



Newsletter 3 – 18th September 2026

DAY	WHAT'S ON Before School Club every day from 8.00am.
MONDAY 21ST SEPT	• Wear PE Kit • Mr Bateman Music Lessons and Whole Cygnet Class violin lessons • Swans Nature Club 12.30pm • Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 22ND SEPT	• Year 3 & 4 Swimming – Please bring a packed lunch • Lunchtime Chess Club TBC • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Young Engineering Club 3.15-4.30pm
WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPT	• Mr Meade Music Lessons • NO FOREST SCHOOL THIS WEEK • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Homework Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 24TH SEPT	• Wear PE Kit • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Cookery Club 3.15-5.15pm, book by Monday evening, places are limited.
FRIDAY 25TH SEPT	• Musical Mania am this week. • Year 5 & 6 Paddle Boarding & Kayaking, swimming things & packed lunches. • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Clownz Circus Club 3.15-4.30pm
MONDAY 28TH SEPT	• Wear PE Kit • Mr Bateman Music Lessons and Whole Cygnet Class violin lessons • Swans Nature Club 12.30pm • Harvest Festival in church at 2.30pm • Sports Club 3.15-4.30pm • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm
TUESDAY 29TH SEPT	• Year 3 & 4 Swimming – Please bring a packed lunch • Lunchtime Chess Club TBC • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Young Engineering Club 3.15-4.30pm
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPT	• Mr Meade Music Lessons • NO FOREST SCHOOL THIS WEEK • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Homework Club 3.15-4.15pm
THURSDAY 1ST OCT	• Wear PE Kit • Year 3&4 River Trip to Ernest Cook Trust - Packed Lunches for Year 3&4 • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Cookery Club 3.15-5.15pm
FRIDAY 2ND OCT	• Musical Mania • ASC 3.15-4.15pm & 4.15-5.15pm • Clownz Circus Club 3.15-4.30pm



Message from Miss Davies

I am absolutely delighted that we can finally share our Ofsted report following our inspection in July. The report is attached and will be on our website too. There is also a QR code which will take you directly to our report.



[Read our report ↗](#)

There is so much within the report that makes me incredibly proud of our children, staff, governors and whole school community. Ofsted judged our Personal Development and Wellbeing provision to be at the Strong Standard, recognising the pastoral care, opportunities and experiences we provide for every child. Our safeguarding standards were also fully met, reflecting the strong culture of care and vigilance that sits at the heart of Southrop.

Perhaps the words I am most proud of are those describing what it is like to be a child at Southrop:

"Pupils at this small, happy school relish coming to school to learn."

Inspectors recognised that our children feel safe, become confident learners and that staff bring our vision, "Giving Wings to Fly", to life through a culture of high ambition and care. They also saw the respect our children show one another, their strong sense of belonging and the way older and younger pupils support each other.

The report also recognises the significant journey the school has been on since our previous inspection. Our work in phonics and early reading is now embedded, pupils are described as confident readers, our Early Years curriculum is carefully sequenced, and our systems for identifying and supporting children with additional needs have strengthened.

I was particularly pleased that inspectors recognised our staff team. The report states that staff feel valued and empowered to share their views, and that our professional development programme is helping to improve the quality of our teaching. It also notes that parents are "overwhelmingly supportive of the school", valuing our family feel and the individual care children receive.

Of course, we are not standing still. The report gives us clear next steps around handwriting and spelling, using assessment even more precisely across the curriculum, and continuing our work to improve attendance. These are already central to our school improvement work this year.



Most importantly, the report captures what those of us who know Southrop already understand: we are a “small, happy school” where pupils relish coming to learn and where our vision, Giving Wings to Fly, is brought to life through “a culture of high ambition and care.”

It also feels particularly special to be celebrating this Ofsted report alongside the recognition we have received following our SIAMS inspection. At the start of the week I received an email from the Diocese congratulating our staff, governors and children on our report and sent us a Certificate of Recognition to display in school. They particularly highlighted how our Christian vision supports our whole community to flourish.

To have both Ofsted and SIAMS recognise the care, values, ambition and sense of belonging that sit at the heart of Southrop is something we should all feel enormously proud of.

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff for everything they give to our children, to our governors for their support and challenge, to our families for continuing to believe in and support our school, and, above all, to our children. They were simply brilliant throughout the inspection and showed exactly what makes Southrop so special.

I am incredibly proud of how far we have come — and very excited about where we go next.

Miss Davies

Head Teacher

Cygnets Snack

Each day the Cygnets are given a snack to have with their fruit. There is a voluntary contribution of £1 a week which can be paid on the Portal. This term the contribution is £7 for the term.

Forest School Term 1

A reminder that there is no Forest School on 23rd or 30th September.

Year 5 & 6 Paddle Boarding 25th September

All year 5&6 that can swim 25m will be going Paddle Boarding & Kayaking on Friday 25th September at Lake 86 in South Cerney. The children will be having an early lunch that day and will need to bring a packed lunch. It will not be possible to order a school packed lunch as the children will be leaving before the Caterlink lunches arrive. We plan to return to school by 4.00pm.

