



Newsletter 27th - 24th April 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 27TH APRIL	- Monday Breakfast and Takeaway Coffee - Mr Bateman Music Lessons - Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm pick up from Field (weather permitting) - ASC 3.15-5.15pm - Pick up after 4.30pm is from School.
TUESDAY 28TH APRIL	- Lunchtime Chess Club - Year 3&4 Book Club 3.00pm - Line Dancing Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL	- Mr Meade Music Lessons <u>NO Forest School Today</u> - Year 5&6 Book Club 3.00pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 30TH APRIL	- Year 2 attending the Cheltenham Jazz Festival TBC - Dance Festival at Blockley Primary School, performance at 6.20pm. 3.15pm pick up at the Field, Cricket Club 3.15-4.15pm pick up at the Field - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Pick up after 4.15pm is from School
FRIDAY 1ST MAY	- Musical Mania - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
MONDAY 4TH MAY	BANK HOLIDAY
TUESDAY 5TH MAY	- Lunchtime Chess Club - Line Dancing Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Rec, Year 1 & Year 5 - Possible Year 4&5 Golf during the school day. - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 7TH MAY	3.15pm pick up at the Field, Cricket Club 3.15-4.15pm pick up at the Field - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - Pick up after 4.15pm is from School
FRIDAY 8TH MAY	- Musical Mania - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm

Stars of the Week

Cygnets: Our new children, Zachary Michael, Darcie Grace and Juniper for settling in so well this week.

Swans: Willow for her work in Maths this week.

Wings



Congratulations to Digby for gaining his wings for taking risks in his writing.

Message from Miss Davies



Well done to the Nature Quiz Team for making it through to the second round. They competed against Sherborne C of E Primary School, last year's overall winners of the competition run by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. The lead fluctuated between the two teams throughout the rounds, and unfortunately we lost by just 3 points in the end.

Congratulations to Toby, Juliette, Amber, Connie, and Kiera for a fantastic effort. Also, many thanks to Mrs Woodhams and Mrs Newton for their preparation and support.

Last Friday all the children across the school had the amazing opportunity to take part in a bespoke workshop with Beanology and what an inspiring experience it was! Through engaging activities and powerful messages, Beanology helped our children discover their confidence, celebrate their individuality, and truly find their power.

A huge THANK YOU to our fantastic PTA for funding this unforgettable experience, your support makes opportunities like this possible and helps our children shine even brighter! We're so proud of every child who took part and embraced the day with enthusiasm and courage.



This week, the children marked Earth Day. Some pupils took part in a live online lesson from the Eden Project, where they were invited to step inside a tropical rainforest. The interactive session took them on a journey to explore how plants, people, food, and wildlife are all connected, inspiring them to think about how they can get involved in their local communities.

The children also celebrated Earth Day during their Forest School sessions in the woods, linking their learning to the natural environment around them.

We would also love your support for Southrop Open Gardens, taking place on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May between 1.00 and 5.00 pm. Our wildlife garden will be open as part of the event and we need help to show visitors around and share our creative and educational space where natural wildlife is encouraged to thrive, offering a wonderful environment for the children to learn and explore. This year we will be able to share our spiritual garden, featuring stained glass window that the children made and newly renovated beds.

At this time of year, we are keen to continue developing these areas, and it would be wonderful to add more plants to our vegetable plots and flower pots. Any support, contributions, or donations of plants would be greatly appreciated.

Breakfast Club, 8am – 8.30 am has been a huge success this week. Mrs Martyn was delighted to have prepared enough scrambled eggs this morning to feed every child – or so it felt! This is a free club, and we are so pleased to be able to offer it to support our families. It is so important that children start their day with a tummy full of nutritious and sustaining food, helping them feel ready to learn.

Our weekly menu includes:

- Monday – a treat breakfast with brioche, fruit, yogurt, and cereals
- Tuesday and Wednesday – warm and comforting porridge
- Thursday – toast and jam day
- Friday – egg day

Each day there is always fresh fruit and natural yogurt available, and Mrs Martyn is always happy to find something to suit everyone's appetite.

If your child isn't feeling hungry, Mrs Dawson will be on the playground encouraging the children to be active, and the nurture hut will be open for sensory circuits too.

We are also pleased to share an update on our numbers on roll. At the start of the 2025–26 academic year, we had 39 children at Southrop, and this has now grown to 44. We are receiving regular enquiries from families interested in joining our school. We do still have spaces available across the school, including a couple of places in Reception for 2026. We would be very grateful if you could help spread the word about all that our small school has to offer.

Miss Davies

Air Ambulance Visit

On Tuesday 14th April we were pleased to be invited to the Great Western Air Ambulance headquarters to find out how the money raised by the PTA Tractor Run helps keep this vital service running. Thank you to Mrs Roberts, Digby & Esme's Mum, for arranging the visit. The children had a wonderful time and presented a cheque for £1687 to the Air Ambulance.



Dance Festival

Tickets for parents attending the dance festival on Thursday will be sent out next week.

Cygnets Snack Money Term 5

Thank you for your contributions towards the Cygnets Class snack last term. For Term 5 the contribution will be £6.50 per child. This will be available to pay on the Portal from Monday. This is a voluntary contribution and the whole class are given a snack and the fruit or vegetables which are provided by the Government Fruit and Veg scheme.

Your School Needs You... to join the Wildlife Garden Working Party!

You'll no doubt have seen the huge amount of materials the PTA has kindly purchased to replace three of the raised beds and rotting path edging. If you are at all handy at woodwork or digging please come along tomorrow, Saturday 25th April, at 10 am and bring some tools. We are hoping that the beds will be done by 1.30 and then it will be time to wheel barrow the gravel in. There will be biscuits and a cuppa!

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. 7 members of staff and one partner have volunteered to help out on stalls, sell raffle tickets etc. Please let Mrs Simmons know if you can help out.

One of the highlights of the fete is the duck race, which was won by a parent from school last year! It is £2 to purchase a duck and Mrs McLellan will be selling them at pickup next Friday 1st May. You can make a payment by cash or card.

WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

1ST - 30TH APRIL 2026

MASKING

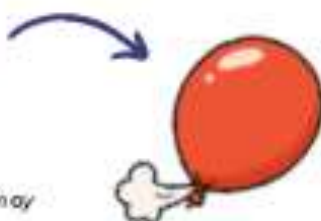


We have created this visual to support understanding around autistic "masking". Masking or camouflaging can mean suppressing behaviours to appear neurotypical and fit in. This can be conscious or unconscious (Hull et al., 2019; Cook et al., 2021).

Children may mask at school because:

- They want to be seen as well behaved and coping
- They want peers to accept and like them
- They don't want to have focus and attention upon them
- They don't want to look different.

Research suggests that autistic females/girls mask more than males (Wood-Davies et al., 2020)



We need to find a healthy way to let a bit of pressure out or this could present as distressed behaviour.

An autistic child may seem calm and regulated at school, but at home they may behave differently, for example, displaying behaviours they have been suppressing such as exhaustion, frustration or distress.



Waiting to let lots of pressure out at home can be exhausting and distressing.

How schools can help

- Home/ school communication books so parents and school can adjust expectations following challenging events.
- Staff training on neurodiversity.
- Promote relaxation techniques.
- Provide calm and safe environments, for example reduced stimulation spaces.
- Offer check-ins with trusted staff with time to talk.
- Support with the concept of energy accounting.
- Use programmes like the Zones of Regulation to help recognise emotions and use personalised strategies to regulate.

How parents can help

- Offer low demand, calming activities and/or quiet space following the transition from school.
- Model acceptance and positive reinforcement of autistic traits (Cook et al., 2024).
- Allow a child's traits. Negative parental reactions can predict higher rates of masking (Cage & Troxell-Whitman, 2022).
- Consider using visuals to support discussion about emotions and energy levels, e.g. Zones of Regulation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the National Autistic Society (NAS): www.autism.org.uk



www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/educational-psychology-service-eps



steps@gloucestershire.gov.uk

FRESH AIR SCULPTURE YOUNG STUDENTS CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS COMPETITION

To celebrate **International Sculpture Day on Saturday 25th April**, and as part of the last blast, we are delighted to launch our **Fresh Air Sculpture Young Students Carnival Sculpture Competition**—and we would love your school to take part!

This exciting mini competition invites students to become sculptors and create their own small artwork inspired by Carnival—think colour, movement, costumes, music and imagination. There are three age ranges: Under 10's, 11-14yrs, 15-18yrs.

The challenge:

Create a sculpture (max 10cm) using anything you have! You can use recycled or reused materials in the theme of The Carnival of the Animals.

Prizes to win:

1. 1st Prize: £100 Cash prize
2. 2nd Prize: £30 Cash prize
3. 3rd Prize: £20 Cash prize

All entries will be displayed in the Mini Gallery at the Fresh Air Sculpture Show, giving pupils the chance to see their work exhibited as part of a professional event.

Key Dates:

1. Drop-off from: Saturday 13th June
2. Entry deadline: Friday 3rd July
3. Judging: Saturday 4th July

Entry is completely free, and all you need to do is complete the form on the website and deliver your sculpture to Fresh Air Sculpture, Quenington, GL7 5BN.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating creativity and inspiring your students to be part of a joyful carnival of sculpture! All details of the competition can be found at

<https://www.freshairsculpture.com/education/get-involved/>