

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 March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

This term our Southover Value for assemblies has been *Compassion*. We have talked about helping others, charities and both Lent and Ramadan. This included Red Nose Day and thinking of ways to help others, not always needing to give money as time and donations can help.

We wish a happy and enjoyable Eid to all our community who are celebrating Eid Al Fitr on Friday.

Star visit!

The children (and staff) enjoyed an unforgettable day when Zack George – known to many as “Steel” from BBC’s Gladiators, visited the school for a special, high-energy assembly.

Zack delivered an inspiring talk focused on fitness, resilience and self-belief, encouraging children to stay active, look after their mental wellbeing and have confidence in their own abilities. The assembly formed part of ‘Zactive’, Zack’s school-based programme which promotes positive physical and mental health through fun, inclusive activity.

Following the assembly, excitement continued as Zack spent time visiting classrooms, chatting with pupils and answering questions giving children the chance to meet him up close and making the day even more memorable.

Orchestra in school

We were treated to five classical musicians playing to the children at the end of last term. They learnt about the instruments and heard professionals playing them beautifully. We love to have musical opportunities at Southover.

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. From next term, please bring any late arrivals to the office and for parents/carers to write down the reason on the late register. This will help us track patterns with lateness and share data with the attendance team at ESCC.



Chess



The annual Southover chess tournament has just finished and we had thirty children competing over seven weeks as part of the national Delancey Chess Competition. There were some great matches and a lot of great progress. Feedback from parents and carers has been really lovely to hear. Joint second place goes to Joseph and Samu who were brilliant, and the champion this year is Yaser! We have a very strong and healthy chess ethos at Southover. Keep playing!

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

Netball:

Our school proudly entered three teams into the Southdown netball tournament, and all of the children represented the school brilliantly. Throughout the competition they demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and, most importantly, a real sense of enjoyment. One of our teams progressed all the way to the semi-finals, where they played a very close and exciting match, narrowly missing out by just one goal. Every child should be extremely proud of their effort, attitude and the way they supported one another. Well done to everyone involved! The children were Bea, Annie, Sophie, Ava, Tilia, Iris, Daisy, Phoebe, Nancy, Ella, Evie, Robyn, Kit, Roberta, Ivy, Ruby.

Cross Country:

Nine children qualified for the second round of the cross-country competition, where they competed against runners from other schools across East Sussex. They ran with great determination and perseverance, representing the school extremely well. We are delighted that five of the children have now qualified for the third round, where they will compete against pupils from schools across Sussex. Well done to all of the children for their fantastic effort and achievement. The children were Annie, Joseph B, Sophie and Joseph T-J with Lottie, Yaser, Owen, Nico and Flossie qualifying for the third round at the end of the month.

Girls' Football Tournament

Two teams of girls from Y5/6 represented the school in the Lewes tournament this term. It was a fun and enjoyable day for everyone involved. The children had a great time learning, playing, and building valuable skills both on and off the pitch. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and confidence growing throughout the tournament.

Bea, Mila, Layla, Flossie, Ada, Tilia, Sophie, Flo, Georgia, Annie, Vida, Flo S, Lashauntae, Ava, Elsie, Savannah,

And on a footballing theme ...

PATINA have a football tournament coming up. Squad places for Dream Team years 5 and 6, 5 a side competition at Lewes FC in May [go on sale on our website this Friday 20 March: go to the shop at \[patinalewes.com\]\(http://patinalewes.com\)](#). Squads of 7, teams must include boys and girls, friendship groups rather than being an interschool competition - and first come first served!

Football

Two Y5/6 teams played in the Lewes league this spring. We were lucky to have a break in the rain and they enjoyed competitive matches. We won six and lost two with some great goals from Luca, George, Yaser, Owen, Nico and Louie. There was some fine passing going on and close control skills were great.

The boys and girls represented the school well and have another night of football league games to come as the season finale approaches. The players representing the school were: Edwin, Yaser, Dylan, Nico, Buster, Joseph B, Joseph W, Joshua, George, Owen, Layla, Winston, Bea, Rex, Louie, Luca, Soren, Samu, Clemmie,



Basketball

A group of children from basketball club went to the leisure centre for a basketball festival in February. They were coached by Miguel, a specialist basketball ball coach, and took part in games managed by Priory Sports Leaders.

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.

Tuesday 24th March -Year 5/6 Trip to Newhaven Fort.

Monday 30th March until Friday 10th April- Easter holiday

Week commencing 15th April and 27th April - Year 5 Bikeability

Friday 1st May – Year 6 - Full and final Broadstone Warren payment due

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Monday 25th -Friday 29th May- - Half Term

Monday 1st June 2026 – **INSET DAY**

Wednesday 3rd June – Tempest Photography – Class photos

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

Family Advice Line

If you have a concern that is impacting your family life – such as parenting, SEND, mental health, debt, and more. We're here to help you find the right place to get support. Call the Family Advice Line on 01323 464655 Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm or Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

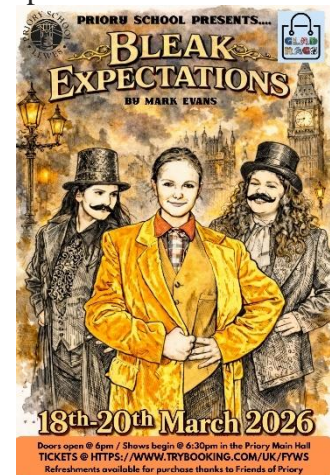
Have you heard about Priory's upcoming production, *Bleak Expectations*? They look forward to welcoming pupils and parents to Priory. This could be a lovely opportunity for families to feel even more connected to our local secondary school and aid transition for those heading there in September.

