



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 May 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

Our assemblies this term have had a focus on Fellowship, one of our Southover Values. We have talked about how fellowships all pull in the same direction to make the value of the team being key, and how each one can play a part in making the whole a great success. This is seen in the school where the staff have their roles and where the community plays its part too in making the school a success. This is seen clearly in the reading volunteers, helping hands for Stem Week and the donations to help do the extras that light up our curriculum.

We have also had assemblies where the children have learnt about Down's Syndrome and the value of perseverance. Next term sees lots going on including Sports Day, the swimming pool being open and Y6 concluding their time at Southover with a flurry of fantastic events.

For those with little ones (and friends with little ones), Pre-School Library Session: Friday 19th June 9-9.30am.

It is exciting times for Mrs Edmunds as she will begin her maternity leave at the end of this term. We wish her well as she focuses on her family and thank her for teaching Kingfisher class on Fridays. We will have Ms Beckingham replacing her on Fridays for the rest of the year alongside the continued teaching of Mrs Thompson on Monday to Thursday.

Extra-Curricular Enrichment

Morris Dancing

There aren't many schools that have their own Morris Dancing group but we do! Winterbourne Morris danced at Lewes Castle on Garland Day and were fantastic. They practise after school on a Tuesday thanks to Dave and Dave the musicians and teachers.



Choir

Congratulations to the choir who wowed their audience with an absolutely rockin' performance on Monday! Their voices were strong and tuneful and they are all excellent performers. Choir is now finished for the year and will resume in September - new members from Years 4, 5 and 6 are welcome.

Swimming



Please check your emails for the swimming letter. It will have all the information on regarding times, what is needed and how to contribute to the cost of running it. There are very few primary schools that have a pool and the value of learning to swim and confidence in the water can never be

under-estimated when we are so close to the sea. Help us keep the pool going – it is not a cheap venture but it is a vital one. We also often have help with getting the younger children ready. If you are able to help then please apply asap for a DBS through the school office so we have the safeguarding checks in place and you can help.

Football



This term saw the Year 3/4 football teams travel to the Southdown Club to take part in the Lewes football tournament. The children played brilliantly throughout the day and we may well have a few budding professionals among us! There were some great goals, super saves and excellent passing on display, with both teams showing fantastic determination and sportsmanship. We won many of our games, but the cruel rule of goal difference came to scupper our chances of reaching the semi-finals. In fact, both teams finished joint second in their respective groups and narrowly missed out on the semi-finals for the same reason. Even so, the children learned so much about teamwork, positive thinking and the resilience needed when things do not quite go your way. All the children left smiling and it was a great morning out with plenty of laughter, tactics and fun. A big well done to all of the children involved- they were fantastic! Mr Zobbo and I were extremely proud and cannot wait to return for the next tournament. Thank you to all the parents who helped walk there and back and popped down to cheer them on! Ms Heywood.

PATINA Cup

Groups of Y6 children organised themselves into teams to take part in the PATINA Cup. They graced the turf at The Dripping Pan. One of them got to the semi-final and one of them went on to win the cup! Congratulations to Spartan Strikers! Bea, Georgia, Nico, Remy, Robin, Cassius and Edwin. Their manager on the day, Mrs Harris, reported: “They were very mature and played well as a team. They shook hands after every game. They did Southover proud, as did the parents.”



Uniform

A reminder that shoulder-length hair needs to be tied back in school and no chains, bracelets or rings should be worn. Only stud earrings are allowed.



As you may already be aware, a grassroots movement called Smartphone Free Childhood is working to support parents and carers who would like to delay giving their child a smartphone until age 14. Within our school community, we have a significant number of parents already making the decision.

Whilst smartphones can be a very helpful piece of technology for adults, and when closely supervised and for a particular purpose, may be a useful tool for children, research shows that they can expose children to significant safeguarding risks in addition to a number of other negative implications.

Smartphones risks to children include:

- Being highly addictive, with the lasting effects on young and developing brains being similar to that of gambling
- Being linked to poor mental health, depression and low self-esteem, especially in young teenagers

- Exposing children to harmful content
- Reducing attention spans – they are changing the way children’s brains develop and fundamentally affecting their ability to concentrate
- Robbing children of their childhood. Time spent on a device reduces time spent playing, interacting and developing vital social skills

We have always had a policy of children’s mobile phones being locked away during the day and never being used on site by children. We are strengthening our support for your child’s development by becoming a smartphone-free school from September 2026 onwards.

From September 2026, children in Y5/6 will only be allowed to bring a basic phone (“brickphone”/“feature phone” – a phone that does not connect to the internet or have a camera), which will continue to be locked away in their class during the school day.

Eco Council want your help!

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Southover Eco council and Green United children, would like to request seedlings of fruits, vegetables (including sprouted potatoes) and flowers from all over the world, so we can plant and take care of them. We would like to show responsibility and explore the bio-diversity on plants and the pollinators they attract.

We hope you can join us in our journey learning more about Nature.

Thanks,

Eco council and Green United.

P.S. A few bags of top soil/compost would be great too! Drop a bag in by the gate.

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

A note from the Governors

Over the last few months, governors approved the budget for the next financial year. Apart from our statutory board and finance meetings, governors undertook monitoring visits focusing on Maths, Phonics and SATs. In my role as SEND link governor, I attended the East Sussex Governor Forum with the Assistant Director for East Sussex Education covering the new SEND Reforms outlined by the Department of Education earlier this year. As a board, we will be monitoring the progress of any changes when they are finalised over the next few years.

