Southwold Primary School HIGHLIGHTS

27th November 2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It really does feel like winter this week, the chill in the air has certainly made itself known! With temperatures dropping sharply, we encourage everyone to bundle up and stay cosy by wearing a coat, hats, gloves and scarves.

Regular attendance is one of the most important parts of helping pupils to learn and thrive. To help everyone stay healthy and reduce the spread of colds, we encourage pupils to support good hygiene habits. Simple steps, like washing hands with soap, using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, keeping hands away from faces and staying home only when genuinely unwell, can make a big difference. By arriving at school on time, practising good hygiene and being ready to learn, our pupils give themselves the best chance to achieve and thrive!

We hope that you have been able to book an appointment to meet your child's class teacher and look at books at our parents' evening which is due to take place on Thursday 10th December. Sharing learning outcomes with children gives them a chance to feel proud of what they do in school and know that you value learning as much as they do. You can book an appointment via Arbor or through the school office.
It is getting dark much earlier in the evening now. If you have given permission for your child to walk home on their own, make sure that they know you are expecting them to walk straight home by the safest and most direct route, crossing the roads with care. Lots of jackets and bags have reflective strips and this will give some extra help and safety when negotiating the Hackney traffic. We are delighted that so many children arrive at school on scooters and bikes as this is an excellent way to get daily exercise. Our scooter and bike racks get full very quickly. Please help your child to show consideration to others by storing these safely and with care.

We have a number of end of term events approaching including sing-a-longs and for our Early Years children a traditional play. The dates for all seasonal events are displayed on gates, are on the school website and were sent home on the parent dates flier at the start of the half term. We had a high demand for pantomime tickets for Years 3 to 6 at the Hackney Empire and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are being visited by a professional pantomime theatre company in December so that they do not miss out. Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner day will be taking place on the 11th December!

Thank you for your ongoing support

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

Reminders

Arbor Parent App

We will be moving to in app messaging via the Arbor app on Monday 30th November.

Please ensure you have downloaded the Arbor app and have notifications enabled.

If you need support, please contact the school office.

App Store

Google Play

Autumnal Walk

EYFS children enjoyed their autumnal walk to the park, where they explored the seasonal changes around them. They enjoyed collecting leaves and spotting signs of nature preparing for winter. The children also used their senses to investigate their surroundings.



Local Walk

The children enjoyed exploring the local area, using a simple map to help them follow a route and identify places along the way. They used their observational skills to spot different human and physical features in the environment and practised using directional language.



Road Safety Workshop

Year 6 took part in a road safety workshop, where they explored the importance of being aware and identifying potential dangers. With secondary school just around the corner, the workshop was a great opportunity to develop their road safety awareness!



Federation Spelling Bee

Last week, Orchard hosted the final of the Federation Spelling Bee! A massive well done and huge thank you to all the finalists. Every participant demonstrated incredible determination, enthusiasm and resilience throught the competition. Well done to Southwold who were the winners!



Head Garderners

This week, the Head Gardeners went to the school garden and tended to their class plants. They're growing cabbage, coriander, carrots and more. They are also planning a class plant growing competition and deciding flower to choose.



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
Friday 4th December	Christmas Activities: What activities can we do as a family? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

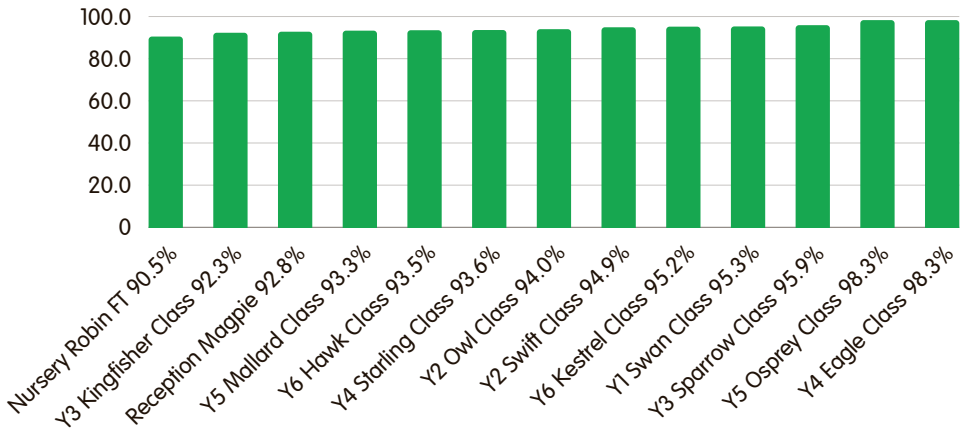
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 94.6%.

Well done to Year 4 Eagle and Year 5 Osprey 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

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

Parents Evening
Thursday 10th December

Parents Into Reading Celebration Assembly
Friday 11th December at 9:15am

Year 3 Seasonal Sing-Along
Monday 14th December at 2:45pm

Year 2 Seasonal Sing-Along
Tuesday 15th December ar 2:45pm

Year 1 Seasonal Sing-Along
Wednesday 16th 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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