Show details & ticket link: [Bleak Expectations Tickets, Priory School, Lewes | TryBooking United Kingdom](#)

Help with Childcare?

Tax-Free Childcare

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/tax-free-childcare/>



Universal Credit Childcare

<https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education/universal-credit-childcare/>

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.

Vibrant Learning at Southover

Year3/4 have had another exciting few weeks full of fun and learning. The children loved celebrating World Book Day and many of them came to school dressed as their favourite characters, filling the classrooms with colour and creativity. Their enthusiasm and passion for reading was lovely to witness. Our Geography trip to the Railway Land, was a success and the children became river explorers for the day. The children sketched the river, observed their surroundings, and even measured how fast the river was flowing, bringing their learning to life in a memorable and hands-on way. This term we are also continuing with our DT bridges design and build project and look forward to sharing our designs then testing their strength and durability.

In Reception, the children have been busy exploring the lifecycles of plants, butterflies and chicks, discovering how living things grow and change. They have designed their own imaginative plants and learned about the different parts of a plant and the important jobs they do. We have also planted sunflower seeds and are taking great care of them as we wait for the first shoots to appear. Alongside this, the children have been noticing the signs of spring all around us and talking about the new life emerging with the change of seasons. It's been a wonderful time of curiosity and discovery.

Y1 & 2 have been very busy this term exploring habitats from around the world and learning how animals adapt to survive in different environments. In English, we have enjoyed reading 'Lots', which helped us understand why some animals have become extinct and what we can do to protect endangered species. The children wrote thoughtful diary entries imagining life when the dodo was still alive. In history, we have been discovering fascinating facts about the Great Fire of London and are now excitedly preparing for our special themed day next week, including learning the song 'London's Burning'.

Year 5/6 had an exciting, interactive visit from the Rainbow Theatre on Evacuee Day which really brought the subject to life. Their acting and behaviour were excellent as were their incredible outfits. We are continuing the topic of World War 2 and will be visiting Newhaven Fort at the end of term to develop our knowledge and understanding further still.



This Easter TRINITY Church Lewes is hosting an interactive exhibition about the life of Jesus Christ. We would like to invite you to visit and explore the One Way Experience

Saturday 21st March 2026 to Thursday 26th March 2026

10.00am to 4.00pm daily (Groups can visit in eve by appointment)

TRINITY Southover Southover High St Lewes, BN7 1JH trinitylewes.org

TRINITY ...

ONE-WAY-EXPERIENCE

The poster features several small images: a group of children, a landscape, a close-up of hands, and a person in a red hat.





All classes have now completed our 'stuffed toys DT project' and have displayed excellent design, making and evaluation skills. We have the makings of an impressive brass band forming on Monday afternoons and are looking forward to sharing our skills with you on Monday 23rd March at 2.30. All are welcome.

Health & Safety

[The School Age Immunisation Service | East Sussex County Council](#)

Missed a vaccination for teenagers and young people?

Please contact your local immunisation team for details of a clinic near you.

- Brighton and Hove 01273 696011 ext. 3789
- Uckfield 01273 696011 ext. 4931

Vaccination schedule for teenagers and young people-Sussex Immunisation Service

- 12 to 13: Your child should have been offered their Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine between the ages of 12 to 13.
- Age 13 to 14: Your child should have been offered their Tetanus/Diphtheria/ Polio (Td/IPV) and Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) vaccines between the ages of 13 to 14.
- Age 16: By the age of 16 your child should have received their HPV, Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccines. (Males born AFTER 01/09/2006 ONLY should have been offered the HPV vaccine)

[Frequently Asked Questions | Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio and Meningitis](#)

[Meningitis - Symptoms - NHS](#)

An ex-pupil of Southover is working as a casting researcher at a TV company called Five Mile Films who are currently casting a warm new BBC series called *Will You Be My Friend?* about childhood friendships.

“We’re looking for **children aged 5 to 8** who find it hard to make friends - whether that's feeling shy, getting overwhelmed around other children, or struggling in social situations. Across three half-days, child psychologists help each child build confidence and social skills, before they are sensitively matched on a play date with a potential new friend from their local area. Filming will take place during the summer holidays in July and August 2026.” This is not a recommendation, but we are sharing the information for anyone who might be interested. Parents can apply at <https://bemyfriend.tv>

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.

School Trip permission.

We require parental permission for most of our school trips and extra curricular activities. Permission can be given by parents and carers by the following ways.....**Either** return a physical signed slip, an email reply to the original trip information or **if you make a contribution towards the trip online, this acts as consent too.**

Please can you make a note of the deadline dates for consenting towards a trip, to save our staff having to chase up late comers. Thank you.

The Carpark gates automatically close Monday to Thursday at 3.45pm and on a Friday they close at 3.30 due to a club being run on the field. Please can you exit the gates before they are locked. If you need to buzz to get in or out, please be patient as we are not always able to buzz you in and out immediately.

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](http://changeGrowLive.org.uk) 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