Governors have continued to participate in school life through volunteering, contributing to the school’s Diversity group and helping with the Open the Book assemblies which are led by members of Trinity church. Meeting and talking with parents and carers at the teacher consultation afternoon was helpful and informative for us. As governors, it was useful to hear directly how parents and carers are engaging with the school.

The board had to say goodbye to our longstanding colleague and co-chair Burt Browne who moved away from Lewes in March. Burt was a governor for many years and held various link roles. He was the school’s representative at the Lewes Co-operative Learning Partnership, the Health & Safety link governor and vice chair. We will miss him and wish him well.

In April, we welcomed two new governors. Jason Tremlett is our new parent governor and Joanna Muntun our new co-opted governor. We are pleased to have them on the board.

Best wishes,

Susi Pollard (Chair of Governors)

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.

MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS
SOUTHOVER SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS - BN7 1TR

TUESDAY 26 MAY
CAMPING HACKS: ULTIMATE OUTDOOR SKILLS
A hands-on day of real camping skills & outdoor fun! Kids will learn how to pitch a tent, carve creations from soap, toast popcorn over the campfire & play different team games. It's a confidence-building day to learn new skills, work together & enjoy the simple joy of being outdoors!

WEDNESDAY 27 MAY
BUSHCRAFT VS MINECRAFT
Minecraft comes to life outdoors! Team up to build your village using real bushcraft skills, earn reward pixels for completing survival challenges, & search for hidden resources to craft your tools. Take on Creeper & Lava Chicken games, protect your base, & experience Minecraft like never before! [Knowledge of Minecraft is not required!]

THURSDAY 28 MAY
NATURE NINJAS: PROTECTORS OF THE PLANET
Join us as we learn how to take care of our planet through a day of hands-on nature fun! We'll try eco guerrilla gardening, head out on a bug hunt to explore tiny habitats & make plant print art inspired by the patterns in nature. A day about noticing the wonders in nature & learning simple ways to help our planet thrive!

FRIDAY 29 MAY
NERF: RISE OF THE MACHINES
NEW for 2026! We'll team up to engineer giant robots, design our own mini clay machines & bring them to life before stepping into our high energy Nerf missions. From robot invasion & rescue, to alien attack games, it's a sci-fi day packed with teamwork, creativity & action! (Ages 6+ recommended)

For more info on dates, locations, how the clubs run & to book: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk

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

We had a great visit from the poet, Rhiannon Oliver, who read from her new book 'Fresh' and talked about how she began writing poems. We enjoyed listening and then created a shared poem together.



It has been a super exciting term in Reception as we donned our space suits and became space explorers! We have learnt lots of fascinating facts about space and taken part in wonderful play opportunities and activities linked to our learning.

We have focused on the story *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers and used it to develop our independent writing skills. The children have shown great imagination and enthusiasm in their writing throughout the topic.

We were also very lucky to receive a special visit from Tina the goat and a lovely lamb (yet to be named), which the children thoroughly enjoyed. This term, KS1 have been very busy and have enjoyed lots of exciting learning opportunities. In History, the children loved learning about kings, queens and castles, and we were very impressed by the fantastic castle models brought in as home projects. In Science, we have been exploring plants, including the different parts of a plant, deciduous and evergreen trees, and discovering which parts of plants we can eat. The children also enjoyed a trip to the field to identify a variety of wild plants in their natural environment. We are now looking forward to an exciting STEM Week with lots more hands-on learning to come!



Year 3/4 have had a busy term! In Geography, they have been River Detectives: they watched an epic film that has taken them by helicopter along the River Thames from its source to mouth at Southend-on-Sea. To end the topic, they made fun posters to display all of their favourite facts. In English, they have written leaflets to persuade young people to join the Brownstone Youth Adventurer's Academy (to learn how to slay monsters!) and then applied their persuasive language features to convince Mr Fadden not to cancel STEM week! Luckily, they were successful!

Meanwhile, in Computing they have been learning to write a text-based code to draw images using FMS Logo. The children have thrown themselves into playing their brass instruments and are already playing songs, in preparation for their performance next term.

In Y5/6 the children have been producing writing based on the animated short film 'Ruin', set in a post-apocalyptic universe. They have been so inspired by the film and have written fantastic flashbacks and short stories based on the film. In science, we blasted off into outer space, learning all about the planets in our solar system. We explored the orbit and rotation of the Earth, the relative distance and size of each planet, and used Oreos to represent the phases of the moon. In Art, both year groups have demonstrated creative use of materials and colour in their 'colour boxes' and are now showing a keen interest in landscapes and cityscapes. Earlier this term, a number of year 5 children had Bikeability week, working on their skills and confidence to cycle safely on modern roads. Last week, the Year 6s showed amazing grit, determination and resilience when tackling their SATS and we are so proud of each and every one of them.



Dates for your Diary

INSET – 1st June

3rd June - Class Photo's

20th June - Summer Fair

3rd July - PATINA

8th July – Sports Day

22nd July – Last Day 1.15pm Finish

Plus a link to ESCC term calendar: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/term-dates>

And INSET days for next year:

Wed Sept 2nd

Fri Nov 6th

Mon Jan 4th

Mon June 7th

One more to be confirmed.

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