



Newsletter 20 – 6th February 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 9TH 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 10TH FEBRUARY	- Year 3 & 4 Swimming (packed lunches) LAST SESSION - Lunchtime Chess Club - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Year 1-6 Construction Club 3.15-4.15pm
WEDNESDY 11TH FEBRUARY	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Lockdown Procedure Meeting for parents with Miss Davies 2.50pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY	- Art Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY	- Musical Mania - Parents Invited to view books in the classrooms 3.00pm. - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - End of Term 3
16TH-20TH FEBRUARY	HOLIDAY
MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY	- Start of Term 4 - 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 24TH FEBRUARY	- Lunchtime Chess Club - Nature Quiz - ASC with Crafts 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY	- Look Who's Talking Competition - ASC with Signing 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY	- Musical Mania - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - End of Term 3

Stars of the Week

Cygnets: Mirelle, Arabella and Otilie for settling in so well during these first few weeks.

Swans: Jordan for his progress in his times tables.



Congratulations to Roxi who earned her wings for her progress in maths.

Message from Miss Davies

This week, our governors have been in school carrying out learning walks, giving them the opportunity to see our curriculum in action across different classes and subjects. Their focus was with the Cygnets. These visits were very positive and highlighted the many strengths of our curriculum, including how it is carefully designed to build knowledge and skills over time. Governors were particularly pleased to see the high levels of engagement from the children and the thoughtful ways in which staff support all children to learn, thrive and achieve their best.

The governors' focus was in the Cygnets as our Year 4, 5 and 6 children had joined pupils from Meysey Hampton, Down Ampney, Hatherop and Rodmarton for a singing day. Please see the section below for more information about what took place.

As part of our continued commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, we are also engaging in further professional development through the National Year of Reading. We are currently carrying out our self-reflection task, which considers the opportunities we offer to help us build a strong culture of Reading for Pleasure across the school.

This brings me to the dates for our next book clubs:

- 24th February – Year 3 and 4
- 26th February – Year 5 and 6

At the first meeting with our new School Council, the children shared thoughtful and enthusiastic ideas about how they can make a positive difference. They discussed plans for a potential fundraiser in support of a children's charity, with ideas still being developed. They also explored ways to support the Village Hall play park and how we can become more sustainable as a school. These conversations link closely to the working party taking place on 14th February, where we hope volunteers will help to plant a new hedgerow and upgrade the raised beds.

Looking ahead, the School Council would like to develop a month-by-month gardening plan for growing vegetables and flowers. This will provide children with knowledge and guidance throughout the year and valuable hands-on learning experiences. They have also linked this to their fundraising ideas, with the possibility of selling some of the produce, if feasible.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. There are many opportunities to get involved over the coming weeks, whether by volunteering at the working party, supporting our reading initiatives, attending book clubs, or encouraging and championing the School Council's ideas. Your involvement makes a real difference and helps us to enrich the experiences we offer our children. We are very grateful for your ongoing partnership as we work together to support our school and wider community.

Lockdown Procedure Meeting

In the 23rd January newsletter, Miss Davis mentioned she would be holding a meeting with parents on Wednesday 11th February to talk about lockdown procedures. Please come along at 2.50pm on Wednesday to hear about what is involved and ask any questions.

Parents to View Books Friday

At the start of the year this had been planned for Thursday 12th Feb, please note the change of date and that you are now invited to come into the classrooms on Friday 13th at 3.00pm instead.

Swan's trip to Meysey Hampton

On Thursday the year 4, 5 and 6's joined 4 other small schools to have a day of singing on Meysey Hampton church. As usual, I was impressed by the children's can do attitude, enthusiasm and kindness to others throughout the day. We learnt 3 songs which we have recorded to share with you. We hope that you enjoy them! Thanks to all the parents who helped with transport and stayed to support.



Cygnets

What a busy and exciting few weeks we have had in the Cygnets class! We have continued to explore the topic of famous explorers who travelled the world, inspiring learning across many subjects.

English

In English, the children have been enjoying *The Owl and the Pussy-Cat*, following the characters on their fabulous adventure to where the Bong Tree grows. The children have been learning to create expanded noun phrases using adjectives and subordinating clauses, for example:

I have a long, black umbrella because it might rain heavily while I'm out walking.

