



Newsletter 18 – 23rd January 2026

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 26TH JANUARY	- 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 27TH JANUARY	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming (packed lunches) - Lunchtime Chess Club - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Year 1-6 Construction Club 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Rec, Year 1 & Year 6 - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm - Parents' Consultations in School 3.30-5.00pm
THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY	- Art Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Parents' Consultations online 5.30-7.00pm
FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY	- Musical Mania - Year 1 Parent Phonics Screening Meeting with Miss Davis 2.30pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY	- 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 3RD FEBRUARY	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming (packed lunches) - Lunchtime Chess Club - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Year 1-6 Construction Club 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Rec, Year 1 & Year 2 – Whole Day, packed lunches 12.30pm Cross Country at Farmor's for some pupils. - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY	- Art Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY	- Musical Mania - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm

Stars of the Week

Cygnets: Lily for working so hard this week.

Swans: Charlotte for her times tables and Dolly for her maths.

Message from Miss Davies

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe, we will be introducing lockdown practices in school. These practices are designed to ensure that, in the unlikely event of a serious incident in school or near the school, pupils and staff know how to respond calmly and safely. Any practice will be carried out in an age-appropriate and reassuring way, with staff supporting pupils throughout. We understand that parents may have questions, so we invite you to a parent information meeting on Wednesday 11th February 2:50pm, where we will explain what this involves and answer any questions.

At Southrop, we place a strong focus on talking and oracy as an essential part of children's learning and development. This work links closely with the National Year of Reading, which celebrates the importance of reading, language and communication in children's lives.

Research, led by the National Literacy Trust, shows that talking plays a vital role in helping children develop their language, confidence, thinking skills and literacy. When children are encouraged to talk about their ideas, explain their thinking and discuss books and learning with others, they deepen their understanding and build the foundations for strong reading and writing skills. Talking about books, in particular, helps children engage with reading and develop a love of stories and texts.

This term, we will be ensuring we have talk-rich classrooms, where children are supported to:

- Share their ideas and opinions confidently
- Listen carefully and respond thoughtfully to others
- Discuss books and learning with their peers
- Use new vocabulary in meaningful contexts

You can support this focus at home by:

- Talking with your child about their day and what they are learning
- Encouraging them to explain their ideas, opinions or choices
- Asking open questions such as "Why do you think that?" or "Tell me more"
- Sharing and talking about books together

To encourage opportunities for meaningful *talk* about books, we would like the children to recommend their favourite reading material. This could be a fiction or non-fiction book, a comic or graphic novel, a newspaper, magazine or information book. At home, please encourage your child to talk about:

- What they like about their chosen text
- Why they would recommend it
- Any ideas, opinions or favourite parts they want to share

This might be done through conversation, a short spoken presentation, a drawing with labels, or a short written recommendation, whatever best suits your child.

We would love to share the children's recommendations within the school community, and where permissions allow, more widely on school social media, to celebrate their voices and promote reading for pleasure as part of the National Year of Reading.

Wings

Congratulations to Lily, Rupert, Juliette, Molly, Ari, Lyra, Luna, Dolly, Misty, Kiera and April who have gained their wings for taking part in Look Whose Talking. Not everyone is in school today so we will put their photos in next time.



Forest School Term 3

Miss Davis will be taking the children to Forest School on the following dates, please remember warm clothing and wellington boots:

28th Jan Rec, Y1 & Y6

4th Feb Rec, Y1 & Y2 Whole Day

Whole Cygnet Day at Forest School – Wednesday 4th February

Miss Davis is taking the whole class to Forest School on 4th February and they will need a packed lunch. If you would like to order a school packed lunch please complete the survey on the portal by 9.00 am on Monday 2nd February.

<https://portal.thesystem.cloud/survey/b1775299025da2a75d565db4bb6e273>

Phonics Meetings with Miss Davis

A reminder that Miss Davis has invited Year 1 parents to talk about Phonics Screening on Friday 30th January. Please let Mrs Simmons know if you are able to attend.

Swans

In English, we have been continuing our unit on The Barnabus Project. The story has allowed us to design and describe our own perfect pets using expanded noun phrase, write letters of advice to the Failed Projects and devise an escape plan full of command sentences for them. We are now writing a brochure for our own pet shops full of healthily "imperfect" pets. A particular focus in our writing at the moment is the use of apostrophes for omission and possession.

In Maths, Year 3 and 4 have been making great progress on their column addition this week. As a cohort they have really impressed me with their ability to set their work out neatly which has really helped. The year 3's have been working on adding 3 digit and 2 digit numbers whilst the year 4s have been stretching themselves to learn to add 4 digit numbers with exchanges in each column.

All the children have been working hard on their 99 club and times tables fluency too. In the yr 3 and 4 class room we have been using songs to help us using the BBC website.

In Science, Year 3&4 our new topic is Light. We have investigated natural and artificial light sources and which materials reflect light well, with Year 4 researching how retro-reflective fabric works. We have also learnt how shadows are formed when opaque materials block out light and how a shadow changes as the material is moved away from a light source.