Please can they wear PE kit for the day and bring a swimming costume and towel. Long hair should be tied back. Many thanks to Mrs Morris who has volunteered to drive the minibus.

Harvest Festival Monday 28th September at 2.30pm.

We are holding our Harvest Festival on Monday 28th September at 2.30pm in church. Everyone is welcome to join us for a celebration of Harvest. We will be collecting items for the South Cotswolds Foodbank, so please could the children bring something from the list below to take to church. There is a list of items they don't need at the moment. Thank you.



Items needed

Angel delight, Biscuits
Cat food, Chocolate
Cold tinned meat, Cup-a-soup
Deodorant, Hot tinned meat
Household Cleaner, Instant coffee
Long-life juice, Rice
Rice sachets (microwavable), Shower gel
Snacks (e.g. crisps, cereal bars, etc), Sponge puddings
Squash, Tinned fruit
Tinned rice pudding, Tinned soup
Tinned spaghetti, Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables, Toilet cleaner
Washing powder

Items not needed

Baked beans, Cereal
Dog food, Incontinence products
Pasta sauce, Tinned fish
Tinned pulses

Nature Club Mondays

We would like to thank Mrs Woodhams and Mrs Newton who will be starting a Nature Club for the Swan Class on Mondays at 12.30pm.

Swans

In Maths, Year 5 and 6 have been working hard on place value. They have explored different aspects of 5-digit numbers (Year 5) and 7-digit numbers (Year 6): identifying the value of different digits; reading and writing numbers in numerals and words; identifying and estimating numbers on a number line; and comparing numbers.

In English, our theme for this term is journeys and migration. In our Reading Leaf, we have been exploring Michael Rosen's *On The Move: Poems About Migration*. For our Writing Root, we have begun a unit based on *Windrush Child* by Benjamin Zephaniah. Along with reading the story of Leonard's migration to England from Jamaica, we have used modal verbs to make predictions, used informal language in letters and diaries and begun exploring the subjunctive form.



In Science, we have begun our unit on electricity, looking at how to use symbols to represent an electric circuit and investigating the effect of changing the voltage in a circuit.

In Computing, we have been exploring online safety, beginning by considering how different online actions can have a negative effect on our mood and feelings.

In Maths the children in yr 3 and 4 have been working on their unit on place value. The children made a great start to writing three and four digit numbers in words and digits. This week we have been identifying and representing numbers on a numberline. The year 4s have moved onto finding 1000 more than any number. In mastering number the yr 4s have been learning about square numbers. In yr 3 we have been learning the vocab for part part whole models including addend, addend and sum for addition and minuend, subtrahend and difference for subtraction.

In art we have been looking at the work of Matisse and Romane Bearden. We have been looking closely at famous works of art and considering form, shape and colour of the pieces. The children have now started marking out their main piece of the term and will be using collage and printing over the next few weeks to complete their own picture with a subject of their choice.

In PE we have been polishing up our tag rugby skills. The children have been learning how to dodge and find space to get through defense. They have been practising their skills in throwing and receiving the ball and passing along the line. This week we enjoyed playing 'gauntlet', getting the ball past the defenders and scoring a try at the end of the playground.

In RE we have been learning about Mohammed and why people with a Muslim world view follow his example today. We learnt the vocab 'prophet' and 'revelation' and the children heard about how Muhammed became a prophet and how his revelations formed the teaching of the Qur'an.

In Music we have started learning our songs ready for harvest –although there were a few sore throats last week! We have also been looking at the instruments in the orchestra and listening to Mussorgsky's Night on The Bare Mountain.

English, Firstly – thank you to all of you for jumping on board with this. I know there have been some teething problems.

Writing Root

Our writing this term has been inspired by *The Matchbox Diary* by Paul Fleischman. The children have followed the story of a family leaving Italy and beginning a new life in America, using the text to develop a wide range of writing skills. They have made predictions, compared characters and settings, explored different sentence types and practised punctuating direct speech. They have written diary entries and short autobiographical pieces based on objects that hold special memories for them. More recently, they have researched the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and used this knowledge to plan a biography of the great-grandfather from the story. We are now beginning to write these biographies in chronological order, using paragraphs, third person, past tense and conjunctions to link ideas.

Literacy Leaf

In our reading lessons, we have been enjoying *Annie Lumsden, the Girl from the Sea* by David Almond. The children began by making predictions from the intriguing front cover and have gradually built their understanding of Annie, her Mam and their unusual life in Stupor Bay. We



have explored characters' thoughts and feelings, looked carefully for evidence in the text to support our ideas and discussed how the illustrations add to the story. The children have also been developing strategies for working out unfamiliar vocabulary from its context and are becoming increasingly confident at explaining not only what they think, but **why** they think it.

We will be moving on to our next book soon *Zombierella* by Joseph Coelho around week 5 (28th September).

