



Newsletter 1 – 4th September 2026

DAY	WHAT'S ON
MONDAY 7th SEPT	• Wear PE Kit • Mr Bateman Music Lessons • Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • 5.15pm Pick up from School
TUESDAY 8th SEPT	• Individual School Photos • Lunchtime Chess Club • Meet the Teachers 3.00pm • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Young Engineering Club 3.15-4.30pm
WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPT	• Mr Meade Music Lessons • Forest School Rec, Y1 & Year 3 • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Homework Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 10TH SEPT	• Wear PE Kit • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Cookery Club 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 11TH SEPT	• Musical Mania • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Circus Club 3.15-4.30pm
MONDAY 14TH SEPT	• Wear PE Kit – Pick up from the Field • Mr Bateman Music Lessons • Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • 5.15pm Pick up from School
TUESDAY 15TH SEPT	• Lunchtime Chess Club • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Young Engineering Club 3.15-4.30pm
WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPT	• Mr Meade Music Lessons • Forest School Rec, Y1 & Year 4 • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Homework Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 17TH SEPT	• Wear PE Kit • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Cookery Club 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 18TH SEPT	• Musical Mania • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Circus Club 3.15-4.30pm



Message from Miss Davies

A very warm welcome back to everyone and a particularly big welcome to the children and families joining Southrop for the first time this September. I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are ready for another busy and exciting year.

It has been wonderful to see the children returning to school, catching up with their friends and settling back into their routines. As always, our aim is to provide a happy, ambitious and nurturing school where every child is encouraged to show Courage, Friendship and Forgiveness and is given the confidence and skills they need to Give Wings to Fly.

Welcome to Our New Families

We are delighted to welcome 5 new children and 4 new families to the Southrop school community this term. A very warm welcome to Billy, Calin and Harrison, who are joining us in Reception and beginning their school journey in Cygnets, George who is joining us in Year 1, and Violet who is joining us in Year 6 and our Swans class. Starting a new school is a big milestone, whether it is your very first day in Reception or joining us further along your school journey. We hope that all of our new children and their families quickly feel at home and become part of our small, friendly Southrop community. We are very much looking forward to getting to know you all and sharing the year ahead with you.

Attendance - every day really does matter

Improving attendance continues to be an important priority for us. The Department for Education's expectations are clear that children should attend school regularly and that mild illness does not necessarily mean a child needs to stay at home.

Children with minor symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough can normally attend if they are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. If your child has a high temperature and is unwell, they should remain at home until they feel well enough to return. Following diarrhoea or vomiting, children should remain away from school for 48 hours after the last episode.

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend, please contact us. We would much rather have a conversation with you and work together to support their attendance.

Homework - purposeful, regular and manageable

This year we have reviewed our homework expectations. Homework will practise, revisit and consolidate learning that children have already encountered in school. Reading remains our biggest priority, with children reading for at least 20 minutes every day and their reading recorded on PageTicker.



Class	Home learning expectations
Cygnets	Reading: 20 minutes every day. RWI books and Literacy Leaf reading should be recorded on PageTicker. Year 2 children will also have an Accelerated Reader book. Maths: a maths game each week. Spelling: weekly practice using SpellingFrame or the green spelling book. Spellings will be set on Monday and tested on Friday. Phonics: additional practice where needed. Handwriting: once a week, with a supporting video where possible.
Years 3 & 4	Reading: 20 minutes every day, revisiting the Literacy Leaf text used in school that day alongside their Accelerated Reader book. All reading should be recorded on PageTicker. Spelling: set on Friday and checked/tested the following Friday. Children will have an activity linked to their spelling and Writing Root work. Spellings will also be available on SpellingFrame. Maths: 20 minutes of TTRS each week. Printed alternatives are available for families who would prefer not to complete this online. Maths games and problem-solving activities will be set fortnightly.
Years 5 & 6	Children will follow the same core expectations as Years 3 & 4 for reading, spelling, TTRS and fortnightly maths. This includes daily Literacy Leaf reading and an Accelerated Reader book, recorded on PageTicker. In addition, children may receive bespoke homework linked to their individual learning needs, helping them practise or consolidate areas identified through their work and assessment in school.

Please speak to us if accessing any of the online platforms is difficult. The children will come home today with login details for the various apps. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are having any issues.



A Year of Brilliant Books

This year we are continuing our work with The Literacy Tree. It has already had a significant impact on writing at Southrop. Our English curriculum uses carefully selected books across reading, writing, grammar, spelling, vocabulary and oracy, helping children become immersed in high-quality literature.

An important development this year is the link between what children read in school and what they read at home. Children will revisit the reading from their Literacy Leaf lesson at home that evening and record this on PageTicker. This repetition helps children deepen their understanding, build fluency and become increasingly independent readers.

