

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 Feb 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

This term our Southover Value for assemblies has been Trust. They have talked about how we earn trust and how good it feels to be trusted. We have also talked about how we get better at things the more we practice and encouraging them not to give up.



This is the national Year of Reading and there will be events to support and encourage reading across the country and at Southover. We feel we have a very strong reading culture with our well-chosen texts, our wonderful library and with the knowledge and expertise of the staff but we are continuing to improve and embed reading for all. The theme is Reading for

Pleasure and we will be having activities for children and the community over the year. This week is National Storytelling Week. Tell your children some stories.



WHEN IS NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK?

IN 2026 WE WILL BE CELEBRATING NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK. IT IS FROM MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY. WE WILL BE DOING LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES IN CLASS - BE SURE TO ASK YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT IT.

Ms Hayward-Tapp is thrilled to announce that Southover has their very first Reading Champions. Heloise, Cassius, Iris, Daisy, Thomas, George and Lana in year 6 will be working alongside Ms H-T to help further raise the profile of reading at Southover. They have had their first meeting in which they shared lots of fantastic ideas and enjoyed their first session as librarians labelling new books for the library and doing a major tidy up. Over the rest of the academic year, they will spend time reading with the children in KS1, help with reading assemblies, work in the library and complete a range of other tasks that they've come up with themselves to promote reading for pleasure. We are really excited about these new roles and can't wait to see what they get up to!

Smart and Punctual

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.

Please stand back from your child's line in the morning. The children are learning to be independent and the teachers like to see who is there and to bring them in as a class. This will help with the children/parents who find it hard to let go in the morning.

SEN parent/carer meeting is booked in for Wednesday 4th Feb 2-3pm. No need to book.

Southover parent & carer group



Does your child need some extra support at school?

Or do they have additional needs such as autism, ADHD, sensory needs, or something else (with or without a diagnosis)?

If so, please join us at this friendly, supportive group. It's a chance to:

- ★ Chat with other parents & carers
- ★ Find out about support & resources
- ★ Ask questions
- ★ Enjoy a cup of tea & some biscuits!



The group is led by our engagement workers Karen and Belle, who are parent carers themselves - they know what it's like!

Save the date!

Our next group is on Wednesday 4th February 2026 2.00pm to 3.00pm at Southover CE Primary School

The theme is managing dysregulation



Refreshments will be provided

Younger siblings are welcome

Can't make it? Please share your experiences via our anonymous form here:



[Parent group form](#)

East Sussex Parent Carer Forum (ESPCF) is an independent, parent-led group working to try to improve special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) services and support for East Sussex families.

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

Southover Visits Glyndebourne!

Just before Christmas, we were delighted to have the choir of over thirty children perform on the stage at the world-famous Glyndebourne Opera House. Mrs Fenton and Ms Hayward-Tapp had been teaching the songs to the children over the term in their after-school choir club and they sounded magnificent on stage. They were joined by members of the Glyndebourne choir for some of the carols and fantastic professional musicians provided the music. Well done to the choir and to Mrs Fenton and Ms Hayward-Tapp.

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

Chess



The annual Southover chess tournament is taking place and we have thirty children competing over seven weeks as part of the national Delancey Chess Competition. Good for the brain and the emotions!

Football

The Y5/6 footballers played four league games at the Southdown Club in the Lewes League. They won three and drew one with fine attacking flair shown. The boys and girls represented the school well and have another four nights of football league games to come in the next six weeks. The players representing the school were: Edwin, Mason, Yaser, Dylan, Nico, Buster, Joseph B, Joseph W, Cassius, Joshua, George, Owen, Layla, Winston, Bea, Rex, Louie



Basketball

We were delighted to be able to send a large group from the basketball club to take part in a basketball festival at Lewes Leisure Centre at the end of last term. They had two hours of play and showed game skills as well as great sporting behaviour. We are going to have another session at the end of this term.

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

Key Dates for the Diary

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

Monday 9th February – Gladiator visit!

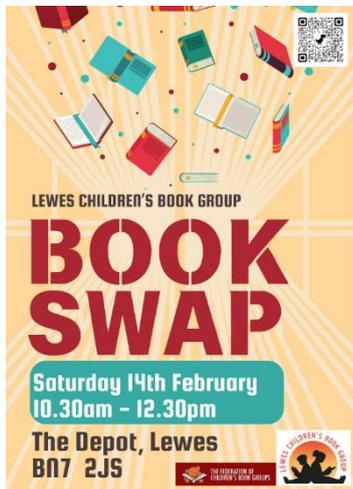
Friday 13th February – Girls' Football Tournament

16th-20th February – Half Term

12th and 17th March – **Parent Consultations** (Booking links available next week)

Monday 1st June 2026 – **INSET DAY**

Smartphone-Free Childhood talk for all Lewes parent/carers led by parents involved: Wednesday 11th February at 9.30am at Western Road School



Lewes Children's Book Group are holding their usual Book Swap on Saturday 14th February 10.30am-12.30pm at the Depot.