In Computing, Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed watching some example trailers for books and designing their own. They have now taken the photos that they need and are ready to start using iMovie to put the trailer together.

In English, Year 5 and 6 have been working on a unit based on Freedom Bird by Jerdine Nolan. We have ranked our own continuum of needs and wants and made predictions about the story. We carried out research on the transatlantic slave trade and the American Civil War to allow us to understand the context of the story. We then used some of the figurative language from the story to write a poem exploring the concept of freedom.

In Maths, Year 5 have been working on properties of number. We have been focussing on prime numbers, including finding factors of numbers, identifying primes up to 20 and expressing numbers as a product of prime factors. Year 6 have begun a unit on adding fractions. This includes adding both proper fractions and mixed numbers with different denominators, adding both within and beyond the whole.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 have begun a unit on properties of material. We tested different materials for a range of properties, grouped them according to those properties and then considered different uses for the materials. In Computing, are looking at the Mars Rover and how it transmits data to Earth. We have investigated binary and both read and written numbers in 8-bit binary.

In PSHE we used the book *Dogs Don't Do Ballet* to learn it is ok to be different and how to be assertive. We have been exploring what makes a good friend, identifying the top three qualities we look for in a friend and understanding that this will be individual to us. We have been practising our listening skills to show respectfulness to others.

In Art we are developing our drawing and paint skills in pencil, ink, charcoal and watercolour. Our pictures are inspired by bird nests and our focus is on being inventive and showing determination if things don't go as well as we planned. This week we also enjoyed making our own birds' nest out of clay and sticks. What a wonderful start to our spring term! The children have settled in beautifully and have been working hard across all areas of the curriculum. Here's a snapshot of what we've been learning:



We finished off our topic on the Romans with our study of the Roman army and some Roman drill practice on the playground, which we were unable to do at the end of last time due to the weather. Here we are forming the tortoise and the wedge!





Our new geography topic is Who Lives in Antarctic? We have looking at there on the Earth Antarctica is and how we can use the lines of latitude and longitude to locate places. Year 5&6 have been researching the climate. Thank you for the support you gave the children in Year 3 & 4 to research the topic vocabulary and interesting facts about the continent.

Cygnets

English

The children have continued their Beegu adventure, focusing on using adjectives and extending their sentences. They designed their own alien sock puppets and created imaginative stories about their characters visiting Earth, meeting new people, and going on exciting adventures. The children have worked incredibly hard and are now at the publishing stage of their stories.

Mathematics

In Year 1, the children have been learning about the numbers 11, 12, and 13, exploring number bonds, addition, and subtraction.

In Year 2, the children have been using directional language such as clockwise and anti-clockwise to describe movement and have been learning how to find coordinates using a grid. They have now moved on to practising their times tables.

In Reception, the children have been developing their understanding of numbers, learning what comes before and after, and ordering numbers correctly.

Design and Technology

We spent a full week creating moving storybooks. The children learned how to make pictures move, practising techniques such as rabbits popping out of hats and cars travelling along streets. They designed, coloured, and assembled their own pages before completing an evaluation of their finished project. The final pieces are wonderful!

Science

The children have been learning about different materials by investigating objects in our classroom. They discovered that items can be made from materials such as plastic, wood, fabric, glass, and brick, and discussed how many different objects can be made from the same material.

History

We explored explorers using a timeline. The children learned about:

- Christopher Columbus, who aimed to travel to Asia but reached the Bahamas
- Mary Kingsley, who travelled to Africa to study insects, fish, and plants and became the first woman to climb Mount Cameroon
- Matthew Henson, who helped lead an expedition to the North Pole
- Dame Ellen MacArthur, who sailed solo around the world in 71 days

PSHE

We have been thinking about what makes people special to us and discussing who we can trust. This is a theme we will continue to explore throughout the term.

RE

The children have been learning about Judaism. They explored Jewish artefacts and their meanings, matched objects to their names, and learned the story of Hanukkah. They discovered why the festival lasts eight days and the significance of lighting a candle each day.

Computing

In Computing, the children are learning to use Microsoft Word to create and format lists.

Thank you for your continued support — we are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and hard work this term!



PTA WhatsApp group

Stay up to date with school life and join our WhatsApp group. Please email the PTA or the School Office with your mobile number and you will be added to the group!

Jumble Sale 2026!

Our Jumble Sale will be on the 7th March, Southrop Village Hall! Get ready for a clear out, as well as amazing bargains to be had! Any helpers on the day would be very much appreciated!

Southrop Village Play Area



Our village play area has been well loved for many years and is now in need of complete refurbishment. With your support, we can create a safe, welcoming and inspiring space for our children to play, explore and grow.

We are raising funds to replace the equipment, improve safety, and give the play area a fresh new lease of life for today's families and future generations.

Every donation, large or small, will make a real difference. By contributing, you'll be helping to invest in our village, our children, and our shared community space.

Thank you for your support.

BACS Payments

Account Name: Southrop Village Hall
Sort Code: 30-14-64
Account Number: 00011799
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<https://gofund.me/0f1593686>

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