SOUTHILL BULLETIN

★ Respect ourselves; respect others, respect the environment ★

ISSUE
05
Friday 9th October

Value of the month:
PATIENCE AND HONESTY

Our Week in Photos

HEADTEACHER HIGHLIGHTS

This time of year brings a wonderful, if frantic, energy to the school. The annual cycle of showing prospectus parents around, preparing for our 2027-28 intake, means our halls are often filled with curious visitors peering into classrooms. This constant stream of observers could disrupt the flow of learning, but I have been repeatedly struck this week by the remarkable atmosphere within our walls: every single class has been so calm, settled, and utterly focused on their learning. If you do know anyone who has a child starting school in September 2026, then please do let them know about our wonderful school.

YEAR 3 AND 4 INCLUSIVE SPORT'S FESTIVAL

This week, some pupils from Swifts attended a Year 3 and 4 Inclusive Sports Festival at Etonbury Academy. The children had a fantastic morning taking part in sitting basketball, boccia, indoor curling, and indoor archery. As always, our pupils represented the school brilliantly, showcasing our core school values and demonstrating great sportsmanship throughout the events. During our assembly this afternoon, every child was awarded a well-deserved certificate, alongside a special values brick for 'Patience' to add to our school values wall. A big thank you to Mrs Huckerby and Mrs Fitzgerald for accompanying and supporting the children during the trip.

KEY DATES

October
Weds 14th Southill Open Day (for future parents)
Fri 23rd Whole School Sharing Assembly 2.15pm
Fri 23rd Whole School Halloween Disco 5 – 6.30pm
Fri 23rd End of autumn term 1
Mon 26th - Fri 30th Half Term Break

November
Mon 2nd Children back to school
Tues 3rd Parent's Evening 3.40 – 6.00pm
Weds 4th Parent's Evening 3.40 – 6.00pm
Weds 11th Remembrance 10.45am at the war memorial
Fri 13th Children in Need
Weds 25th Coffee Afternoon with Mrs Read/Miss Kell (Family Engagement Worker) and CAMHS

December
Weds 2nd Theatre Production – Dr Doolittle
Thurs 3rd Anxiety Workshop for parents 4pm-5pm
Tues 15th Christmas Production at All Saints Church 2.30-3.15pm
Weds 16th Christmas Dinner
Thurs 17th Special Christmas visitor in school

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

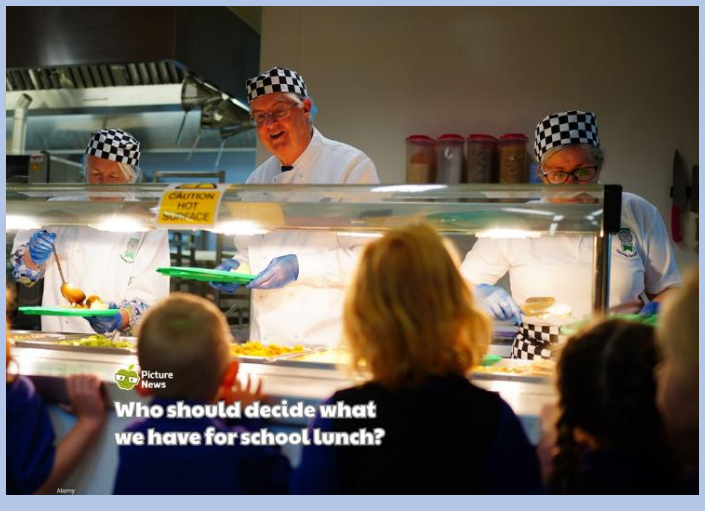
Just to remind you that our first parent's evenings will be held on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November in the first week back after half term. Bookings can be made through Arbor but please do let us know if there are any issues so that we can support you. Parental engagement is key to your child's success so please do book an appointment so that we can work together to achieve the best for your child.

FREE LIBRARY

We are absolutely delighted to announce that from next week, our brand-new free playground library will be officially open! Our school community is an incredible support network, and we are constantly amazed by the kindness within it. We would like to extend a huge, public thank you to Mr Woodman (Paisley's grandad), who generously built the library for us and sourced all of the materials. This was an incredibly kind gesture, and we are deeply grateful for his time and effort in creating such a wonderful asset for our school. To get things started, we have stocked the library with an initial selection of books. However, to keep the magic alive, this library runs on a "take a book, leave a book" system. Find a book you love? Take it home to enjoy! Finished reading? Return it or swap it for another book from home that your child has outgrown. By sharing together, we can ensure that fresh stories are always accessible to all of our children, keeping the true joy of reading alive. We have dedicated the top shelf of the library exclusively for adults to share books too! Seeing parents and carers read is an incredibly powerful tool for a child's development. When children see their role models reading, it inspires them to do the same. Plus, picking up a book is a fantastic, relaxing pastime for busy grown-ups. We encourage you to browse our library, borrow a novel, and leave behind any great reads you would recommend to other parents. We hope you will all make fantastic use of this brilliant new resource. Happy reading!