The event is free of charge and they 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.

If there are children who don't have books to swap in the first place, they can just let us know and we'll find a way of making it work.

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.

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

Heron and Puffin this term have been learning all about fairy tales. It has been wonderful for the children to share their knowledge and tell us all about their favourite ones. We have looked at the different features of fairy tales and had a good go at rewriting part of Little Red Riding Hood.

Through Goldilocks and the Three Bears, the children explored consistency, viscosity and capacity, experimenting like real scientists as they compared "porridge" mixtures. Inspired by Jack and the Beanstalk, they painted "in the clouds" using hoops lined with cling film, creating dreamy artwork from a giant's-eye view. The Three Little Pigs challenged everyone to design and build strong, imaginative houses, while our castle role-play area let children step into the shoes of princes, princesses and brave adventurers. Alongside this, the class have been thinking about what makes a fairy tale, and many children proudly shared their favourite stories from home. It's been a term full of creativity, curiosity and storytelling magic. We were also very lucky to have some very cute visitors join us for a short visit!



So far this term, Y1 and Y2 have engaged in a variety of outdoor activities. One of the highlights has been our outdoor art lesson, where students used natural materials found in the environment to create temporary art installations. These installations, crafted from leaves, twigs, and stones, have allowed the children to express their artistic skills while observing how nature interacts with their creations (there was quite a bit of wind!). Additionally, the children have been investigating microhabitats within our school grounds. They have enthusiastically hunted for various creatures and studied the specific environments in which these creatures live. The wet weather certainly helped! Following their explorations, each child designed their own microhabitat, beginning to understand the different needs of various living things. In computing, they have been introduced to programming through the use of Beebots. The children have enjoyed learning how to programme these robots to navigate specific paths, enhancing their problem-solving skills and understanding of basic coding concepts. This activity has proven to be highly enjoyable and has also fostered their skills of perseverance and resilience!



In Y3/4 the classes have been working hard with their multiplication skills and enjoying Times Tables Rockstars sessions. There are several “Rock Legends” in the class! In English, we have been developing our narrative writing skills including characterisation: firstly, by writing a comic strip and secondly, by planning and writing our own tale of overcoming a fear, inspired by Cressida Cowell’s ‘How to be a Viking’ picture book. In Science, we have been exploring the digestive system and how different substances impact on our teeth. Our RE topic this term has been learning about rites of passage in different religions. We are enjoying learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and looking forward to our topic day.

Brass lessons are in full swing for all three Year 5/6 classes and we are now attempting four note pieces of music with enthusiasm and plenty of puff. The children have been greatly enjoying our history topic on WWII. We have learnt about what life was like during the Blitz and have considered what evacuation might have been like by exploring a range of primary sources. We are very much looking forward to our Evacuee Day in a couple of weeks.

In science, we have been conducting a range of investigations into the properties of materials, testing their solubility, thermal conductivity, and strength. At the beginning of the term, the children amazed us with their own creative inventions in English and wrote fantastic explanation texts. We are now enjoying learning all of the tools for suspense writing after reading a picture book called 'The Viewer' by Gary Crew. They are excited to use their imaginations and write their own suspense stories. This week, we are looking forward to celebrating National Storytelling Week; we will take part in a live stream with the National Literacy Trust, produce some free writing based on a famous Hans Zimmer song and, of course, do lots of reading! Please continue to talk about books and read with your child daily.

Governors

Wishing a happy new year to all Southover children, carers and parents.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sam Wass who has completed his time as parent governor; and wish him well for the future. Do look out for news of electing a new parent governor. During this month there has been a networking opportunity for the Chairs of Governors across Lewes, and governor training has continued. There has been a focus on diversity with Unconscious Bias training which we arranged for governors from our local schools. Soon it will be time to enjoy Valentines, pancakes and a well-earned half-term break. Burt Browne (Co-Chair)

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

The majority of 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

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
Abuse
Service
East Sussex

Domestic Violence at home happens in all school communities. If it is happening to you then you are not an isolated case. Search for: [change-grow-live](http://change-grow-live.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