

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

Southover CE Primary School

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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 February 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and the Community of Southover,

Whilst the new year has begun with cold weather and heavy rain at times, the children bring a warmth and vibrancy to the school. This term we have been talking about our school value, **Trust**, and we have explored this in assemblies thinking about how we earn trust and how good it feels to be trusted.

We welcomed a new midday supervisor, Holly Chan, to the team this term and have three trainee teachers working successfully in the school; I am sure you have met them when they have been with your children in Heron and Wren classes

We are always trying to support our own children and there is an opportunity to chat and listen in a **Southover Parent and Carer Group session on Friday 14th February at 9.00am**. This is a chance to chat with others or find resources for families where your child needs a little extra care and support. See the poster below for more info.

Please contact the office if there is an emergency change of collection at the end of the day but please make all other arrangements before school. Playdate messages should all be sorted before school as we do not want to interrupt teachers or the office whenever possible. Non-urgent contact is best via email.

Continuously Developing the School – part of our School

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

Please come and join in the discussion with our **Diversity group**. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February at 3.30-4.15pm to share ideas to improve what we offer in terms of increasing awareness of diversity and ensuring everyone feels valued and knows they belong. Please come along and join in the discussion. Children are welcome to sit at the back of the library if childcare is an issue.

If you speak a language other than English and would be willing to help translate a conversation in that language then please let us know. We know there are many languages spoken and sometimes others can benefit from support with trying to explain things clearly. Please email the office and we will create a language resource bank.

Library Pre-School Session – An opportunity for pre-schoolers to use the lovely library and build familiarity with school. Please come along at 9.00am Friday 28th February and you are welcome to bring a friend.

Southover parent & carer group 

For parents & carers of children who might need some extra support at school

Friday 14th February 2025, 9.00am to 10.00am
Southover CE Primary School

If your child needs some extra help, or has an additional need such as autism, ADHD, sensory needs, or something else - **with or without a diagnosis** - come along to this friendly group, led by parent carers.

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

Topic: pre & post diagnosis - what next? Including talking to your child about diagnosis/needs.

No need to book, just come along. Younger siblings welcome.

Can't make it? Tell us how things are going via our feedback form.



[School group form](#)

“Very helpful and informative. Please keep these meetings going for as long as possible!”
Parent carer



0300 770 1367 schoolgroups@espcf.org.uk www.espcf.org.uk

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

Music

Many thanks go to Mrs Fenton and Ms. Hayward-Tapp who teach the choir on Mondays after school. Last term they graced the stage at Glyndebourne and I have been able to get some pictures from Glyndebourne to give you a taste of the 'One Voice' show with the opera singer and the professional musicians.



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

Cross Country

We have 8 children who are competing in the regional cross-country events having qualified as the top runners from the Lewes Schools' event in December. Well done to these fine athletes!

Football

Ms Heywood reported on the Lewes tournament. "Mr Zobbo and I had a great morning with a talented bunch of year 4, 5 and 6 girl footballers at the Southdown Club. The group were full of enthusiasm and couldn't wait to get stuck into their fixtures. They learnt a lot about teamwork, communication and different strategies. Overall, a lot of fun was had and they were all keen to put what they learnt into the next tournament. Unfortunately, they missed out on the semi-finals due to one goal but it didn't dampen their spirits. There were some excellent team goals, strong defending and expert goal keeping.

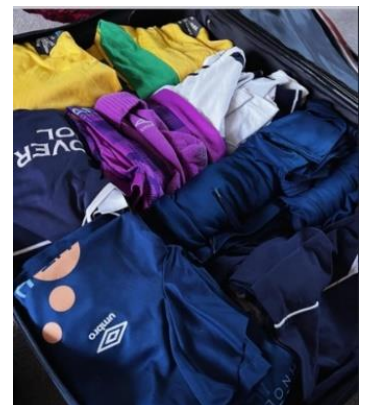


Y5/6 footballers had games against LOGS in January on our school pitches. They all enjoyed the chance to play and some were in their first football matches. LOGS won two of the games and two others were exciting draws.

The Lewes football league began on Monday and three teams (26 players!) represented the school. They played under the floodlights at Southdown club and ran hard and improved their skills. They had five games in total and one included our Y5 teams playing against each other!

Players: Lenny, Ronnie, Bertie, Jacob, Spencer, Alfie, Amelia, Brooklyn, Layla, Dylan, Vincent, Mila, Flo, Joseph, Locryn, Leo, Logan, Cassius, Robin, Edwin, Nico, George, Gabriel, Louie, Buster

The children are very proud of wearing the school colours and soon some more children in Africa will be dressed in Southover kit as we have sent off a spare kit to support others in playing the game. Can you spot the kit packed up for the journey?



Chess

The annual Southover Chess Tournament is underway and 32 children are competing over seven weekly rounds. They have been picking up badges as they progress and testing their brains and emotions.

Lunchtime Clubs

Would anyone be able to offer an hour a week at lunchtime to run a club? We would love to offer an extra chess club, a library session or a table tennis club. Please let me know.