Families have been provided with book lists for the year. Copies can be borrowed from libraries, shared or found second-hand, and we will ensure children can access the texts they need in school. We want to build a rich reading culture without creating a financial burden for families, so please reach out over the weekend if you need support.

Our Autumn Term Reading

Cygnets begin the year exploring *The Spider and the Fly* and *There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom*.

Years 3 & 4. Their autumn reading also includes *Zombierella: Fairytale Gone Bad* and *Annie Lumsden, the Girl from the Sea*.

Years 5 & 6 Their Literacy Leaf reading includes *Fly Me Home*, *On the Move: Poems About Migration* and *A World Full of Journeys and Migration*.

Other reading

All children from Year 2 up to Year 6 have completed their Star Reading assessment on Accelerated Reader and have been supported by our TA's to choose an appropriate book. The STAR Reader helps teachers work out a child's current reading ability and the level of books that will provide the right amount of challenge.

It does more than simply give a "reading age". It helps teachers to:

- identify a child's current reading level;
- provide a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) – the recommended range of Accelerated Reader book levels for that child;
- assess areas of reading such as vocabulary and comprehension;
- identify children who may need additional support or greater challenge;
- monitor reading progress and growth when the assessment is repeated during the year;
- help children select books that are challenging enough to develop their reading but still accessible enough for them to read successfully and independently.

This is an additional book for your child to read as part of their 20 minute daily reader or as an extra. When they have finished the book they can 'quiz' the book which will give school an understanding of their comprehension, inference and opinion of the book.



Library Reading Challenge – who completed it?

We would love to hear about all the fantastic reading the children have been doing over the summer. If they have taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library, please bring in your certificate, and tell us about the books they enjoyed.

Meet the Teacher - Next Week

Meet the Teacher meetings will take place on Tuesday 8th September 3.00pm.

This is an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, hear more about routines and expectations for the year, understand how homework and reading will work and ask any general questions about the year ahead. We hope as many families as possible will be able to join us.

Ofsted Update

As you know, Southrop received its Ofsted inspection on 7th and 8th July 2026, just before the end of the summer term.

We have now received the draft inspection report. The report is currently being reviewed by myself and the Chair of Governors, Dale Hall, as part of Ofsted's normal review process. Once it has been returned, it will be published within 10 days and we will share the final report with our whole school community as soon as we are able to do so.

I appreciate that families will naturally be keen to read it, and I look forward to being able to share it with you.

And finally...

The start of a new school year always brings a mixture of excitement, anticipation and, for some children, a few nerves. Please give everyone a little time to settle back into the rhythm of school life. We have another incredibly busy year ahead of us, filled with learning, books, trips, clubs, Forest School, sport, performances and all the other opportunities that make our small school such a special place to learn.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I am looking forward to working with you all throughout 2026-27 and, most importantly, to seeing your children continue to grow, flourish and Give Wings to Fly.

Benedict's Law and Allergy Safety

Southrop C of E Primary School is fully compliant with Benedict's Law and is committed to ensuring that children with allergies are safe and well supported in school. Being compliant means that we have clear procedures in place for identifying and managing allergies, staff are appropriately trained, allergy information is accessible to those who need it, and emergency medication is managed safely. We ask parents and carers to keep us informed of any new, changing or suspected allergies, even where a formal diagnosis has not yet been made. This enables us to work with you to assess your child's needs and, where appropriate, develop or update an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) so that staff understand their allergy, symptoms,



triggers, medication and the action to take in an emergency. Our Allergy policy will be on the website or please ask if you would like a copy.

Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

From September 2026, eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM) has been expanded. All children from households receiving Universal Credit are now entitled to a free school meal, regardless of household earnings.

It is important to know that receiving a free meal does not automatically mean that the school receives Pupil Premium funding. Families who meet the previous income-related criteria are classed as Targeted FSM and their child will continue to attract valuable Pupil Premium funding for the school. Other Universal Credit families may receive Expanded FSM, which provides the free meal but does not currently generate Pupil Premium funding.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. However, we strongly encourage eligible families to still register for benefits-related Free School Meals, as this may unlock additional Pupil Premium funding to support your child and the wider school.

Think you might be eligible?

Please apply through Gloucestershire County Council's Free School Meals service:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

If you are unsure whether you qualify or would like support with the application, please speak to us in confidence. We are always happy to help.

Term 1 After School Clubs

We have an exciting line up of clubs for September

Monday

Free Sports Club will continue to run from 3.15-4.30pm. Please book under the School Clubs tab on the Portal so that we know who will be attending. Don't forget to book the 4.15-5.15 ASC session if your child needs to stay until 5.15pm. We expect to continue at the field in September, weather permitting. The Jubilee Field is on the right as you leave the village towards Fairford.

Tuesday

Lunchtime Chess Club will continue with Alec. There is no need to book.

