



Newsletter 13 - 1st December 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 DEC	- Monday Breakfast and Takeaway Coffee - Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from School - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 9TH DEC	- Lunchtime Chess Club - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Crochet Club 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 10TH DEC	- Cygnets Trip to Cirencester Snowman Train and Abbey - NO FRENCH CLUB TODAY - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 11TH DEC	- Thursday Porridge at Before School Club 8.00 – 8.20am - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 12TH DEC	- Musical Mania - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
MONDAY 15TH DEC	- Monday Breakfast and Takeaway Coffee - Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Cygnets Dress Rehearsal - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from School - ASC 3.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 16TH DEC	- Lunchtime Chess Club - Swans Carol Singing and Cygnets Nativity 2.15pm at the hall - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Crochet Club 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 17TH DEC	- Caterlink Christmas Lunch - School Christmas Party – Children can wear party clothes to school. - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
THURSDAY 18TH DEC	- Thursday Porridge at Before School Club 8.00 – 8.20am - Carol Service in Church 1.00pm - School finishes at 1.30pm - PTA Mince Pie and Gingerbread Sale & Christmas Raffle Draw.
FRIDAY 19TH DEC	Inset Day

Coming up Monday 5th January start of term 3, Thursday 8th January whole school theatre trip, Friday 9th January Fellowship Walk 8.00am.

Stars of the Week

Swans – Juliette for being a good role model in Year 6 and for always following the school values.

Cygnets – Edmund for his excellent writing.

Message from Miss Davies

Christmas excitement has officially arrived at Southrop. Thank you to all the parents who helped transform the school with decorations last Friday. The Cygnets have started their nativity play, the Swans are filling the school with carols, and I am currently being serenaded by the Musical Mania group with festive pop classics.

This week our Governors visited school to meet with staff and children, observe lessons and talk through priorities with me. As a critical friend, they use triangulation, combining classroom visits, conversations with children and staff, and a review of our data, to build a rounded view of how well we are doing. This approach helps them to challenge and support us effectively, ensuring our plans for improvement are well founded and focused on the needs of our pupils.



Our Posada has now begun its journey around our families. *Posada* is a tradition where figures of Mary and Joseph travel from home to home during Advent, symbolising their journey to Bethlehem. Each family hosts the Posada for a night, taking a moment to reflect, pray, or enjoy some quiet time together before passing it on.

Please remember to return any pictures, reflections, or prayers to help us create a special scrapbook of the Posada's journey.

When we moved breakfast and coffee to Mondays, I reached out to some of our wonderful local businesses for support. A huge thank you to **Coln Stores** for their generous monetary donation towards our Monday Breakfast for the children and the takeaway coffees for parents. Their kindness truly helps make the start of the week a little brighter!

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Mrs Martyn** for *Porridge Thursday* — a warmly welcomed and much appreciated breakfast treat for everyone.

Our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) Report.

We are delighted to share the wonderful outcome of our recent SIAMS inspection. The report confirms what we already know:

'Southrop Church of England Primary School is a joyful, nurturing community where both children and adults truly flourish.'

The inspector praised how deeply our vision of "*Giving wings to fly*", rooted in courage, friendship and forgiveness, shapes daily life at Southrop. It guides decision-making, curriculum design, wellbeing support and how we care for each other.

The report celebrates our commitment to every child's needs, especially those requiring additional support. Our nurturing approach, specialist interventions and trauma-informed practice help children *thrive* and give them the confidence to "*soar*".

Daily collective worship, is described as *cherished, joyful* and *deeply impactful*. Children, staff and families value our reflective gatherings, fellowship walks and strong partnership with our church community.

Children were praised for their excellent behaviour, kindness and ability to resolve disagreements peacefully. From wellbeing ambassadors to environmental initiatives and community volunteering, children show great responsibility and pride in serving others. Relationships between staff, children and families are described as exceptionally strong, and parents' appreciation of our personalised approach was highlighted.

Our curriculum, supported by diverse texts, outdoor learning, enrichment opportunities and extra-curricular clubs, was celebrated for broadening horizons and meeting the needs of every child.

The report identified three development points to help us continue building on our strengths:

- Strengthening how we measure the impact of our Christian vision
- Developing a whole-school approach to spirituality
- Increasing opportunities for children to learn about justice and social action

We are incredibly proud that the report captures the true heart of Southrop, a caring, joyful, faith-filled community where every child is known, valued and given wings to fly.

The report is attached to this newsletter and will be posted on our website too.

Book Clubs

Our book clubs continue to grow! The children have really enjoyed sharing stories and recommending books to each other, as well as the hot chocolate and biscuits! Our next book clubs are:

Tuesday 9th December: Year 3 and 4 - Pippi Longstocking Ingrid Lindgren

Thursday 11th December: Year 5 and 6- The Raven Edgar Allen Poe and The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood Howard Pyle

Reception 2026 Applications

Applications for Reception 2026 are now open and will close on 15th January 2026. Please help us spread the word about the wonderful community here at Southrop by sharing this information with friends and family who may be considering school places.

Our final Open Morning for prospective families is Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 9.30am.

[Admissions to Reception at Primary School – Gloucestershire County Council](#)

<https://portal.thesystem.cloud/survey/bac30da8494eb9fbc1d149f6cac04c4>

Cygnets visit to Cirencester on Wednesday 10th December

Miss Davis will be taking the Cygnets to Cirencester on Wednesday 10th December to follow the Snowman Trail and visit the Abbey. During the trip they will go to the Long Table for hot chocolate, please can your child bring a contribution to cover the cost? Thank you.