We have also focused on using prefixes and suffixes in our writing. This has supported the children in writing a set of commands and creating love letters from the main character's perspective. The children have practised using contractions to join two words together, and in the final week of term they will be learning to rhyme words and include them in a poem. The children have loved experimenting with rhyming words and the freedom of expression this gives them.

Children in Reception have been learning to rehearse and perform the poem and have particularly enjoyed exploring rhyming words.

All children have continued with their handwriting sessions, where they are learning a fun rap to help them start and form letters correctly using the "handwriting sandwich" approach.

Maths

In Reception, the children have been counting objects up to ten and combining numbers using a die to practise addition. They have also been working hard on correct number formation.

In Year 1, the children have been consolidating their number knowledge and partitioning numbers up to 16, showing a growing understanding of how numbers are composed.

In Year 2, the children have been learning their multiplication facts for the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. They have thoroughly enjoyed using Times Table Rock Stars to continue practising and developing their number fluency.

Science

In Science, we have continued learning about materials and where they come from. The children learned the terms natural and man-made and investigated materials around the classroom, confidently sorting them into these two categories.

History

In History, we learned about the explorer Christopher Columbus, who set out to travel to the Indies. The children created a timeline and wrote a recount of his journey. We discovered that King Ferdinand provided him with three ships; however, Columbus travelled west instead of east from

Spain and reached the Bahamas. We also learned that he took items from the local people and returned them to King Ferdinand.

We then learned about the American explorer Matthew Henson. The children listened to an account of his adventures and wrote diary entries describing his experiences.

Children in Reception have also enjoyed making items they would need for a big adventure, including binoculars and compasses.

Design Technology

The children have been learning about menus and what makes a balanced diet. In upcoming lessons, they will be designing and making their own wraps, which will include tasting a variety of vegetables. Through this unit, the children will also learn how to safely use knives and handle equipment with care.

Computing

In Computing, the children have been using computers to create and save documents. They will soon be designing their own rockets and launching them into space!

Yesterday, we enjoyed a wonderful adventure to Macaroni Woods, where the children spent the day exploring and discovering the natural world around them.

On arrival, the children eagerly collected their binoculars and treasure boxes before setting off on a woodland adventure. They were given a list of items to find, including animal droppings, fungi, footprints, and other signs of wildlife. We explored the woods on a long walk, and the children were amazed to discover hidden animal skeletons along the way. Among the finds were two deer skulls—one male and one female. Sue explained how skeletons can be identified by looking for two small holes and a bone in the eardrum. Afterwards, the children recorded their discoveries in their explorer diaries and were thrilled with everything they had found.

After lunch, we ventured into a different part of the woodland that we had never visited before. As we walked quietly through the trees, we were rewarded with sightings of a kite, hares, muntjac, and a deer. The children quickly realised how important it was to stay quiet in order to observe wildlife in its natural habitat.

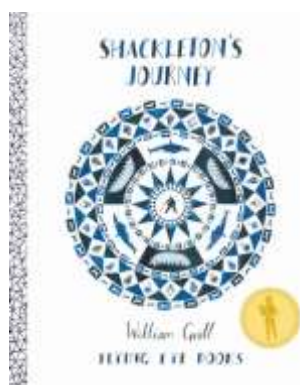
Sue also had a surprise in store for us—we discovered a World War II bunker, along with remnants of buildings that had been destroyed. It was a fascinating insight into the history hidden within the woods.

After our adventures, we walked back to basecamp where the children enjoyed some well-earned chocolate biscuits before playing on the boat and singing boat songs together.

What a truly magnificent adventure that we all participated in!



Swans



In English, Year 3&4 have completed our unit on The Barnabus Project with some beautiful brochures for their own pet shops filled with slightly imperfect but endearing pets.

We have now embarked on our next voyage of discovery with the explorer Shackleton using the book *Shackleton's Journey* by William Grill. First we have been writing letters of application to be crew members on the ship!

In English, Year 5 and 6 have been continuing our unit based on *Freedom Bird* by Jerdine Nolan. We have written a letter to the characters using modal verbs and the subjunctive mood to make suggestions and written a recount of a key event in the story using adverbials and progressive verb sentence starters. Alongside this, we have been preparing our case for the Mock Trial competition.

In Maths, Year 3 and 4 have been busy with their column subtraction this week. The year 3's are using 3 digit numbers while the year 4s are moving up to 4 digits. We have been using the dienes to make sure that we have got a really good knowledge of the exchange so that we aren't just following the procedure. We have also been using our data collected from the big Bird Watch to make bar charts and pictograms.