We are excited to be introducing Young Engineers Bricks Challenge to our School! Bricks Challenge is a hands-on engineering and mechanics programme for children aged 6–10. Through building working mechanical models using specialist Lego® kits, children explore real



STEM concepts such as gears, levers, pulleys, transmission systems and structural design, all in a fun, engaging and age-appropriate way.

The programme is designed to develop:

- Problem-solving skills
- Logical thinking
- Creativity
- Confidence
- Teamwork

Each session builds progressively across the term, helping children understand how real-world machines and engineering systems work.

This club is for Year 1-Year 6 and will be from 3.15-4.30pm, starting on 8th September for six sessions. Again, don't forget to book the 4.15-5.15pm ASC session if your child needs to stay until 5.15pm.

To book a place, please visit:

https://worcester.young-engineers.co.uk/ye_product/southrop-c-of-e-primary-school-autumn-term-basic-mechanics-6-11-bricks-challenge/

ASC with Mrs Martyn will run alongside and can be booked as normal under the Before & After School Clubs tab on the Portal.

Wednesday

Miss Davies will be running a Homework Club, where she will be there to help supervise children who might need help accessing their homework. Parents are welcome to join to help their children complete their homework. This will be bookable under School Clubs on the Portal.

ASC will run as usual.

Thursday

Miss Davis will be running Cookery Club from 3.15-5.15pm, starting on Thursday 10th September. This club runs for two hours to allow time to set up, cook and wash up. This can be booked under the School Clubs tab on the Portal. **Please sign up by the Monday of each week so Miss Davis knows how many children are attending.**

After School Club will run for those children not wanting to attend cookery club.

Friday

Magic Mark will be running a Clownz Circus Club from 3.15-4.30pm, from Friday 11th Sept to Friday 16th Oct, the cost of this will be £60 per child for 6 sessions and can be booked under the School Clubs tab on the Portal.

After School Club will run for those children not wanting to attend the circus club.

ALL CLUBS WILL BE BOOKABLE FROM 6.00PM ON FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER.



A reminder that clubs are paid for through PayPal and it is much easier to book if you have a PayPal account rather than as a PayPal guest every time you book.

Forest School Term 1

Forest School will take place for Reception and Year 1 plus one other year group. The dates are:

9th Sept Rec & Y1 plus Y3
16th Sept Rec & Y1 plus Y4
23rd Sept No Forest School
30th Sept No Forest School
7th Oct Rec & Y1 plus 5
14th Oct Rec & Y1 plus 6
21st October whole Cygnet Class.

Please make sure your child comes dressed appropriately for the weather, with a waterproof coat and wellington boots.

Year 3&4 Swimming

Year 3 & 4 start swimming lessons on Tuesdays from 15th September through until 1st December. There will be no swimming on 10th November due to a school trip. Their final sessions will be after Christmas from 12th January to 9th February.

Individual School Photos

LoveKids Photography will be here on Tuesday to take the individual school photos. If you would like photos with younger siblings please bring them to school at 8.45am on Tuesday. Please make sure your children have their full school uniform for the photos.

Please Name Uniform

Please help the staff by naming all uniform. It is easy for us to return a missing cardigan or sweat shirt if it is named but takes time to identify missing clothing which is not named. There is a lost property box in the entrance hall, if you are missing any uniform, water bottles or lunch boxes please check there. Unnamed items will be taken out termly and added to the second hand uniform store.



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925

PTA NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Hello and Welcome back from Southrop PTA!

Southrop School PTA raises funds throughout the year to support the school and better the education for our children. We welcome all parents, carers and staff to support our events and get involved where they can. All funds raised go to supporting our children at Southrop School. For more information about the PTA, see the school website, under the tab 'School Life'.

WhatsApp Groups

There is a Cygnet and Swans whatsapp group. If you would like to join, please email your name and number to PTA@southrop.gloucs.sch.uk

Preloved Uniform

If you need any preloved uniform, please let the school office know or email the PTA directly. Donations of uniform to the PTA are welcome.

PTA AGM Thurs 17th Sept

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 17th September, 3.30pm, at school. The AGM is a recap of what we achieved last year, what we raised and how, and also what we were able to fund for the children and the school. We also elect our new committee at the AGM. We are keen for new members to join and are especially looking for a Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chair. More information about positions can be seen on the PTA website page, see 'PTA Roles and Responsibilities'.

Everyone is welcome to join the AGM, you don't have to join the committee if you attend (although it's great fun!)

Gift Aid

Southrop School PTA is a registered charity and also registered with HMRC for Gift Aid. If you are able to Gift Aid, please complete a Gift Aid form, available by emailing the PTA directly.

Wednesday Coffee

Every Wednesday there is a coffee morning at the Village Hall, everyone is welcome for coffee and cake.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone that has supported the PTA over the years and we hope you can join us at our AGM.

