



Newsletter 8 – 22nd 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 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 • Cygnets Library Visit pm • 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 10.45am in Church.

Message from Miss Davies

Our first term is done! It's amazing what we can achieve in just eight weeks. All the children have settled beautifully, and we can already see wonderful progress across the school. Our Reception children have begun their phonics journey, recognising phonemes and starting to read simple words, while our Year 6 pupils are stepping up as fantastic role models for the younger children.

Continuous professional development is equally important for our staff. In just eight weeks, we have accessed a wide range of training opportunities, including ELSA, RWI, Paediatric and Workplace First Aid, Early Language and Communication, the WAIT Pathway, Colourful Semantics, and Literacy Tree training. We have also enjoyed collaborating with other local schools to share knowledge, resources, and best practices.

The last fortnight has been a flurry of enrichment activities, from the Literature Festival to exciting trips to the Ashmolean Museum and the Cotswold Wildlife Park. These experiences have brought learning to life and provided opportunities for children to learn beyond the classroom.

At the heart of all our teaching is the understanding that children learn in many different ways. Whether through hands-on exploration, visual and auditory experiences, collaborative activities, or independent reflection, we strive to provide a range of learning opportunities to support every child's unique strengths and needs. By valuing these diverse learning styles, we help every child grow in confidence and reach their full potential.

As we come to the end of this busy and successful first term, I want to take a moment to thank all our families for their continued support and encouragement. I hope you all enjoy a restful and well-deserved break, filled with family time and fun, and I can't wait to welcome everyone back next term for more exciting learning, new experiences, and continued growth together.

Parents' Evenings

If you have not done so, please book a parents' evening slot on the Portal. We are holding parents' evenings on 4th November in school from 3.30-5.00 and 6th November on line from 5.30-7.00. Please remember to book After School Club if you need childcare for the parents' evening on 4th November.

Forest School Dates for Term 2

5th Nov Plus Y3, 12th Nov Rec & Y1, 19th Nov plus Y4, 26th Nov plus Y5 & 6, 3rd Dec Cygnet Whole Class Nativity.

Swimming

Year 3 & 4 will continue swimming from Tuesday 4th November until Tuesday 2nd December.

Library Visits

The Cygnets will be visiting Fairford library on Wednesday 5th November, Year 3 & 4 on Thursday 6th November and Year 5&6 on Thursday 20th November. The children will be able to bring home a couple of library books but we ask that you return the books to Fairford library when they are due. If you are not a member of a Gloucestershire Library then you can join even if you don't live in Gloucestershire. A copy of the application form is attached, please return this to the school office before the library visit.

We have library numbers for most pupils but if you are new to the school this year, please can you let Mrs Simmons have your child's library number to save children bringing library cards on the day.

If you do not wish your child to take out any books then please let us know. Thank you.

After School Clubs

We will be offering Sports, Crochet, KS2 French and Cookery Club during Term 2.

Sports Club will continue from 3.15-4.30pm on Mondays as normal.

Mrs Martyn will be running **Crochet Club** which will be held on Tuesdays from 3.15-4.15pm starting on Tuesday 11th November and running until Tuesday 9th December.

KS2 French will continue on Wednesdays from 5th November to 10th December.

Miss Davis and Mrs Martyn will run **Cookery Club** on Thursdays from 3.15-5.15pm from 6th November to 4th December. Please sign up for this by the Monday before each club so that we know how many are attending. There will be a maximum number of 12 places for this club.

Chess Club will continue on Tuesday lunchtimes.

General After School Club sessions are available on all days for two sessions 3.15-4.15pm and 4.15-5.15pm.

BOOKINGS FOR CLUBS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PORTAL FROM 6.00PM ON FRI 31ST OCTOBER.

Spooky School Council Spectacular

On Wednesday, our School Council, Juliette, Amber, Rupert, Molly, and Esme, ran their first fundraiser of the year: a Trick or Treat Lucky Dip!

Children took part by choosing either a trick, a treat, or a class prize. Thank you to everyone who joined in and supported the event, together we raised £30, which will be donated to Southrop School PTA.

Congratulations to Kiera and Lyra, who won two of the class prizes! One earned a Non-Uniform Day and the other a Bring a Teddy to School Day for their year group.

A big well done to our School Council for organising such a fun and successful event!

DT Day

Last Friday the Swans class had their DT day. The yr 3 and 4s completed their electronics units and made torches. The yr 5 and 6s were working on mechanisms and were tasked to make pop up books. Each child had their own design criteria and had to ensure that their design matched the requirements. We're looking forward to showing you our work on display in the classroom.