In RE we have been continuing our unit on Judaism and learning about the story of Exodus and its significance to Jewish people.

In Maths, Year 5 are looking at written methods of multiplication. We began with a recap of short multiplication, before focussing on long multiplication with different numbers of digits. Year 6 have begun a unit on subtracting fractions. This includes subtracting both proper fractions and mixed numbers with different denominators, subtracting both within and beyond the whole.

In Science, Year 3&4 carried out an investigation to find if everything can make a shadow and found that transparent materials like glass and water do not. They have also been using UV beads and sunscreen to find out the effects of ultraviolet light and how to protect ourselves – of course there is quite a lack of those damaging rays in the depth of February!



In Science, Year 5 and 6 have continued our unit on properties of material. We tested different materials for thermal conductivity to discover which material would be useful for keeping the teachers' drinks hot. We then drew a line graph to show our results. Following this, we tested the hardness of different materials by marking and scratching them. In Computing, we have considered the relative sizes of different file types. In French, we have looked at vocabulary around different types of food.

In Computing, Year 3 and 4 have been doing really well getting to grips with iMovie to put together a trailer for their chosen book. They have also been evaluating each other's work and making useful suggestions for improvements.

In PSHE we have been talking about discriminatory behaviour, how it might feel to be subjected to it and how we might act to try and reduce these sorts of behaviours and beliefs. We have also been practising methods to challenge stereotypes.

In Art we have been experimenting with drawing in ink, using dipping pens, brushes and tools we have made ourselves, for example from wire, fabric and sticks. The children can be commended for the care and focus they showed, and not a pot of ink was upended! We are now going to prepare our ink drawings of nests. We started closing our eyes and drawing the nest shape in pencil to get a random assortment of lines.



In Geography we have been exploring the physical features of the dramatic and inhospitable Antarctica landscape. We found that no humans live there permanently, though some scientists and tourists visit. Y5&6 have learnt that all the time zones converge on this continent and that the scientists generally choose to use the time zone of their own country.

**22nd GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Young Photographer of the Year 2026**

We invite all Gloucestershire pupils to
enter **ONE** Image - any subject

PRIMARY & SECONDARY AWARDS
FIRST PRIZE £75
& RUNNER UP CASH PRIZES
Best Secondary & Primary School Entry
GYP TROPHY

SELECTED IMAGES will be CINEMA PROJECTED
at the Awards evening, **THE BACON THEATRE, CHELTENHAM**
Wednesday APRIL 29th



Reminder to Enter the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year 2026 Competition

If your child would like to enter the GYP competition
please send entries to admin@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk.
by Wed 18th March so that we don't miss the deadline.



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925

PTA NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Jumble Sale Help Please!

Our annual Jumble Sale is coming up and we would LOVE your help! If you can do any of the following please let one of the committee members know.

- Stall help Saturday 12.30 to 3pm
- Set up on Friday 12 to 3pm
- Set up on Saturday 9.30 to 12
- Put some posters up
- Share on facebook
- Share in your whatsapp groups
- Come and bag a bargain!

We have emailed local nurseries, schools, community groups and churches and our big yellow posters will be going up soon.

Anything you can do to help is always much appreciated!

Recently Raised ...

- £750 from Little Farringdon Fireworks!
- £105 from Recipe Book sales!
- £3,068.62 from the Tractor Run!

A huge thank you for supporting our events and to everyone that has helped in making them a success!

Recently Funded ...

- Cygnets magnetic letters tiles for phonics
- Swans bench cushions for the Dawson Room
- Coach to the Panto
- Dyslexia pens, the school now have four available for pupils to use
- Chicken food

Coming Up!

Uniform Sale

- Friday 6th Feb, 3.15pm at pick up, in the Nurture Cabin

Head Teacher for the Day Raffle

- March

Break the Rules Day

- May

COME AND BAG A BARGAIN AT
THE SOUTHROP SCHOOL PTA

JUMBLE
SALE

SOUTHROP VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

1 - 2.30PM

CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, BRIC A BRAC



ENTRANCE £1
CASH ONLY



Donation Times: Wednesday 4th March 9-11am
Friday 6th March 1-2.30pm, Saturday 7th March 10-11.30am
For more information contact PTA@Southrop.gloucs.sch.uk