

Everyone at Southover achieves their potential, is valued for who they are and knows they belong

Southover CE Primary School

Headteacher: *Noel Fadden*
www.southoverceprimary.co.uk



At Southover Church of England Primary school:

We all work together —children, parents, staff, Trinity Church and the community.

We *inspire each other* to learn through a *vibrant curriculum*, set within a safe environment that meets the *needs of all children*.

We gain strength from the *love of God* and our *love for one another*; we feel we belong to Trinity Church.

We value: *Trust, Compassion, Friendship, Hope, Thankfulness and Fellowship*.

We have a *healthy mind, body and spirit* to allow us to 'Live, Love, Learn'.

Newsletter Oct/Nov 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

It was a delight to celebrate Harvest with everyone last week and to taste all the flavours from around the world in our Food Heritage Event. Many thanks to the families who brought in samples of the foods they have grown up with and I tried many things I had never seen before. Our Diversity Group will meet on November 4th at 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come and share ideas and to help make our school one where everyone *is valued for who they are and knows they belong*.

After half term we have Bonfire and so the children are invited to wear their bonfire jumpers on November 5th (normal school finish time) and it is a staff training day on November 6th to allow children to have a good sleep.

We are a school that works in our local community and in a global community so we were keen to be one of a few schools to work with a school from Ukraine. We are thrilled that our school has been chosen to take part in the UK-Ukraine School Partnership project run by the British Council. The project celebrates the joy of reading in collaboration with a school in Ukraine. Ms Hayward-Tapp enjoyed a few days in Krakow, Poland, working alongside teachers from both the UK and Ukraine on the project and met our partner school's teacher Anna who works at Oster Lyceum 1. Eagle class received letters from her class and have spent some of this term creating posters all about themselves that they will share with Anna's class. We are looking forward to our first live chat soon and to working on a joint project next term based on a fantastic picture book called 'I (Hate) Love Books' by Mariajo Ilustrajo.



Forest School starts up in November for Eagle and Skylark classes. We need to have extra adults to allow the sessions to be more exciting and more hands-on. Please help if you can spare half a day on Thursday or Friday.

To support you in giving your children the best start to the day (and you), we have booked in the Healthy Minds team able to offer advice for when you are having tough mornings getting them in or leaving them. Please come along: **Wednesday 5th November 9am Tricky Mornings Workshop**. Picking up advice now can save a lot of stressful mornings for both you and your child.

If you want to keep up to date with school events, you can visit our website and click on the button to link it to your own online calendar.

A poster for a workshop. At the top, it says 'Southover CE Primary School'. Below that is a logo for 'Workshop for parents/carers with Lily Stevanovic'. The text continues: 'A helping hand with your mental health me & my mind East Sussex Mental Health Support Team'. Below this, it says 'Come and find out how to Help and Support Your Child with Tricky Mornings'. The date is 'Wednesday, 5th November 2025', the time is '9am-11am', and the place is 'Southover CE Primary School'. At the bottom, it says 'To book a place please scan the QR code below' and includes a QR code.

Smart and Punctual

The gates open at 8.35am so your child can come in at that time and line up with their friends. The whistle goes at 8.45am when the children should be lined up and ready to go in. Parent/carers can head off once their children are in the line. Please keep back from the line so teachers can see them all clearly.

PE is a strong aspect of our offer at school. Please ensure your child has their PE kit with them and they have suitable footwear. They must have sports shoes to do PE safely.

Enrichment - we *inspire each other* to learn through a *vibrant curriculum*

Next term starts with 47 children off to Glyndebourne to watch The Railway Children. That is enrichment!

Sport we have a *healthy mind, body and spirit*

We sent a team of Y5/6 girl footballers to play in the Albion Cup at the Brighton and Hove training ground. The team won one and drew one of their five games with every game being tight. The manners and team play were excellent and they continue to improve and shine a light on girls playing football at Southover. The standard of the teams playing was high and the coaches from Brighton organised and refereed the games.

The Monday football club played LOGS last week on our own grass pitches. The team were on form with their goalscoring and they won both games. A 7 – 0 victory for one team had five different scorers: Nico, Joseph, Owen, Rocco and Samu.



The other team had a good win too with Yaser, Louie, Josh and Edwin scoring goals in a 5-0 win.

Visit our website to check out the extensive list of clubs on offer at Southover.