Literature Festival Trips

Cygnets Class had a wonderful trip to the Cheltenham Literature Festival! We were lucky to have front-row tickets to see Rachel Bright and Jim Field. We enjoyed two wonderful stories and even learnt how to draw a turtle -the main character from their new book.

Next, we visited the storytelling tent, where the children joined in with an oral story and had great fun singing The Strawberry Song.

After lunch, we were gifted tickets to the Alice in Wonderland experience. The children worked together to find clues to help the Mad Hatter locate his missing hat. Just before returning to school, they completed a puzzle celebrating stories created by Axel Scheffler.

Both children and adults had a fantastic day! The children behaved beautifully and listened attentively throughout the trip.



Year 3&4 enjoyed the arty vibe of the ever-inspiring Cheltenham Literature Festival and had the chance to see Cressida Cowell, author of the hugely successful How to Train Your Dragon series, as well as many other books. She is an enthusiastic and stimulating speaker, telling us about the childhood holidays on a remote and uninhabited island off Mull which inspired her Dragon series. When she was woken in her tent by the storms outside, she would imagine that the noise was that of the sleeping dragon rising up from the hill above to protect them from Viking invaders! She encourage the children to use their creativity to write stories, make films, art or whatever inspires them – and not to be held back by worries about their handwriting or spelling! After the show we were able to meet her and have our books signed. They also participated in a very popular story telling session and puzzle trail.





Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit to the Story Shack to hear two myths from cultures around the world, completed a trail inspired by the Escape Room series and met Postman Bear from the Julia Donaldson series. We then attended a spine-tingling talk with Jennifer Killick, who spoke to us about her new book *Serial Chillers: The Witch In the Woods*. After the talk, we were able to visit the book shop, where we were able to pick up a book, meet Jennifer Killick and get our books signed.



Swans at the Ashmolean Museum

On Monday we visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of our history unit on the Ancient Egyptians. Beginning our visit with a self-guided tour of the galleries, we followed a trail to find artefacts and paintings from which we could deduce information about Ancient Egypt. We were very grateful for the generosity of the Quakers Meeting House for providing us with a spacious room in which to enjoy our lunch. In the afternoon, we took part in a guided Egyptian Detectives activity in the Egyptain gallery. We looked in detail at objects in the Egyptian gallery before exploring the walls of Taharqa's shrine, the largest intact Egyptian building in this country. We found out about the figures, hieroglyphs and cartouches which decorate it. Next we were lucky enough to handle some real Ancient Egyptian artefacts and work out what they might have been used for – a bronze axe-head, mirror and something which rarely survives, a wooden mounting for a statue. To end the session we looked at some mummies, even including one of a cat, and inferred who they might have been from their burial conditions. What an inspiring visit!



Our Wonderful Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park!

What an amazing day we had at Cotswold Wildlife Park on Wednesday! Our mission for the day was to find the elusive Nicobar Pigeon — the closest living relative of the Dodo!

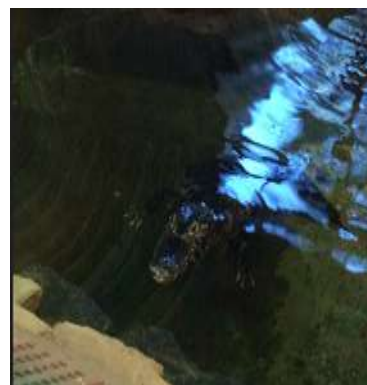
We started our adventure in the walled garden, where we saw cheeky meerkats, playful otters, and lots of beautiful birds. The children were very lucky to watch the penguins being fed and to listen to an interesting penguin talk.

Next, we headed into the tropical house to continue our search. We saw so many exciting and colourful birds who were very brave and curious- but still no Nicobar Pigeon! However, above our heads we spotted a very special surprise -a sloth! He was slowly moving through the branches, looking for a sunny spot. The children were so excited to see him!

After all that exploring, it was time for lunch. The children had made a long list of animals they wanted to visit, and as a special surprise, we got them tickets for the train ride! Everyone loved it and enjoyed waving to all the other visitors as the train travelled around the park.

In the afternoon, we explored the reptile house, which was full of fascinating creatures. Then we went to see the larger mammals- the goats (who weren't the friendliest!), the wolves racing around their enclosure, the baby rhinos, the tall giraffes, the very loud lions, and finally the humpy camels!

It was a fantastic day full of fun, laughter, and wonderful wildlife. The children were brilliant explorers and represented our school beautifully!



Request for Hand Soap Dispensers.

If you have any empty hand soap dispensers please can you bring these into school to use for paint. Thank you.



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

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!