Spelling Seed and Vocabulary Vine

Our spelling and vocabulary work is closely linked to the books we are studying. We have investigated tricky words and explored different ways of remembering their spellings, including mnemonics and finding smaller words within words. The children have also explored how the letters *ch* can make different sounds in words such as *character*, *school*, *chef* and *machine*, discovering that the origins of words can give us clues about their spelling and pronunciation. Vocabulary work has included words such as *motion*, *compartment*, *crowded* and *lumbered*, encouraging children to explore meanings, synonyms, antonyms and word origins and then use new vocabulary in their own speaking and writing.

In Science, we have begun our exciting new topic on rocks, starting with igneous rocks. The children have learnt that igneous rocks are formed when molten rock cools and solidifies, and have explored the difference between rocks that form beneath the Earth's surface and those that form when lava cools above ground. We have brought this learning to life through two fantastic practical experiments. First, we used melted chocolate poured over ice to model how molten rock can cool quickly and form an igneous rock such as obsidian. We then made honeycomb to explore how gas bubbles can become trapped as a material cools, helping us understand the unusual texture of rocks such as pumice. There was plenty of excitement, careful observation and scientific discussion as the children connected what they could see happening in front of them with processes taking place deep inside and on the surface of the Earth. Thank you to Hector and Mrs Martyn for sharing your wonderful rocks.

Computing and Online Safety

Our computing learning has had a strong focus on becoming thoughtful and informed digital users. The children have explored how search engines work and discussed why information found online is not automatically accurate or reliable. We have looked at adverts and sponsored results and investigated some of the ways companies encourage people to spend money online, including in-app purchases, special offers and influencers. We will be then thinking about how we can distinguish between facts, opinions and beliefs, learning that seeing the same claim many times online does not make it true and that important information should be checked against reliable sources. These discussions are helping children develop the critical-thinking skills they need to navigate the online world safely and confidently.



Cygnets

What a busy first few weeks back at school! It has been so lovely to welcome all the new children to our class, as well as our returning Year 1 and Year 2 children.

The first few weeks have been very productive as we have been learning about Sofia's lost bear in the story *The Sea Saw*. The children came into the classroom to discover a group of teddy bears having a picnic!

The children have been busy writing letters, creating posters and writing information about the bears. They have been thinking carefully about their letter formation and ensuring that they form their letters correctly and keep their writing on the lines. During the next week, we will continue to create our own version of the story.

For guided reading, we have been reading the story *The Spider and the Fly*. We have been retrieving information from the text and exploring questions about the story and the pictures included in the book. The children have thought carefully about what spiders and flies eat and why the spider is so cunning in trying to lure the fly into his web.

We have also been investigating the language used in the story, as it was originally written in 1828. This has given us the opportunity to explore how language has changed over time.

In Maths, all three year groups have been investigating numbers.

The children in Reception have been orally counting and learning the numbers 1 to 3. They have been learning what each of these numbers represents and exploring different ways that they can be represented.

In Year 1, the children have been working with numbers from 1 to 20. We have been learning to order numbers, use number lines and represent numbers using both numerals and words.

In Year 2, the children have been learning to work with numbers within 100.

In Science, the children have been learning about habitats and how we can sustain them and keep them as healthy as possible for the organisms that live within them. This week, we have also completed a litter pick in our own habitat to help keep it clean and safe for the wildlife.

In Geography, we have been using Google Earth to investigate Southrop and explore what is included within our village. The children looked carefully at maps and identified places and features that they could see. They were able to identify the church, the local pub, tennis courts and swimming pool.

To ensure that we continue to look after our local environment, we will also be completing a litter pick around Southrop.

In Art, the children have investigated natural objects in our outside classroom. They have been inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy to create natural pictures in the wildlife garden using materials they found around them.



In RE, we have been learning about Jewish households. In our first lesson, the children investigated objects and features that might be found within a Jewish home, including how some Jewish households have dedicated spaces for items associated with dairy and meat.

This week, the children have been learning about what happens during Shabbat and exploring why this is an important time for Jewish people

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PTA NEWSLETTER



Southrop School PTA
Registered Charity Number: 104925

**A huge thank you to everyone who attended
our PTA meeting yesterday!**



It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces,
as well as lots of new faces joining us.

**We're so pleased to have such a great group
of parents and carers getting involved!**



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for joining the PTA —
we're really looking forward to working
together and making a positive difference
for our school and children.

YOUR NEW PTA COMMITTEE



We're delighted to announce our
newly elected PTA committee:

Chair:
Rachel

Vice Chair:
Imogen

Treasurer:
Martin

Secretary:
Alexis

A big thank you to everyone who has
volunteered to take on these roles!



MISSED THE AGM?

If you couldn't make the meeting but would still like
to join the PTA, we'd love to have you!

Our first PTA meeting will be:



School



Thursday 8 October 2026



1:30pm

Whether you can attend
every meeting or simply
help out when you can,

**every bit of support
makes a difference!**



PTA INFORMATION & DOCUMENTS

All PTA policies and relevant documents can be found on the
PTA page of the school website.



We look forward to seeing you there!

