



Newsletter 26 - 27th March 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 13TH APRIL	• Start of Term 5 • Monday Breakfast and Takeaway Coffee • Mr Bateman Music Lessons • Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from the field (weather dependent) • ASC 3.15-4.15pm pick up at 5.15pm from School.
TUESDAY 14TH APRIL	• Lunchtime Chess Club • Line Dancing Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL	• Mr Meade Music Lessons • Forest School Rec, Year 1 & 4 • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm • KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm • Teams Meeting for Parents with Lizzie from Beanology 7.30pm
THURSDAY 16TH APRIL	• Cricket Coaching in PE • ASC Cricket Club 3.15-4.15pm pick up from the field (weather dependent) • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm pick up after 4.15 from School.
FRIDAY 17TH APRIL	• Beanology Day • NO Musical Mania today • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm • Reports out to parents today
MONDAY 20TH APRIL	• Monday Breakfast and Takeaway Coffee • Mr Bateman Music Lessons • Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from the field (weather dependent) • ASC 3.15-4.15pm Pick up at 5.15pm from School.
TUESDAY 21ST APRIL	• Lunchtime Chess Club • Second Round of the Wildlife Quiz • Line Dancing Club 3.15-4.15pm • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL	• Mr Meade Music Lessons • Worship in Church at 9.00am • Forest School Rec, Year 1 & 3 • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm • KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 23RD APRIL	• Cricket Coaching in PE • ASC Cricket Club 3.15-4.15pm pick up from the field (weather dependent) • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm pick up after 4.15 from School.
FRIDAY 24TH APRIL	• School visit to Down Ampney, meeting a Rabbi. • Musical Mania • ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm

Stars of the Week

Swans - Bonnie for a beautiful textiles project.

Cygnets - All of the Cygnets for their singing and playing the ocarinas.

Message from Miss Davies

Another term completed, and I'm still buzzing from the highlights of our Easter Concert. Thank you so much for the support you showed yesterday—it meant a great deal.

The PTA have kindly agreed to fund "Beanology" sessions with Lizzie on Friday 17th April. These sessions are designed to support children's wellbeing and confidence, helping them to discover their "superpowers" and recognise that they are the best they can be.

Lizzie will also be offering a parent session on Teams on Wednesday 15th April at 7:30pm. Please join using the following link:

[Beanology Parent Meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Congratulations to Quinn, Amber, Bonnie, Hector, Jack and Luna! They will be joining Ava-Lilly, Rupert, Ari, Charlotte, Lyra, Toby, Juliette, Dolly, Molly, Digby, Esme and Willow on a visit to the Great Western Air Ambulance. Mrs Simmons will be sending out information soon.



Congratulation to Adam and Willow for their winning egg designs. Well done to the runners up, Ava-Lilley, Lily, Quinn and Connie. There were so many beautiful creations, well done everyone.

Thank you all for your continued support this term—it is very much appreciated. Wishing everyone a lovely and restful Easter break.

Forest School Dates Term 5

Wed 15th April for Rec, Year 1 & Year 4

Wed 22nd April for Rec, Year 1 & Year 3

Wed 6th May for Rec, Year 1 & Year 5

Wed 13th May for Rec, Year 1 & Y2.

Wed 20th May for Rec, Year 1 & Y6

After School Clubs Term 5

Free Sports Club will continue from 3.15pm-4.30pm, please book on the Portal so that we know which children are staying. Weather permitting PE on Monday and Sports Club will be at the field. Please collect from the field at 3.15pm or at 4.30pm. Children staying until 5.15pm will return to school for collection.

Tuesday will be Line Dancing Club with Mrs Martyn from 3.15pm-4.15pm, please book this on the Portal. We are hoping to perform at the Southrop Village Fete on 20th June.

Mrs Coecup will continue with KS2 French Club on Wednesdays.

Thursdays PE sessions will be Cricket Coaching and this will be followed by a Cricket Club, again this will be at the field, so pick up will be from the field at 3.15pm then 4.15pm for those staying to club. Please book Cricket Club on the portal, so we know which children want to take part. Children staying until 5.15pm will return to school.

Friday will be normal After School Club with Mrs Martyn.

All bookings for clubs will be open from 6.00pm on Friday 10th April.

Easter Concert

It has been a very short term and the teachers were a little worried that they wouldn't have enough chance to get the children ready for their Easter concert. However once again the children proved that they can work as a team and produce a performance to be proud of. Particular highlights included Lyra our only brave soloist, the Makaton groups for their signed version of Roar and the Musical Mania singers whose energy lifted us all. All the children performed beautifully with their classes and it was lovely to see so many proud parents in the audience!





Swans

In English, Year 3&4 completed their study of Shackleton's Journey with a newspaper article about the expedition. This week they have loved typing up the final versions and done a really good job. Please enjoy Leo's article below.