Cygnets

What a wonderfully busy few weeks we've had in Cygnets! The children have been buzzing with excitement as they explored new ideas and developed their learning across all subjects.

Space Adventures

Our topic on space travel has been a huge hit. The children were fascinated to learn that many different animals-including jellyfish, fruit flies and even a dog-have travelled into space. We also discovered how astronauts train for the incredible journey of travelling in a rocket. The children worked hard to create fact sheets to share their knowledge with the rest of the school, and we look forward to presenting these soon.

This week brought an unexpected surprise: we received a news article reporting that some schools had been visited by an alien! After investigating our school grounds, we found that a spaceship had "landed" in the Cygnets outdoor area. The children generated thoughtful questions about why it had arrived and who it might belong to. They believe a young alien named *Beegu* may have landed in Southrop, and they have been busy creating posters and even their own news reports to help solve the mystery. We are confident we will soon get to the bottom of Beegu's visit!

Maths

- **Reception** children have been consolidating their number knowledge, focusing on the numbers before and after, as well as exploring and naming shapes in their environment.
- **Year 1** have been learning number facts within ten and practising addition and subtraction strategies.
- **Year 2** have been working on addition and subtraction within 100, using a range of methods to find accurate answers.

Science

In Science, the children have been learning about the four seasons, the changes they bring and the signs to look out for. We also discovered which animals hibernate during winter and which ones migrate. Next week, we will be carrying out a rainfall study to measure how much rain falls in a week.

Geography

Our Geography work has focused on maps and their symbols. After exploring photos and maps of the local area, the children created their own maps featuring churches, playgrounds, shops, and car parks. They also enjoyed making imaginative maps for *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and *The Gingerbread Man*.

Art

In Art, we have been looking closely at patterns in preparation for creating our own clay prints.

Religious Education

In RE, we have been thinking about how the different characters in the Nativity story might have felt. The children had thoughtful discussions about how the shepherds may have reacted when the angels appeared to them on the hillside.

We are very excited for the next two weeks of learning-and of course, for sharing our magical Nativity performance with you all soon.

Swans

In English, Year 5 and 6 have been continuing our unit based on *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. We have focussed a lot on writing relative clauses and how to turn these into stage directions. We have written our own scene to fit into the play, using stage directions to explain how the actors should deliver their lines.

In English, Year 3 and 4 have been working hard on our assessments in reading, grammar, punctuation, spelling and independent writing. The children have been keen to get feedback on their learning and to understand the steps they need to take next. We have now started a new book called *The Barnabus Project* by the Fan Brothers and were fascinated by the Perfect Pet Laboratory that appeared in the classroom one morning.



In Maths, Year 5 completed their unit on written methods of addition and subtraction and are now working on multiplying and dividing by powers of 10. Year 6 have worked on rules around calculating angles and are now working on properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

The year 3 and 4s have now finished learning their mental methods of subtraction. We have doing a fraction recap this week in preparation for our new fraction learning in term 3. Next week we will be looking at strategies for problem solving.

In Computing, Year 3 and 4 have been continuing their coding in Scratch and have remixed a space animation, using loops and if statements.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 have continued our unit on light. Have looked at reflection by exploring which materials are the most reflective before looking at how we use reflection in our daily lives. In

Computing, we have written code that allows a micro:bit to play an animation and function as a pedometer.

In Science, Year 3&4 have loved getting to grips with magnets, understanding how the north and south poles attract or repel each other, testing out which materials are or are not magnetic. We now know that only magnetic metals iron (including steel), nickel, and cobalt are attracted to a magnet. Thank you to Hector for bringing in his ball launching vehicle which uses an electromagnet. This prompted us to investigate how this technology is used to separate metals at the scrap yard and the work of Michael Faraday, who was key in discovering the power of the electromagnet.

In Music we have been busy learning our songs to share with you at Christmas. In PE the children have been learning about different aspects of fitness including flexibility, cardio vascular and strength. They have been building up circuits that ensure that all aspects of their fitness are maintained. In RE we have been continuing to look at Christian beliefs that Jesus is the Messiah and exploring ways in which Christmas celebrations reflect this.

In PSHE the children have been thinking about how we can be responsible members of our community and care for the environment

In Art everyone has drawn up designs for their sculptures. Year 3&4 created formers for their plinth and poured plaster of Paris around a piece of wire to fix it in place. This week they have been creating their plinth people to attach to the wire. Y5&6 are well on the way to creating their own installations to go on a plinth and elicit questions and reactions from an audience.



Carol Singing in Aid of Shelter Friday 12th December

Don't forget carol singing on Friday 12th December, starting at 6.00pm in Dawes Close, where we will be singing carols around Southrop in aid of Shelter and then going to the Swan afterwards for hot chocolate and mince pies.

Please join the families of
Southrop C of E Primary School
Friday 12th December

Southrop Village

CAROL SINGING

6pm Start at Dawes Close, moving to Quarry View, Stonesfield Close, Wadham Close, The Farriers and finishing on The Green at 7.15



We will be raising money for the charity
Shelter

Thank you for your support



Thank you for all the raffle donations. The Christmas Raffle baubles will be on sale from Monday so please email the PTA if you want to buy some and pay online or bring cash to the office or a PTA member.

The Recipe Books will be available on Monday and it's not too late to order one by emailing the PTA pta@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk.