

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 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

I am delighted to see the community spirit of the school as we engaged with charities this term.

In celebration of Pudsey's 40th birthday, Pudsey Bear came to visit Southover just before Children in Need. He popped into the office and playground, met children and staff and then surprised the youngest children with a gift of Pudsey ears. What a delight! We then raised £300 for Children in Need – thank you.

We also sold poppies and other British Legion resources to support the Poppy Appeal. Children from Y6 went around classes taking donations and giving out the resources. This amounted to a fantastic £296!



This term saw the end of an era as Sue Fitzsimmons, a teaching assistant for 25 years and an ex-parent of the school, retired. Sue has helped out in all year groups and was a key lead in the Robins nurture provision as well as being a keen gardener around school. We wish her a well-earned rest and look forward to seeing her in January when she pops back in to say goodbye to all.

Smart and Punctual

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.

Arriving from 8.35am in the morning gives your child the best start. Please change your routine if it is one that means you arrive after the whistle so your child gets the best start to the day. Medical appointments should always be made outside of the school day where possible as this disrupts learning and interrupts classes.

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

Southover Meets Glyndebourne!

Over 40 children went to watch an opera at the world-famous Glyndebourne Opera House. They marvelled at the spectacle and showed excellent behaviour. Glyndebourne also came to Southover as an

opera singer came to teach the choir in anticipation of the choir's visit to the opera house just before Christmas. High quality experiences!

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

Football Champions!

The Y5/6 team were the Lewes Champions this term! We had two teams from football club taking part in the Lewes and Ringmer tournament. One team got to the semi-finals and the other won it beating South Malling in the final! They showed fine sporting attitude, good team work and produced some fine goals and assists. Mr Zobbo and Mrs Eke were very proud of the teams and the football training we have been doing has clearly paid dividends.



Netball

The Southover netball squad have been working hard on their netball skills. These were rewarded when we attended the Lewes school's netball matches. The children showed good passing, shooting and, most importantly, teamwork to come away with three wins. We had children from years 3 to 6 representing the school, including those that played last year and many new faces. Goals were scored by Daisy, Tilia and Sophie. With two teams playing we have a fine record and lots of big smiles as they keep getting better.

Cross Country

Sixty-three children represented the school in the Lewes and Ringmer cross country event this month. The weather was perfect and the children ran their best showing determination and fitness. The children had to take part in run offs to be able to represent the school – so they were all winners - and on the day the Y5 boys won the team event and nine children came back with medals!

Ruby, Edward, Nico – Gold!

Roberta, Julian, Owen – Silver!

Bibi, Leo, Yaser – Bronze!

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

Music

We have a very strong reputation for music at Southover and lots of children take up the small group lessons as well as the whole class teaching we do. Please contact Create Music if you would like to sign up for saxophone, violin, drumming, cello, piano or flute.

<https://createmusic.org.uk/for-children-and-young-people/lessons-at-school/>

Key Dates for the Diary

Please check the online diary (or even synch it to your own) for the full set of dates.

Thursday 11th Dec – **Choir singing at Glyndebourne**

Friday 12th Dec – **YR Nativity**

Monday 15th Dec – **Pantomime in school (am)**

Tuesday 16th Dec – **Y5/6 Christmas Carols in the church 9.30am**

Wednesday 17th Dec – **Christmas Dinner Day; YR12 Christingle 9.30am**

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

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

Tuesday 6th Jan 2026 – **Term starts for children**

Tuesday 13th Jan 2026 -**Diversity Group Meeting – 3.30-4.10pm – all welcome**

Monday 1st June 2026 – **INSET Day**

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

Thanks to British Garden Centres in Kingston for the donation of a fine Christmas tree that stands in the main entrance to the school. It will need a home on 19th Dec so anyone who would like it, or knows of a family or organisation, please email office@southover.e-sussex.sch.uk

School Hall for Hire

We like to utilise our resources out of school hours to support the community and to raise funds for the school. We will have the school hall available for hire in holidays from Easter as a long-standing let is just finishing. Please contact the office (or spread the word) if you are interested in hiring it during holidays.

Mayor's Christmas Party

A group of 10 children visited the Town Hall last week as they joined in again with the Mayor's Christmas Party. They had great fun and were a credit to the school. We are delighted that this year, the mayor is our very own teaching assistant, Emily Clarke!



Phonics

If you are looking at how best to support your child in phonics then try this link. <https://sounds-write.co.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers/>

This fits in with how we teach phonics at Southover.

Vibrant Learning at Southover



Reception have settled very well into school this term, with lots of exciting new experiences. We were very lucky to have a special visit from Pudsey bear. We have been doing a lot of festive learning, finding out about Advent and Christmas and why it is important to Christians. The children have been amazing at learning all the songs for the nativity and are very excited to share this with you.

Y1 and Y2 have had a great second term and the children have worked hard in their classes. This term we have been learning about the history of toys and the children have enjoyed exploring toys from the past and finding similarities with their own toys. In Science we have done lots of experiments to investigate materials, such as building bridges in the classroom! The children have been practising a lot for the Nativity which we look forward to sharing with everyone this week.

In Y3 and Y4, the children have been enjoying writing their own playscripts, complete with stage directions. In Geography, we debated whether we would prefer to live in the tropical climate of Manaus, in Brazil, or in the temperate climate of London. We have continued to explore Hinduism, focusing this term on how Hindus worship in the UK. In Science we have been learning about how we hear sound and we have enjoyed experimenting with pitch and volume. Skylark class have had a magical time in

forest school this term. They have loved making dens, trying new foods cooked on the fire, carpentry and crafting.

In Y5/6 the children have gained some amazing new knowledge in our science topic on living things. They can wow you at home by telling you about the differences between monotremes, placental mammals and marsupials. In a recent practical lesson, the children enjoyed examining eggs with a microscope and learning all the parts of an egg.

In geography, the children have used the computers to create fantastic '24 hours in Athens' projects and they have acquired lots of knowledge about the physical and human geography of Greece.



Governors

Seasonal Greetings from the Governors

The governors have had a busy term providing strategic oversight across the school. We held our once-a-term board and finance meetings where we reviewed a wide range of topics including educational priorities, safeguarding, policies and the financial performance of the school.



We conducted our regular educational visits to the school and attended training and networking events related to link areas and statutory duties. Some of us have been regular volunteers; reading with children, helping in class, on outings and at forest school. We are also pleased to have supported the Diversity group again this term which is made up of parents and staff.

The governors also enjoyed meeting with families at the parent/carer consultation in November. The feedback and comments were positive and reflected the good outcomes of the recent parent/carer survey.

At the beginning of next term, we will be publicising details of the upcoming parent governor elections. Please look out for our email and consider if you would like to volunteer for the role.

With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a healthy & peaceful New Year,
On behalf of all Governors,

Susi Pollard
Co-chair of 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-susses.sch.uk

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.

Parental Consents on Arbor.

We have quite a lot of children whose parents/carers have not yet consented to various consents, especially Computer/Internet use -1a (Yrs R/1/2) and 1b (Yrs 3/4/5/6)

There are also missing consent in sections numbered 5/6/7/8 - these are all are various website images/ photo consents etc. We won't use your child's pictures on the website or in newsletters if this has not been checked.

You just need to log into your Arbor account. Look on their child's profile, scroll down to CONSENTS and then read each description and consent or decline.

Safeguarding

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'N. Fadden'.

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