



Southlands School

Newsletter

Week Commencing 16th March 2026

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* Kindness * Respect * Resilience * Safety * Cherish *

Letter from SLT

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely sunny week it's been! We have all enjoyed spending more time outside after the recent rainy spell. Those who have taken part in Forest School have especially appreciated building fires and relaxing in the hammocks with the sun shining.

As we near the end of term, Tutor Groups have been planning their reward trips and finalising arrangements for our whole-school Easter-themed day on 27th March. Students will be able to choose from a range of activities, including making Easter eggs and creating Easter hats.

A reminder for Year 9 parents: we need your child's KS4 option choices as soon as possible. If you are unsure or have any questions about the subjects available, please get in touch — we are very happy to help.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be offering Wednesday sailing sessions at Lymington Yacht Club from 22nd April. If your child has expressed an interest in sailing, we will contact you shortly to make arrangements.

On 28th April, we will be hosting our second whole school activity day at Tile Barn Activity Centre. Students will have the opportunity to take part in archery, low ropes and the climbing tower. Consent forms will be sent out soon, and we would appreciate it if these could be returned before the Easter holidays.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we wish you a lovely weekend.

Easter Drop-Down Day

On Friday 27th March we will be having an Easter Drop-Down Day. The first four lessons will be off-timetable, and then there will be Friday afternoon activities after lunch. The students will have the opportunity to pick two activities they would like to do from a list to replace their timetabled lessons on that day.

The Activities so far are listed below, with more to come:

Chocolate Magnificence with Mrs McMillan in the Cookery Room

Making chocolate, mindful colouring, and activities

Glitter Fiasco with Rebecca Faulkner in the Art Room

Egg colouring, easter decoration creations

Funky Hat Competition with Holly Jeffery in the Year 7 Tutor Room

Choose a hat, decorate the hat! Prizes to be won!

Eggs N' Heads with Michelle Waldron-Cooper in the Art Room

Making fondant heads, colouring eggs

Charity Cake Sale

Following the success of our last charity cake sale, we are delighted to be holding another one on our **Easter drop down day** on Friday 27th March. The funds raised will go towards the charities selected by the student council; Cancer Research UK and Dogs Trust. We would be very grateful for any cake contributions baked at home by students or parents, but if you are short of time, shop bought cakes would also be appreciated. **Please could contributions be brought to school on Thursday 26th March.** Students can either bring in their own money or use their tokens to pay for cakes on the day.

Key Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 27 th March | - Easter Themed Day including Charity Bake Sale |
| 28 th April | - Whole school visit to Tile Barn Activity Centre |
| 18 th June | - Southlands Colour Run (sponsorship forms to be sent out closer to the time) |
| 17 th July | - Celebration Day |
| 20 th July | - Whole School Inflatable Fun Day at Lymington Open Air Swimming |

Old Sarum Castle Visit

This week Year 7, 8 and Lower Phase Group visited Old Sarum castle near Salisbury. They have been learning about 1066 and the Norman conquest. We visited the castle ruins to understand why and where William the Conqueror built castles in England.



Primary Student Planting

Some of the primary students planted out the peas that they have grown from seeds.



Primary 1 Art

In Art we have started a module answering the question of whether Graffiti is art or vandalism. We started by looking at Banksy and made our own graffiti wall, this week we then made our own stencils and graffitied on our wall.



Forest School

Children continue to become familiar with the tools and continue developing new skills.

This week, LL joined the Forest School and took his first confident steps in his learning journey. He chose to craft a funny face from the piece of wood that he cut, peeled and whittled. RM explored a technique for creating thin wood shavings from a piece of wood, while EP enjoyed cooking foil-wrapped waffle cones stuffed with chocolate chips and marshmallows.



LD and AD were the first to try the axe work, and it went very well. Both boys experimented with different approaches and found the most effective position for holding the axe when splitting wood.

AG was enjoying his individual session, practicing how to cut a branch to clear space for his new shelter. He used both a saw and an axe safely, applying his newly developed skills with these tools.

All children continue to develop both their soft and practical skills whilst having fun and playing outdoors in our wonderful Forest School area.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm. Children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTube users by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College



Save the Date

18.06.2026

Annual
Southlands School
Colour run

Bigger and better than before...

