Southwold Primary School HIGHLIGHTS

13th November 2026

In this issue:

Headteacher's Letter
Reminders
Handa's Hut
London Symphony Orchestra
Apollo Workshop
Dia De Muertos
Holiday Homework
Coffee Morning
Attendance
Key Dates
Term End and Start
School Uniform Ordering

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. Thank you to all parents who supported children with the homework projects in preparation for the upcoming learning this half term, particularly learning important topic-based words. A broad, rich vocabulary; the words we recognise and know how to use allows a child to understand and enjoy the things they read, to learn about the world around them, and to express themselves and their thoughts so that people will listen. Research suggests that a strong vocabulary in childhood is linked to future success and happiness, both at school and in later life. Look out for the curriculum newsletter which was sent home in book bags last term for an overview of the curriculum coverage. This will help you to continue talking about school learning with your child at home.

Next week we are celebrating 'Anti-Bullying Week' across our schools. This is an important time for our pupils to celebrate kindness, respect, and friendship. It helps everyone understand that bullying, whether in person or online, is never okay, and that small actions can make a big difference. Throughout the week, pupils will take part in activities that encourage empathy, teamwork and inclusion, reminding us all that we each have a role in making our school a safe and happy place for everyone. We feel proud of the school environment we have created where every child feels valued and supported.

We work very hard to be a smart school where children can feel proud. An important part of this is our school uniform. As the weather gets colder, please remember that children are expected to wear black school shoes and not boots as these are not safe when they are moving around the school and in the playground. If you would like your children to wear boots when travelling to and from school then they must also bring their school shoes to change into when they arrive. At different points in the day, children may remove jumpers which can easily be misplaced in busy classrooms. As well as making sure all uniform has your child's full name, please can you also check that items belong to your child and have not been picked up by accident. We ask that any items that are not yours be returned to class and to their rightful owners the next school day.

This half term you will receive your child's 'Autumn Report Card' at Parents' Evening on Thursday 10th December 2026. This will give more information about achievements so far, as well as learning targets for the upcoming term. Letters inviting you to parents' evening along with details of the online Arbor booking system will be sent home in the coming weeks. We are keen to make sure that all parents meet with class teachers and discuss their child's progress, as well as take up the opportunity to look through their workbooks and celebrate their hard work. If you are finding it difficult to make an appointment, please call the school office who will be happy to help you. School contact details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ms Ruth Grover - Headteacher I Ms Rachael Carr - Interim Executive Headteacher

Reminders

School Shoes

Smart black shoes for school please. School uniform items can be purchased from Mapac. To order, please scan the QR code on the next page or visit our school website for the link.



Book Bags & Reading Diaries

Remember book bags and reading diaries need to be brought to school every day. This teaches both responsibility and independence.



Handa's Hut

The children in EYFS have loved exploring and playing in their new role-play area, Handa's Hut! As part of their topic on Hot and Cold Environments, the children have been learning about hot environments, with their role-play area inspired by the continent of Africa.



London Symphony Ochestra

Year 2 had a wonderful trip to the Barbican this week to watch the London Symphony Orchestra. They enjoyed listening to the live music and discovering the different instruments that make up an orchestra. They also enjoyed a sing along to music they know from music lessons!



Apollo Workshop

This week, pupils took part in their second workshop with the Apollo Project. They had the opportunity to listen to musical compositions by Ravel and Haydn, exploring the sounds and emotions evoked by the music. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and look forward to their next workshop!



Dia De Muertos

Our Spanish classroom has been transformed into a beautiful and colourful Day of the Dead altar, showcasing the fantastic creativity of our pupils! As part of our Spanish learning, children explored this important Mexican tradition, celebrating the lives and memories of loved ones through art and culture.



Holiday Homework

This week, we celebrated the fantastic creative and imaginative holiday homework completed over the break. Choosing just a few pieces was a real challenge for our teachers because every piece was so impressive! It was wonderful to see how much time and effort they put into researching their Autumn unit.



Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in Raven Room or the Lower Hall at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home. EYFS Workshops are held separately.

Date	Focus
Tuesday 17th November	Key Skills: How can I support my child in maths? (This coffee morning is for Year 6 parents only)
Friday 4th December	Christmas Activities: What activities can we do as a family? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Date	**Nursery and Reception Workshops**
Thursday 25th November	Fine Motor Skills and Handwriting: How can I support my child to develop their fine motor skillsand handwriting? (Parents/carers can join their child in class after the workshop.

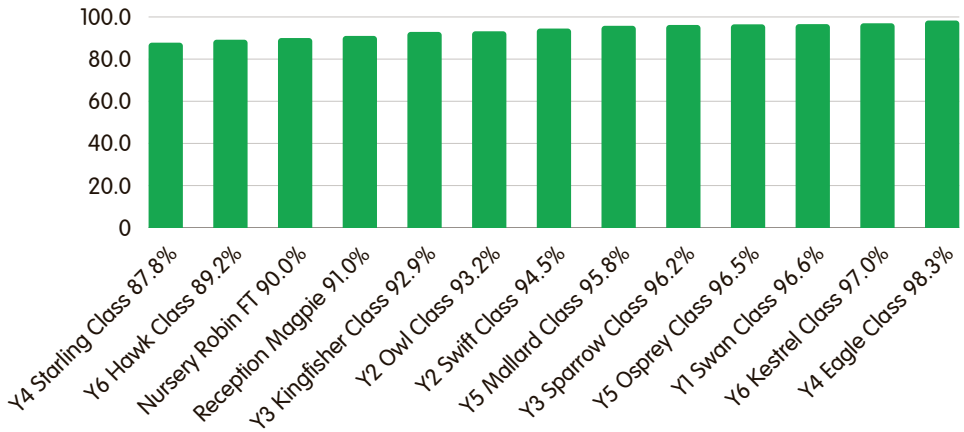
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.8%.

Well done to Year 4 Eagle Class, last week's winners with 98.3%.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



Key Dates

Anti-bullying Day
Monday 16th November

Sip and Paint Parent Event (tickets only)
Tuesday 17th November at 6:00pm

Year 2 Swift Class Assembly
Wednesday 25th November at 9:05am

Year 2 Owl Class Assembly
Wednesday 25th November at 9:05am

FOS Planning Meeting
Friday 27th November at 9:15am

Year 1 Swan Class Assembly
Wednesday 2nd December at 9:05am

Winter Fayre
Friday 4th December at 3:30pm

EYFS and KS1 in-school Pantomime
Monday 7th December

Year 6 Seasonal Sing-Along
Monday 7th December at 2:45pm

Year 5 Seasonal Sing-Along
Tuesday 8th December at 2:45pm

EYFS Production
Wednesday 9th December at 9:30am

Year 4 Seasonal Sing-Along
Wednesday 9th December at 2:45pm

Term End and Start

The second half of the autumn term ends on Thursday 17th December at 1:00pm. Please scan the QR code to view our 2026 -2027 term dates.

School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform.

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