PICTURE NEWS

Through **Picture News** this week, children were encouraged to consider who should decide what we have for school lunch. This is in light of the UK government announcing plans to make food served in schools across England healthier from September 2027. Schools would still offer familiar meals, but they would use healthier ingredients and cooking methods.



WORD OF THE WEEK

Our **Word of the Week,** continues for 1 to 4. We make sure that they are up in every classroom and work on using them in our speaking and in our writing. Please do give these a try at home.

KS1: **astonish** – describes being completely amazed or surprised.
*The giant dinosaur bones will **astonish** you.*

KS2: **ordeal** - describes a very difficult, painful, or unpleasant experience that lasts for a long time.
*Finding our lost dog was a scary **ordeal**, but we were so happy when he finally came home.*

SIGN OF THE WEEK

Closed hand with thumb up resting on the flat palm of the other hand.

CELEBRATIONS

STARS OF THE WEEK

MARTINS – Elowen

SWALLOWS – Joshua

SWIFTS – Olive

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

MARTINS – Annabel and Taya

SWALLOWS – Quinn

SWIFTS – Miles and James

VALUES

DOJO CHAMPIONS

NURSERY – Hawke
RECEPTION – Taya
YEAR 1 – Kenzi
YEAR 2 – William
YEAR 3 – Ty
YEAR 4 - Tillyanna

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

Our whole school attendance this week was

97.1%

Nursery – 86.7 %
Reception – 92.5 %
Year 1 – 97.5 %
Year 2 – 99.23 %
Year 3 – 98.6 %
Year 4 – 100 %

Thank you for your ongoing support.

GOLDEN TICKET

Our lunchtime award this week goes to Ophelia from Swallows. Such lovely manners, well done!

REMINDERS

✓ **Please ensure coats or jackets are in school daily**

✓ **Reading records in school daily**

✓ **Please remember we are a NUT FREE school so no items containing nuts should be brought into school**

✓ **Please note that children arriving after 8.50am are recorded as late**

SAFEGUARDING

Southill Lower School Safeguarding
safeguarding@southillschool.co.uk

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Read

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Rimmer

Safeguarding Governor Lead: Sarah Tuckwell

GET IN TOUCH

01462 813312

southill@southillschool.co.uk

www.southilllower.org.uk

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Sonya Read
Headteacher
sread@southillschool.co.uk

FoSLS – Events & Activities 26/27

Hello all, *FoSLS first* ***GAMES NIGHT*** *raised* ***£136.46*** *!!!! YAY!*

PUMPKIN & BAKE SALE
MON 19th OCT

Come join us for SPOOKY FUN at our "pumpkin patch"! Any pumpkin purchases automatically enter your masterpiece(s) into our annual Pumpkin Carving Competition over the October Half Term! Please email photographs of your spooky creations to info@fosls.co.uk before *October 31st*! Each of the 3 classes will have a winner, chosen anonymously by teachers! Prizes will be given out after half term!

We really look forward to kicking off the spooky season with you and seeing all of you there on Monday 19th October!

Pumpkins have been difficult to source so please support the stall through pre-purchases –

https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/pumpkin-patch-22

FESTIVE BINGO - https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/fosls-bingo

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP - https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/christmas-wreath-making-workshop-6

COFFEE, CONVERSATIONS, & CARE

Come and enjoy a relaxed, friendly atmosphere at our coffee afternoon next half term. Learn more about our support team, discover helpful well-being resources, and ask any questions you have. Please let the office know if you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

When: 25th November 2026, 2pm

Where: Southill Lower School

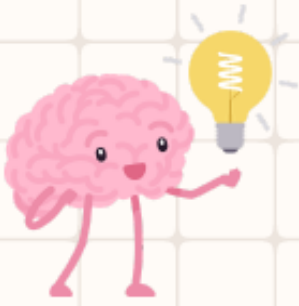
Who: Mrs Read, Miss Kell & the CAMHS Team

LITTLE HEARTS, BIG WORRIES:

UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD ANXIETY

The Mental Health Support Team are pleased to offer a parent / carer talk on anxiety. We will cover:

- What is anxiety and how is it maintained.
- Separation worry making school drop off tricky.
- How can we support our children with fears and worries.



SOUTHILL LOWER SCHOOL

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2026

4PM

NHS East London NHS Foundation Trust

Ask about the #ELFTPromise

We care
We respect
We are inclusive

Make music.
Make friends.
Be inspired.

