plotting coordinates in all 4 quadrants.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 are looking at mechanisms that use forces to lift objects. We looked at how levers and pulleys spread the force needed to lift the load over a longer distance and then designed and tested our own pulley systems. In Computing, we are looking at how wellbeing is affected by online technology and are designing posters with tips on how to maintain our physical and mental health.

Year 3&4 have been finding out about a range of muscles in the body, most of which are voluntary but some of which are involuntary, such as the heart and the muscles which control the size of our pupils. They were of course delighted to discover the name and nature of humankind's largest muscle, the gluteus maximus! We worked with a partner to create a model of the elbow joint with elastic bands representing the biceps and triceps which relax or contract as we bend it.

In PSHE the children have been reflecting on their relationships and friendships, considering what makes a healthy or unhealthy relationship and coping strategies. We have been talking about passive, aggressive and assertive behaviours and using role play to develop assertive skills.



We have all been intrigued in History by the Ancient Egyptians beliefs about the journey to the afterlife and particularly the mummification process, which we were able to try out ourselves using a tomato, salt instead of natron and bicarbonate of soda. We are looking forward to unwrapping the mummies at the end of term to find out what state they are in!

In Art the children have shown great focus and attention to detail planning out and then creating their book to tell a story through drawing. Year 3&4 have told the story of The Jabberwocky and Year 5&6 have chosen their own poems to illustrate.



Forest School

The dates for next term are

5th Nov Plus Y3

12th Rec & Y1

19th Nov plus Y4

26th Nov plus Y5 & 6

3rd Dec Cygnet Whole Class Nativity



Recipes in School by Monday Please!

Thank you so much to everyone that has sent their recipe into school. So far, we have a huge range including sausage rolls, paella, pancake stacks and a lot of delicious sounding cakes! Please make sure your child has a recipe in school by Monday. This could be a printed copy or you can email PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

The children will also be asked if they would like to add a drawing to their recipe. A printed form has been handed out to each child and a link has been sent if you need to print one at home. Thank you for your support!

Little Farringdon Fireworks - Friday 7th November

A huge thanks to those that have offered to help at the Fireworks event. If we could have one or two more people that would be wonderful.

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

Smarties Challenge!

At the end of term, every child will be given a full tube of Smarties to enjoy! The challenge is to then fill the tube up with any change they can over the holidays. Please return your tubes at the start of next term. Enjoy!

PTA Open Day

A huge thank you to everyone that spread the word about our Open Day earlier this week. We had a queue at the door by 9.30! It was a lovely morning with five families visiting and some very good conversations had about life at Southrop. Our next PTA Open Day is Saturday 8th November. If you know of any families that may be interested in coming, please share our Open Day poster. Thank you!