In English, Year 5 and 6 continued our unit based on Stonewall by Rob Sanders. We practised writing quotes using inverted commas. We then wrote a short newspaper report on the events of the Stonewall Uprising, using many of the techniques we have practised so far.

In Maths, Year 5 have completed a unit on geometry, focussing on shapes on a grid. We have looked at congruent shapes before translating and reflecting shapes using co-ordinated. Year 6 finished their unit on ratio and proportion by calculating parts and wholes using given information. They then worked on a measurement which involved converting metric units of measurement and units of time.

In Science Year 3&4 have had great fun identifying the different teeth they use for different biting, tearing and chewing functions. They carried out an investigation to see the effect of different liquids on teeth, represented in this case by hard-boiled eggs. The results were pretty horrific after a week and clearly showed the negative effects of acids and sugars in orange juice, vinegar and fizzy drinks. The egg that was left in water was virtually unchanged. They also loved bringing their toothbrushes and toothpaste to school and using disclosing tablets to see if any plaque remained after they had cleaned their teeth.



In Computing, Year 3&4 completed their coding with Scratch, and evaluated the game they created.

In Computing, Year 5 and 6 learnt about Bletchley Park and other important moments and figures in the history of computing. We carried out research and created presentations on what we had

learned. In DT, we designed animal monitoring devices that use sensors to check whether the ambient temperature is in the appropriate range. We programmed the monitor using Micro:bits and then designed a case using TinkerCAD.

In French Y3&4 have been reading about a family's trip to the zoo and learning to describe the range of animals they encountered there.

In Art we have explored the colourful work of the artists Yinka-Illoria and Liz West will inspire us for design of our own colour boxes which we will construct next term. We have also been working with colour to create Mother's Day and Easter cards which I hope you have enjoyed receiving.

The year 3 and 4s enjoyed a trip to the opera this week at Rendcomb. The opera was called Ava and the Code Crusaders and explored the life of Ada Lovelace the English mathematician celebrated for her visionary notes on Charles Babbage's proposed Analytical Engine. There was plenty of opportunity for audience participation and Misty even went on stage and cracked the code! We enjoyed listening to a double bass and accordion as well as being wowed by some extravagant costumes and beautiful singing.



On Thursday we had our DT day and this term we were working on our textiles project – an Easter cushion. Our design criteria had to include a cross stitch decoration and some applique. Many of the children chose to make designs with a particular person in mind, individualising them by using favourite colours and including initials of the person they were going to give it to. We hope you enjoy looking at our beautiful designs.



For History we have been exploring the Anglo-Saxon artefacts discovered both at Sutton Hoo and in our locality. These items show that the Anglo-Saxons culture was far more advanced than had previously been believed, with skilfully worked decorative items containing gems and precious metals which had been brought from as far away as India. The trip to the Corinium Museum was a good opportunity to consolidate our learning from the Romans topic earlier in the year, as well as finding out about the Anglo-Saxon burial ground that was discovered at Butler's Field in Lechlade in the 1980s. Each group was given replicas of the items that were found in a particular grave and asked what they could deduce about the person who was buried – how old and rich they were and what they might have done for a living. They were then given replicas of the bones to see what information these might add. Finally one of the team dressed as the Anglo-Saxon, their grave goods were laid out around them and the team presented their findings to the rest of the group.



Wildlife Garden Working Party

We'd like to build on the success of the last working party which planted the new hedging. The next phase of the work to prepare for the open gardens in May is to replace three of the raised beds and rotting path edging. If you are able to come along on Saturday 25th April please let Mrs McLellan or Mrs Simmons know.

Southrop Fete Saturday 20th June

Please save this date as the fete is always a lovely community event. Some of our Year 2 to Year 6 children will be dancing and the fete committee are always looking for volunteers to run stalls, sell raffle tickets etc. Please let Mrs Simmons know if you can help out.

Shackleton survives long journey by Leo

Setting Sail

From 8 August 1914 to 30 August 1916, Shackleton travelled from the UK to Buenos Aires and then Antarctica. He had aimed to be the first to cross the Antarctic continent. He set sail on the Endurance- strongest wooden vessel in the world that could hold Shackleton's 26 men.

Buenos Aires

After stopping at Buenos Aires to get rid of some drunken men and gained more sailors and surprisingly, a stowaway!



Endurance Stuck

Then they had arrived in the Weddel Sea. They had to travel 700 miles of pack ice! When they finally passed 700 miles, Endurance began to get stuck. She couldn't travel any further.



Ocean Camp

After stopping, the crew began Ocean Camp. It would be their home for a while and for waiting

for the ice to melt. Then, the ice began to melt, but Endurance started sinking! They quickly evacuated the dogs and supplies onto sledges.