Key Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 4th Nov – Diversity Group Meeting 3.30-4.10pm All welcome

Wednesday 5th Nov – Tricky Mornings workshop 9.00am

Thursday 6th Nov – **INSET Day**

Thursday 13th Nov – Parent/Carer Consultations

Tuesday 18th Nov – Parent/Carer Consultations

Friday 19th Dec – Last Day of Term 1.15pm finish

Monday 5th Jan 2026 - **INSET Day**

Monday 1st June 2026 – **INSET Day**

Community News - *we all work together* – children, parents, staff, Trinity Church and the community.

Safer Streets

The Potters Lane entrance is a lovely way to get to school with the traffic restrictions in place. Please remember that residents of the enclosed area are able to use the road at these times so it is not guaranteed traffic free. **Please also remember to park responsibly in the surrounding streets if you need to drive; local residents are part of our community too.**

Southover C E Primary School
Potters Lane, Lewes, BN7 1JP

We are proud of our high achievement, an enriching and engaging curriculum and a caring environment.

We are delighted to welcome you to visit our school to meet the head teacher, staff and children

Tuesday 11th November 9.15am
Wednesday 12th November 9.15am
Thursday 13th November 9.15am
Tuesday 18th November 9.15am

Contact the office to book a place:
Tel: 01273 473015
E-mail: office@southover.c-sussex.sch.uk
Website: www.southoverceprimary.co.uk

Live, Love, Learn!

Food Heritage Event

Wow! What a great sight it was to see so many different cultural foods being displayed after school last week. The turnout was great and we had foods from all over the place representing cultures from our families: Jamaica, Cornwall, South East Asia, India, Ukraine, Scotland, Germany, Spain, South Africa, Ireland, Iran, Wales ...

Nothing but crumbs were left at the end and lots of stories and recipes shared.

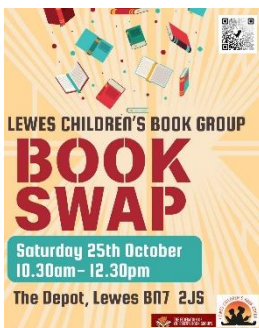


And ...



We wish Happy Diwali to all those who celebrate this festival of light at this time of year. KS1 had a special Diwali assembly from one of our parents who celebrates Diwali.

Harvest Festival goods were packed off to the Lewes Food Banks on Monday with the help of Y6 students filling up a volunteer's car. The food donations were very generous and will be used to feed the needy in our community in the coming months. £40 for Save the Children Fund was raised in donations for the fresh produce and with a large contribution earned by Audrey who came up with her own idea to make bracelets and sell them – Fantastic! We are happy to support child-led initiatives in social justice.



Free Book Swap

Lewes Children's Book Group are holding their usual Book Swap on Saturday 25th Oct 10.30-12.30pm at the Depot.

The event is free of charge and we ask children to bring good condition children's books that they no longer want to read and exchange them for others, essentially "swapping" books to discover new titles and authors while giving their old books a new home, all without having to buy new ones; it's a way for book lovers to share their reading material with each other and find new books to read.

Lewes FC Women - Support your local team!

🚰 Sunday, 26th October – FA Cup v Corsham Town (2pm)

Join us as we kick off our **FA Cup campaign** and continue our call for an **Equal FA Cup**, fighting for equal prize money across the men's and women's competitions.

It's always a special day filled with community, purpose, and the magic of the cup.

🎫 **Early bird discounted tickets:** [Click here](#)

⚡ Wednesday, 29th October – Bonfire Fixture v AFC Wimbledon (7:30pm)

Experience the **magic of Lewes Bonfire** at The Dripping Pan!

We're bringing the town's most famous tradition to life under the lights with torches, fireworks, and fiery action on and off the pitch. A perfect **half-term evening** for families and students.

🎫 **Early bird discounted tickets:** [Click here](#)

Half Term activities to keep them busy include Outdoors Project on the field and Albion in the Community are running their camps in Brighton.

Vibrant Learning at Southover

This autumn term in Reception has been full of exploration and creativity! We've been learning about seasonal changes through the beautiful book 'Leaf Man', collecting colourful leaves and designing our very own leaf people. Our discussions about hibernation sparked curiosity about how animals prepare for winter. We've also spent time reflecting on ourselves and our families, celebrating what makes each of us special. In maths, we've been busy spotting patterns, making pairs, and practising our matching skills. A highlight of the term was our cosy reading club, where parents joined us in class to share stories with their children—thank you to everyone who came!



Y1/2 have had a busy start to the school year, and the children have settled into their new classes. This term we have been learning about 'Weather' and the children have enjoyed exploring how different weather is measured. We have welcomed the rain as it has filled our rain gauges, allowing us to compare different rainfall. They have been thoroughly enjoying their science topic on the human body. The children have been learning all about their bodies and the five senses. Most recently, they put their sense of smell to the test, trying to guess a variety of mystery scents! In geography, we've also been getting outside to explore the changing seasons. During our walk around the school grounds, the children looked for clues in nature to help identify which season we're currently in. The children sang and acted brilliantly at the church for the Harvest Festival, sharing their gratitude and thoughts for others. We look forward to welcoming the children back after the break.

Year 3 and 4 have had an exciting Autumn term. Kingfisher have enjoyed forest school this half-term - they have helped cook tasty treats on the fire, made dens, and shown excellent perseverance and resilience when using saws, drills, and craft materials. Everyone has thoroughly immersed themselves in their Egyptians topic; from painting sarcophagi at the very start of term to mummifying oranges in their topic day last week. In their History lessons, they have been learning to analyse primary and secondary sources and considering what conclusions they can come to as



archaeologists and historians themselves!

We have worked hard at mastering running stitch and cross stitch to embellish our Egyptian collars. We have learned to be kind to ourselves when mastering new skills! We are finishing the term writing up our reports on Egyptian gods and goddesses, putting all of the new skills we have learned in English to use. Well done, what an incredible first half term!



What a first half term we have had in Y5/6. We have had forest school for Falcon, fantastic typography lessons for Eagle and Nightingale and a whole plethora of other exciting learning as well as a superb harvest festival. Year 5/6 have been working incredibly hard on their reading and writing skills this term. They have been expert Dragonologists designing their own dragons and writing non-chronological reports all about them. More recently, they have been debating the question 'Should people be allowed to live forever' in some fantastic balanced arguments, and are now completing their own prequels based on the book 'How to Live Forever' by Colin Thompson. Alongside this, they've looked at a range of extracts in whole class reading (including some Disney lyrics), worked hard on their dictation skills in spelling and enjoyed listening to the novel 'Malamander' by Thomas Taylor.



The children have enjoyed a very hands-on science topic on Forces. We have investigated what affects how fast a parachute falls, tested the force needed to move a shoe on different surfaces and dropped different plasticine shapes in a bottle of water to investigate water resistance, to name but a few.

Finally, Year 5/6 excelled themselves as Mayans in a celebratory day to end their topic. They looked amazing in their costumes and started the day sampling Mayan food, enjoying spicy hot chocolate, and creating menus which they hope would please a Mayan king. They

mastered the challenge of 'pok-a-tok' (a Mayan ball game in which you cannot touch the ball with your hands, feet or head!). Unfortunately, a member of the losing team had to be sacrificed but the Maya did consider this to be the ultimate honour.

Governors

If you are interested in knowing more about being a school governor then please get in contact with Susi Pollard or Burt Browne who are the vice chairs. spollard@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk or bbrowne@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk We have a vacancy coming up in the new year.

Office News

All communications from Southover School come via our Arbor system. Please look out for the emails with an address: no-reply@mail.arbor-education.com Check they are not going to 'Junk' and add them to your inbox.

Safeguarding

As part of their learning and development, your child will have the opportunity to access a wide range of digital technologies, including computers, tablets and iPads at school. We recognise the value of using these digital technologies and the potential risks involved and therefore have rigorous online safety policies and procedures in place which are available to read on our website.

Please go online on Arbor and log in for your child.

Go to Consents and 1b) Agreement for using school computers

Please tick if you give consent. They will only be able to use computers in school if we have consent.

Children do not need a phone at school. They are not allowed to use phones on site and the phones are locked away during the day. If your child is in Y6 and is travelling alone to school then you could get them a simple phone if you want to be able to text or phone.

Don't forget that children build language skills through talk from adults and peers. Avoiding your phone when with your children helps them build their language and is good role modelling.



Domestic Violence at home happens in all school communities. If it is happening to you then you are not an isolated case. Search for: [changegrowlive](https://www.changegrowlive.org/) to find out more or email: esdomesticabuse.info@cgl.org.uk or call 0300 323 9985

Yours sincerely,

Noel Fadden



NSPCC Website and Support

You may be interested in the support that the NSPCC can offer through their website at <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/> In the section on 'Keeping Children safe' they provide a range of information, advice, and child-friendly animations and activities covering areas such as e-safety, anti-bullying, social networking, safe relationships, advice on talking about difficult topics...and much more! They also run a helpline for parents for help and advice, as well as for reporting concerns about children.

Compliments, Comments, Concerns and Complaints! Have you got something positive you would like to say about the school, or a comment you would like to make? Have you got something which is concerning you or an issue need to complain about? If so, please let us know in person, by letter, by phoning the school office or by email. We have set up an email specifically for this which will be monitored only by the head and the Co-Chairs of Governors: cccc@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk