



Newsletter 29 – 1st May 2026

DAY	WHAT'S ON
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 - Year 3&4 Golf, returning at 4.00pm - 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
MONDAY 11th MAY	- Year 6 SATS Week - Mr Bateman Music Lessons - PE and Sports Club at the Field, collection from the Field - ASC 3.15-5.15 Collection at 5.15 from school
TUESDAY 12th MAY	- Lunchtime Chess Club - Line Dancing Club 3.15-4.15pm - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm
WEDNESDAY 13th MAY	- Mr Meade Music Lessons - Forest School Whole Cygnet Class - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm - KS2 French Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 14th 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 15th MAY	- Musical Mania - ASC 3.15-4.15 & 4.15-5.15pm

Stars of the Week

Cygnets: Jack for his phonics and gorgeous attitude.

Swans: Phoebe for her mature and positive Year 6 attitude.

Message from Miss Davies

A week for celebrations.

Molly, Ari, Edmund, and Toby entered the Gloucestershire Young Photographer competition—well done to all of you! A special congratulations to Toby for having your photo featured in the presentation evening. Take a look at the photo entries at the end of this newsletter.



Yesterday, we travelled to Blockley to take part in the South Cotswolds Dance Festival. The children truly did “shine bright like a diamond,” and we’re so proud of their performance. A big thank you to all the parents for your support—you definitely cheered the loudest!

This is wing worthy so please look out for a celebration envelop.

It has been wonderful to see the children developing their creativity, confidence, and teamwork through these experiences.

Thank you Mrs Morris for taking us all on the minibus.

In Book Club this week, Years 3 and 4 have been exploring poetry, choosing between Revolting Rhymes and Love That Dog, and enjoying the rhythm, humour, and creativity of these texts. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 are developing their reading skills and discussion through either Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone or Skellig by David Almond, engaging thoughtfully with character and themes.

Our next books clubs will be on:

Year 3&4 Tuesday 9th June

Year 5&6 Wednesday 10th June

At Southrop, we place a strong emphasis on children’s wellbeing, recognising that feeling safe, supported, and happy is essential for successful learning. This has been reflected nationally this week, as the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill has now become law. This significant piece of legislation focuses on strengthening safeguarding, improving early support for children, and ensuring schools and services work more closely together so that no child falls through the cracks.

Importantly, the Act highlights the growing need to support children in an increasingly digital world, reinforcing guidance around mobile phone use and online safety. While many of these changes will develop further over time, they reflect a clear national commitment to prioritising children’s wellbeing, something we are proud to champion every day at Southrop.

It has been a week that reflects the very best of school life, where achievement, creativity, and wellbeing come together to support every child in growing with confidence and enthusiasm.

Miss Davies

Year 3&4 Golf 6th May

Mrs McLellan and Mrs Martyn will be taking Year 3&4 to Cirencester Primary School on Wednesday to learn golf skills. The children will need to come to school in their PE kit and will be leaving after lunch. **The event finishes at 3.30pm so they will not be back until 4.00pm.**

Cygnet Snack Money Term 5

A reminder that you can pay the contribution towards the Cygnet snack for Term 5 on the Portal under Shop Items.

Wildlife Garden Update

A huge thank you to the families and staff who came along last Saturday – the Roberts, Barlow-Halls, Giles, Neales, Mrs Simmons, Mrs McLellan and Mr Scrivener. They kept grafting in the boiling weather and we now have two new raised beds, renewed edging and bark chippings from the prunings. The children had a lovely time too, playing with Lego and tortoises! As you can see we didn't quite make it to the gravelling but hope that can be done the weekend of 9th and 10th May just in time for the open gardens. Please let Mrs Simmons or Mrs McLellan know if you are available.



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.

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.

Tortoises



It is lovely to have Shelly and Jeremy back. We are very grateful to the Dennis family for hosting them over the winter and Mr Vickery over the Easter holidays. Please send in any greens, strawberry tops and dandelions you have spare to feed them.

Swans

In English, Year 5 and 6 began the term by completing our unit based on Stonewall by Rob Sanders. We planned, wrote and edited a visitor's guide that could be placed in the Stonewall museum, describing the history of the building and surrounding area. We then wrote these up with pictures and slogans. We have now begun a unit based on Children of the Benin Kingdom by Dinah Orji. We have made predictions about the story and wrote a letter from one character to another.

In Maths, Year 5 have worked through a unit on fractions, decimals and percentages, focussing on conversions between them. They have now begun a unit on converting between units of measure, starting with converting between metres and kilometres. Year 6 have been preparing for SATs by revising key topics, such as written methods of calculation, multiplying and dividing by powers of 10 and calculating with fractions.

In Maths the yr 3's have really impressed us by using bar charts to find fractions of amounts. We have now finished our unit on fractions and are moving onto time. Today we enjoyed learning a poem to remember the number of days in each month. In yr 4 we have been comparing and ordering decimal numbers to 2 decimal places.

In Science, Year 5 and 6 have begun a unit on classifying living things. We have revised classification keys by sorting liquorice allsorts and researched the six kingdoms of life.

In Computing, we are exploring AI. We began by looking at how AI might be used in our everyday lives and designed an AI solution to a problem in school. We then looked at how AI generates text based on prompts.

In RE we have been learning about Pentecost and looking at the emotions that the apostles must have felt.

In Music we have been learning about notation. The children were really keen to have their own musical stave and practise writing their own notes, time signature and treble clef on their work.

In PE we have been practising bowling with our cricket coach.... and of course practising for the dance festival! The children learnt how to improve the aim and power of their shot and enjoyed a bowling challenge competing in two teams.



Having really enjoyed their study of the book Shackleton's Journey, Year 3&4 had another treat in store in English this term in the form of *The Last Garden* by Rachel Ip, where Zara's beautiful garden is the last sanctuary in a war-torn city. On our first day back, a box arrived filled with packets of seeds, abstract nouns about hope and a red envelope containing "danger words"! We later discovered the envelope was full of vocabulary about war. Since then we have planted the seeds, written descriptive labels for them, acted out scenes as the characters flee the bombs, written leaflets giving advice about keeping safe and speech dialogue about their feelings when they return home after the war. Our particular punctuation focus during this writing has been using apostrophes for contractions and possession.



In Science, Year 3&4 we completed our last unit on living things studying food chains and webs. We have now started the new unit which is about living things and their habitats. We have started by identifying a range of habitats, how they are different and why the animals that live there are suited to them.

In Computing, Year 3&4 we are exploring website design and using Microsoft Sway to create our own website with book recommendations.

In PSHE as part of our No Outsiders curriculum we used the book *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers to think of ways to overcome language as a barrier. We have also considered things we like and don't like about being part of a school community and ways that we could improve the community.

In Art we have completed our unit *Brave Colour*, creating our colour boxes. Our new unit is *Printing and Activism*.

In History we have learnt how the monks Aidan, Augustine and Columba brought Christianity to Britain and created video interviews with Anglo-Saxons to gather their views about the changes! We have also learnt about King Alfred the Great, with Y3&4 considering the degree of bias in different historical sources and Y5&6 evaluating the pros and cons of the Danelaw agreement Alfred made with the Vikings.



Cygnets

This term in Cygnets, the children have been busy learning while making the most of the glorious weather!

In English, we have been exploring a wonderful new text, *The Bears Under the Stairs*. The children enjoyed investigating how the main character felt about the bear, only to discover it was all a misunderstanding and part of his imagination. Inspired by this, the children have written their own stories about things they have been scared of in the past. We are excited to share that these will soon be published for parents to enjoy reading at home.

In Maths, each year group has been working hard on developing their skills:

- Reception children have been using numbers up to ten to practise addition and subtraction, often using practical objects to support their learning. They are also focusing on forming their numbers correctly.
- Year 1 children have been working with addition and subtraction up to twenty, using their number facts to help them. They have also begun learning about the days of the week, months of the year, and are now telling the time to the hour and half past.
- Year 2 started the term by learning about coins and their values, before moving on to making change using £1 and 50p. More recently, they have been representing data using charts, progressing from pictograms to tally charts and other methods.

In History, the children have been learning about schools in the past. They explored how schools have changed from 1900 to the present day by creating timelines using photographs. This week, they have been thinking carefully about the types of questions they can ask to find out more about schools in the past and the information they would like to discover.

In RE, the children have been learning about Jesus' special friends, discussing who they were and why they were important to him. They have also been exploring special stories from the Bible, focusing this week on The Prodigal Son.

In Art, the children have created observational drawings of birds and used watercolours to paint them beautifully. These will be used as inspiration for creating 3D bird models in the coming weeks.



It has been a fantastic and productive term so far—well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm!

Ari



Edmund



Toby



Molly