Summer 2026 Exam Dates

Date	Time	Exam
May 2026		
Monday 11th	AM	GCSE English Literature Paper 1
Tuesday 12th	PM	GCSE Biology Paper 1
		GCSE Combined Science Biology Paper 1
Wednesday 13th	AM	GCSE Geography Paper 1
Thursday 14th	AM	GCSE Maths Foundation & Higher Paper 1
Monday 18th	AM	GCSE Chemistry Paper 1
		GCSE Combined Science Chemistry Paper 1
		GCSE English Literature Paper 2
Thursday 21st	AM	GCSE English Language Paper 1
June 2026		
Tuesday 2nd	AM	GCSE Combined Science Physics Paper 1
		GCSE Physics Paper 1
Wednesday 3rd	AM	GCSE Maths Foundation & Higher Paper 2
	PM	GCSE Geography Paper 2
Friday 5th	AM	GCSE English Language Paper 2
Monday 8th	AM	GCSE Biology Paper 2
		GCSE Combined Science Biology Paper 2
	PM	Level 2 Cert in Further Mathematics Paper 1
Wednesday 10th	AM	GCSE Maths Foundation & Higher Paper 3
	PM	GCSE Design and Technology
Thursday 11th	AM	GCSE Geography Paper 3
Friday 12th	AM	GCSE Chemistry Paper 2
		GCSE Combined Science Chemistry Paper 2
Monday 15th	AM	GCSE Combined Science Physics Paper 2
		GCSE Physics Paper 2
	PM	Level 2 Cert in Further Mathematics Paper 2

Please note that 24th June 2026 is this year's GCSE Exam contingency day. Students must be available on this date.

The contingency day is in the event of national or significant local disruption and is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for exams.

Key Dates

- 27th March - Easter Themed Day including Charity Bake Sale
- 28th April - Whole school visit to Tile Barn Activity Centre
- 18th June - Southlands Colour Run (sponsorship forms to be sent out closer to the time)
- 17th July - Celebration Day
- 20th July - Inflatable Fun Day at Lymington Open Air Swimming pool

Southlands School Term Dates 25 - 26

Southlands School

Term Dates 2025 - 2026



March 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 *	28	29
30	31					

April 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 #
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1 *	2	3
4 #	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 *	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 #

June 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 *	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- School Holidays
- Public Holidays
- Inset Days

- # 38 Week Residential Evening Return
- * 38 Week Residential Leave

Southlands Children's Home —Safeguarding Poster

Who can I report a concern to?



Jack Murphy
Head of Care /
Registered Manager

01590 675350 / Ext
56345 / 07824669478
Jack.Murphy2@cambi
angroup.com



Lauren Stublely
Deputy Head of Care

01590 675350 / Ext
56364 / 07818 747139
Lauren.Stublely@cambia
ngroup.com



Anita Mutter
Home Manager

01590 675350 / Ext
56322
Anita.Mutter@camb
iangroup.com



Charne Randall
Home Manager

01590 675350 / Ext
56347
Charne.Randall@c
ambiangroup.com

I can also report concerns to..



James Watson
Regional Care Lead

07917 806757
[James.watson@cambian
group.com](mailto:James.watson@cambian
group.com)



Holly Stevenson
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

01590 675350 / Ext
56362 / 07803 248787
Holly.Stevenson@cam
biangroup.com



Alison Priddle
Principal & Responsible
Individual

01590 675350 / Ext 56301
/ 07711 765999
Alison.Priddle@cambiangr
oup.com

Southlands School - (Education) Safeguarding Poster

Southlands Designated Safeguarding Leads



Holly Stevenson

Named Designated Safeguarding Lead

01590 675350 / Ext 56362

Holly.Stevenson@cambianguroup.com



Alison Priddle

Principal , Responsible Individual and DSL

01590 675350 / Ext 56301

Alison.Priddle@cambianguroup.com

Southlands Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Jess Holloway

Head of Education/ Vice Principal/DDSL

01590675350/56328

Jess.Holloway@cambianguroup.com



Naomi Arthur

SENDCo/ Deputy HoE/DDSL

01590675350/56311

Naomi.Arthur@cambianguroup.com



Hayley Mussell

Admissions Manager/DDSL

01590 675350 / Ext 56324



Holly Jeffery

DDSL / DBSL

01590 675350 / Ext 56362



Sorina Ciorteanu

DDSL / DBSL

01590675350 / Ext 56362

Regional Lead - James Watson / James.Watson@cambianguroup.com

All safeguarding concerns to be reported to D/DSL's within 1 hour
Staff concerns ONLY to be reported to DSL/Principal/Regional Lead