Discover our fun and friendly after-school and Saturday music groups in Central Bedfordshire.

Scan to find your local group and start your musical journey today

Whether you're just starting out or already play, there's something for everyone — from singing and bands to strings, brass, keyboard, folk group and more.

In all our sessions you can:
- ♪ learn new skills
- ♪ build confidence
- ♪ make friends
- ♪ perform and progress

inspiring music
Central Bedfordshire Music Service

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Central Bedfordshire

Make music.
Make friends.
Be inspired.

inspiring music
Central Bedfordshire Music Service

Discover our fun and friendly after-school and Saturday music groups in Central Bedfordshire.

Whether you're just starting out or already play, there's a group or instrument for everyone.

Scan to find your local group and start your musical journey today

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Central Bedfordshire

www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/after-school-and-saturday-music-groups

Start your musical journey with us today. Available to anyone just setting out or already playing, there's a place for you.

In all our sessions you can:
- ♪ develop musical skills
- ♪ build confidence
- ♪ make friends
- ♪ perform and progress
- ♪ build valuable life skills

Find the right group

We offer a wide range of ensembles and groups to suit every stage - from beginners to more experienced musicians.

- ♪ choirs and singing groups
- ♪ concert and wind bands
- ♪ folk group
- ♪ orchestras
- ♪ rock and pop groups
- ♪ beginner groups
- ♪ instrument-specific ensembles e.g. guitar, keyboard and more

Why join?

Our experienced tutors create a supportive environment where children, young people and adults can learn, grow and enjoy making music together.

Who can join?

Our after-school and Saturday music groups welcome children, young people and adults across Central Bedfordshire. Some groups are ideal for beginners, while others are designed for more experienced musicians.

Ready to get started

Find up-to-date details on venues, times and how to join:

Scan the QR code

Visit www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/after-school-and-saturday-music-groups

PICK
EXPLORE
PLAY
MAKE
MEMORIES ♡

THE SECRET FARM
WATCH US GROW

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, NURSERIES & GROUPS! ♡

PUMPKIN PATCH 2026

YOUR OCTOBER ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

OPENING 3RD OCTOBER

3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 OCTOBER

9:30AM – 6:00PM

£5 ENTRY PER PERSON
UNDER 3s FREE ♡

- Pumpkin picking
- Straw maze & straw bale climbing
- Children's shows & entertainment
- Hunt the golden pumpkin
- Mini tractors & pedal go-karts
- Play equipment & ground trampoline
- Arts & crafts
- Friendly monsters tunnel
- Spooky beach & graveyard
- Activity trail & games
- Loads of photo opportunities
- Food, drinks & treats available
- Optional extras & rides
- Free parking
- Toilets on site

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OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUBS

Loads of activities. Tonnes of fun.

For children aged 4–12.

BOOK TODAY!

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Excellent

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SHUTTLEWORTH IN LIGHTS

4 DEC 26 - 3 JAN 27

OUR UNIQUE TWIST ON A WINTER LIGHT TRAIL

"THE GARDENS WERE ENCHANTING AND THE HANGARS WERE A UNIQUE ADDITION TO THE EXPERIENCE."

FIND OUT MORE

SHUTTLEWORTH, OLD WARDEN AERODROME, BEDFORDSHIRE, SG18 9EA

Junior Adventures Group

HOLIDAY HQ

OCTOBER

HALF TERM

HOLIDAY CAMP

LAUNCHING OCTOBER 2026

- Action-packed activities every day – sports, games, crafts, challenges & more
- Mission Starlight this October – a new space-themed adventure every day
- Make, create & take it home – including our Solar System Planetarium
- Great-value holiday childcare – with offers & discounts available

SCAN TO FIND YOUR HOLIDAY HQ & BOOK NOW

MISSION CONTROL IS CALLING...

MISSION Starlight

OCTOBER PROGRAMME

Give your child an October half term filled with activities, creativity, active play, new experiences and plenty of fun at Holiday HQ.
With exciting activities throughout the day and a programme designed to keep children engaged, Holiday HQ offers October half term childcare that's about much more than simply filling the school holidays.
Find your nearest October half term holiday club and join Mission Starlight.

MAKE YOUR OWN PLANETARIUM

DAILY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Big adventures bringing each day's theme to life
- Fun challenges to test skills, teamwork & confidence
- Imagine it. Create it. Make it yours.

PLUS - 100+ WAYS TO PLAY WITH CHILDREN'S CHOICE EVERY DAY

- Save with Early Bird
- Sibling Discounts Available
- Book Ad Hoc or Weekly
- Tax-Free Childcare Accepted

SCAN TO FIND YOUR HOLIDAY HQ & BOOK NOW

0333 577 1533

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