

Newsletter - January 2026



Welcome Back—Spring Term

Last week we welcomed the children back to school after the Christmas break. They have done a fantastic job at getting back into their routines and have been keen to continue with their learning. Our topics in year 1 and 2 for the Spring term are:

- Our World - 6 weeks
- Long, Long ago - 4 Weeks
- Science Week (A National promotion of science) - 1 Week

The 'Our World' topic is split into two parts, firstly children will learn about cold places in the world, they then learn about hot places in the world. They will discover how life can be different in tow contrasting places. They will learn about the continents of the world, and about animals that live in cold and hot places in the world.

1960s Topic—Summer Term

Did you come to school at Southbourne Infants or Juniors? Did you grow up in Southbourne? We are seeking any photos you may have of Southbourne schools or of the village in the 1960s. Please come and talk to Mrs Whiffin or Mrs de Jong if you can help with this.

World Book Day—Thursday 5th March

This is a national celebration of books and book characters. On this day children can dress up as a book character, or come to school in home clothes and bring their favourite book whichever your child feels comfortable with.

Staffing Updates

At Christmas Mrs Keightley retired after many years of service. Last week we welcomed Mrs Pugh. to the school office full time We also said goodbye to Mrs Jacobs who worked as a lunchtime supervisor for many years, thank you Mrs Jacobs for all you have done for the children at the school. Mrs Cooper has been doing regular supply for the school since September. This term she will be joining the year 2 teaching team on Monday and Tuesday mornings to support the teaching and learning of writing across Squirrels and Badgers Class as an additional teacher. Mrs Cooper will also be covering Miss O'Dea as Owls Class Teacher on Thursdays when Miss O'Dea leads Forest School.

September 2026 Starters and Year 3 places at Southbourne Junior School

Thursday 15th January is the closing date for school applications for children who are starting school in September 2026 and for our year 2 children who will be moving to the junior school in September 2026. If you need any help with your application please come and talk to Mrs Pugh in the office.

Read with Me

Our next 'Read with Me' session is Friday 16th January. Come along to this session and share a book with your child. If you cannot attend please don't worry we have lots of staff who will be sharing a book with children too. We have made a few changes to the day that 'Read with Me' is on following requests from parents. The next 'Read with Me' is a Thursday as it is on World Book Day (5th March), and the Summer term ones will be on a Wednesday and a Friday (See dates section).

Learn with Me

This term we will be starting 'Learn with Me' sessions. These will be similar to 'Read with Me' when parents can come into school and join in with what your child is learning. The first one will be on Wednesday 28th January 9.00—9.30am. Please bring your child to school as normal, allow your child to come in and be registered, while you wait outside and then the class teacher will invite you into the lesson.

Forest School

Squirrels and Owls start their forest school sessions next Thursday 22nd January. Year 1 sessions are in the morning and Year 2 sessions are in the afternoon. Their sessions are on the following dates:

- Thursday 22nd Jan
- Thursday 29th Jan
- Thursday 5th Feb
- Thursday 12th Feb

Half term

Badgers and Hedgehogs then start their sessions on the following dates:

- Thursday 26th Feb
- Wednesday 4th March—change of day due to World Book Day.**
- Thursday 12th March
- Thursday 19th March



Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately with many layers with waterproof coats and trousers, and suitable shoes.

Dates

January

- Friday 16th—READ WITH ME @ 2.50pm
- Wednesday 21st—Year R Maths Workshop @ 9.00am
- Wednesday 28th—LEARN WITH ME Maths @ 9.00am

February

HALF TERM BREAK—Monday 16th to 20th

Monday 23rd— INSET DAY/Wraparound childcare available

March

- Thursday 5th—World Book Day/READ WITH ME @ 2.50pm
- Monday 9th to 13th—Science Week
- Tuesday 10th— Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 11th—Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 18th—LEARN WITH ME Writing @ 9.00am
- Friday 27th—Last day of spring term and FOSS Easter Tombola

EASTER BREAK

April

- Monday 13th - First day of summer term

May

- Monday 4th—Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 6th—READ WITH ME @ 2.50pm—**CHANGE OF DAY**
- Monday 18th to 22nd—Sports Week
- Friday 22nd—Sports Day pm

HALF TERM BREAK—Monday 25th to 29th

June

- Monday 1st—INSET DAY/Wraparound childcare available**
- Friday 26th— READ WITH ME @ 2.50pm

July

- Wednesday 1st- Transition Day
- Thursday 16th- Year 2 leavers Assembly @ 9.00am
- Monday 20th to 22nd—Transition week (3 days in new class for year 1 and R. Year 2 Celebration week.
- Wednesday 22nd- Last day of term**