Patience Camp

They now needed to trek to tougher ice and start Patience Camp! Now they arrived at tougher ice and had started their 2nd camp after Endurance started sinking. Again, it was a temporary home for the

crew and the dogs.

Elephant Island

After waiting for months, Shackleton had to sail to South Georgia from Elephant Island. But this wasn't a one man job, it was for six men called Frank Worsley, Tom Crean, Harry McNish, Tim McCarthy, John Vincent and Shackleton. They all rode to Elephant Island, crossed it precariously and then sailed to South Georgia.

South Georgia

After arriving on the shore, the six men travelled thirty-six hours of South Georgia. The men had to cross crevasses, peaks and mountains. Just then, salvation was spotted.

Rescue

The Stromness whaling station was their chance for rescue. They sent out a boat to find and pick up the other twenty. At last, the expedition finally ended.



⚡ Mini Olympics

What a fantastic day of fun, teamwork, and new experiences!

Last Friday, a group of our Key Stage 1 children visited Kingshill School to take part in an exciting Mini Olympics. From archery and boccia to curling, handball, and badminton, the children approached every activity with enthusiasm and smiles.

The focus of the day was on trying something new, and our children embraced every opportunity. Their teamwork, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship were recognised by the sports leaders, who awarded them special armbands and a certificate — a moment we are incredibly proud of.

Thank you to all the parents who supported with transport and to Your School Games for organising such a memorable event.

We are also looking forward to bringing some of these activities into school next term so that all children can take part.

We would like to say a huge well done to all pupils who have participated in sporting events this term, including the swimming gala and SEN sports. These opportunities would not be possible without the continued support of our parents, staff, and helpers — especially Mrs Morris and Mr Scrivener.



🔧 Design Technology Day

Today was a celebration of creativity, curiosity, and hands-on learning.

Cygnets Class explored levers and linkages, learning how mechanisms work. They designed and created their own moving monsters, sharing ideas and voting for their favourites before bringing their creations to life.

It was wonderful to see such imagination, teamwork, and problem-solving skills on display throughout the day.



Forest School

We have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly Forest School sessions. Spending time in the woods has given the children valuable opportunities to explore and learn about our local environment.

Each week, the Cygnets are joined by a Key Stage 2 group, allowing them to build confidence, develop communication skills, and collaborate with others.

A big thank you to Macaroni Woods, our parent helper Mrs Mitchell, Liana Sheppard and our Forest School lead, Sue, for supporting these enriching experiences.



Cygnets Class News

English

The children have completed their Superhero stories, creating imaginative tales featuring unexpected heroes. They were so proud of their work that we compiled their stories into a class magazine.

Maths

- *Reception:* Focused on number formation, as well as early addition and subtraction. They are also developing their understanding of teen numbers as "10 and some more."
- *Year 1:* Learned about positional and directional language, including left, right, above, and below.
- *Year 2:* Continued developing their understanding of time, including reading clocks in 5-minute intervals.

Geography

The children have been learning about the weather and how we prepare for different seasons.

Science

We explored habitats and food chains, finishing the term with hands-on scientific experiments.

RE

The children have been learning about Holy Week and created thoughtful "emotional mountains" to represent the journey and feelings within the story.

Thank you also, to our Buddy Readers, Steve Sheppard, Freya Barlow, Mr Scrivener & Mrs Hadland. The children love their time reading with your support.

✦✧ Thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of all the children and their achievements this term. ✦✧



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925

PTA NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Head Teacher Raffle!

A huge thank you to everyone that entered the Head Teacher Raffle! We had over 150 entries. Good Luck to all that entered and to the Cygnet and Swan winners in running the school!

PTA Committee Update

Lisa-Marie has stepped down from the Committee. Lisa-Marie was an enthusiastic supporter and active member of the PTA, taking on the role as Secretary. We are grateful for all her help and continued support. We have welcomed James to the PTA committee who is keen to be more involved and support the PTA activities and decision making.

Break The Rules Day! Friday 22nd May

We are thrilled to be giving the children a well deserved Break The Rules Day after all their hard work following SATs and Assessment Week. The children are encouraged to break some, or all of the suggested rules, outlined on the poster. Donations are welcome online or cash can be paid to the school office.

PTA Funding

We are pleased to be supporting the school and the children through funding Beanology sessions. These sessions are aimed to inspire children, help them find peace and build their self belief.

We felt very privileged to be invited to a School Council Meeting. We spoke to the children about how we would like to fund some playground equipment! They are on a mission to ensure all children are asked for ideas and suggestions! Watch this space!

Following the success of the Tractor Run, we have been able to donate an amazing £1,687 to Great Western Air Ambulance. They have kindly invited us to take a number of children to visit the Air Ambulance base!

Coming Up!

Break the Rules Day

- Friday 22nd May

Marathon

- July

Next PTA Meeting:

Wednesday 22nd April, 1.30pm.