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

Year 3 and 4 went on an exciting trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace last week. They found out how the Palace was discovered in 1960 and discussed who might have lived there during the expansion of the Roman Empire. They all took part in a fun-filled, Roman-themed workshop where they got to practise their Roman numerals, bridge building skills and learnt how mosaics were used. After a game of mosaic bingo and a tasty lunch break, the children further explored the museum and the discovery area. A great day and great enthusiasm from all children and adults involved. Thank you to our parent helpers.



In reception we have been learning about space. We have sent e-mails to the international space station asking questions like how do you sleep or eat in low gravity and are there aliens on the moon? We have been writing information pages on the planets and learning cool facts like Mars has a really big mountain on it or Jupiter is made of gas! We have been learning new vocabulary like crater, meteor and comet from the book 'Look up' and have been making paper mâché and marbled planets in art.

Y5 classes have been really enjoying their DT project this term making playground structures. They have created some brilliant projects using a range of materials. The class have also been working on their ukulele skills in Music and have started playing a range of pop songs. Their favourite so far has been 'Best Day of My Life'. They have been working brilliantly and producing some fantastic work! We have loved being persuaded to visit their inventive theme parks in English (just wait until you see some of their maps!) and are looking forward to reading their suspenseful warning stories that we will be writing over the last few weeks of term. In Maths, we have been working hard on fractions and have just started the challenging task of learning how to do long multiplication; we are very impressed with their perseverance and determination! We are really enjoying our class novel 'Boy in the Tower' and have had some fantastic discussions, making some clever predictions along the way. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home (and if you'd like a copy of our 25 books to read challenge, please let the year 5 team know).



As historians, year 5 and 6 have been fascinated learning about how crime and punishment has changed over the years; we have been really impressed with the children's sensible contributions to discussions. We have been beating the January blues with some fabulous ukulele playing: Year 5 have been tapping their toes in salsa style and Year 6 have been rocking out to Rag'n'Bone Man's 'Human'. In science, the children have been learning all about the circulatory system, including how the heart works and what blood is composed of. The children's highlight of the topic was using gummy bears to show how the body transports water and other nutrients, by putting them in different liquids and observing osmosis.

Year 6 are becoming masters of algebra although a little times tables practice at home would still be useful for some. In English, Year 6 have been tackling the progressive and perfect tenses (tricky stuff). They have created blueprints for some highly original inventions and written detailed explanations for their use - should you wish to invest in their designs!

This term year 1 and 2 have been enjoying our computing unit, where we are getting to grips with coding on the programme 'Scratch Jr'. The children have been creating their own simple animations which has sparked so much creativity and enthusiasm. In English, we recently finished our diary writing unit and started a new book called 'Ivy and the Lonely Raincloud'. We kicked off this unit by creating our very own rainclouds; discussing ways to help ourselves feel better when we're sad or lonely, which has allowed the children to connect to the theme of the book with their own experiences. In science, our focus has been on growth, and we've been exploring the importance of a balanced diet and regular exercise. It's been a brilliant few weeks filled with creativity, movement and learning!

Office News

When returning a slip for a trip/ consent for a sporting game/ holiday/ medical absence etc they can be popped in the box on the wall beside the office windows.

If you pay for your child's school lunch at Southover can we politely remind you that all school lunches must be paid for in advance and via your online ParentPay account. To ensure your balance is always in credit to cover lunches booked and not to allow your balance to fall into arrears you can set up an alert to keep you updated. Please use the link below to help.

<https://support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4409658040593-Payer-guidance-How-to-set-up-email-and-text-alerts>

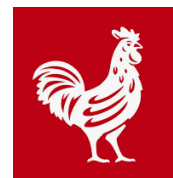
Looking Ahead... INSET Days –Tuesday 22nd April & Monday 2nd June.

Parent/Carer Consultations – Thursday March 20th and Tuesday March 25th

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

Potters Lane safety has increased as the number of cars coming down at drop off and pick up is less than one a day. Please park considerately if needing to drive. Wardens and our neighbours have shared concerns about engines running and parking on pavements! It is great to see more children scooting down Potters Lane now the traffic has cleared.

Many thanks to Howdens in Lewes who have helped us to support staff wellbeing by providing a new fitted kitchen in the staffroom for free! A staffroom refurb is taking place over half term and by looking after the staff they are then at their best for the children.



Keeping our children safe - *a safe environment that meets the needs of all children.*

Support for parents

Whatever family life brings, we're here to help

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

Online Safety

Zoe Short (Deputy Head & SENCO) led two sessions on online safety which is such an important topic for our children. We had about 20 parents attend in total. The presentation was around how to keep your child safe online. Good discussion was had in both groups and feedback was positive; it was seen as 'useful and informative'. There is so much more to learn so please keep monitoring your child's online use and research the apps and websites.

Did you know...

"Snapchat's Snap Map can share your child's location with their contacts on the app. Encourage your child to turn location sharing off, and only be 'friends' with people they **know and trust offline**.

Snapchat's Family Centre function introduces new controls, so you can limit your child's access to some features – including turning off AI-generated content.”

We are continuously working to ensure the safety of our children. Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Noel Fadden - if you have questions or concerns.

Visitors to the school cannot use mobile phones in the building (this includes outside the office) unless guided by staff to a suitable space. If you are entering the school building you must sign in at the office and receive a lanyard. This means you cannot take your child into class if late – please bring them to the office.

These are all part of our safeguarding procedures.

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

