Southchurch High School

Friday 13 November 2026

The Southchurch Way

A community of opportunity, learning and aspirations

Issue number: 09

Message from the Headteacher

Diwali

In recognition of Diwali last week, our Student Leadership Team hosted a range of activities for students during both break times on Monday. An Indian-inspired lunch was also available, giving students the opportunity to celebrate and learn more about this important festival.

School Photographs

We were delighted to welcome Jennifer Wathen Photography Ltd to the school on Tuesday to take our students' individual school photographs. Further information regarding the purchase of your child's photograph will be issued shortly.

Finding Your Voice Poetry Competition

A small number of our students attended the **'Finding Your Voice' Poetry Competition**, having rehearsed and practised throughout last half term in preparation for the event.

The competition was held at one of our Trust schools, Riverside School. A huge thank you to Miss Gingell for organising this opportunity for our students and to Mrs Langdon for kindly volunteering to drive the school minibus.

School's Remembrance Day Service

The whole school gathered on Wednesday at 10.45am to commemorate Armistice Day, as we remembered and reflected on the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces and civilians in conflicts, both past and present.

Students who belong to cadet and youth organisations wore their uniforms with pride. I gave an opening address, followed by Jasmine and Annabelle, who read the poems *'Why Wear a Poppy?'* and *'In Flanders Fields'*. We then heard a thought-provoking speech from Mrs Langdon.

Mr Carter recited the Exhortation before the Last Post was played, followed by the two-minute silence. Lenny then read the Kohima Epitaph before the whole school stood together for the National Anthem.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in making this such a respectful and meaningful whole-school event. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs Langdon for her superb organisation and our standard bearers, Riley and Connie, for their important contribution to the service.

Borough Cross Country

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Borough Cross Country event, which took place on Wednesday at Blenheim Park. In total, 39 students represented the school.

A huge thank you to Miss Waite and Mr Blows from the PE Department for their support in preparing our students and attending the event, together with Mr Merritt for his support on the day. It was a particularly challenging event, with the weather proving far from favourable at times!

Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Yesterday, Year 8 students, with parental permission, received their HPV vaccinations. The HPV vaccine helps protect against a common virus linked to several types of cancer.

Thank you to Mrs Watkins for her support in helping to ensure that the vaccination programme ran smoothly.

Children in Need

Today, our Student Leadership Team supported this year's BBC Children in Need appeal by holding activities during both break times to raise money for this important cause.

Students were also invited to wear odd socks, providing an opportunity to promote the important messages of individuality and inclusion ahead of Anti-Bullying Week next week.

Word of the Week

Our **Word of the Week** for next week is **'advantage'**, or in French, **'avantage'**.

Advantage *(noun)* – a condition or circumstance that gives someone a greater chance of success.
Example: Having a quiet place to study gives you a big **advantage** when preparing for exams.

Students who successfully use the word in conversation or during lessons will be rewarded with a Class Charts point.

Prince Charming Production

Next Friday, the school will be hosting the **Prince Charming Production** for Year 8 students.

The production explores the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships and includes important themes around coercive and controlling behaviour. We hope that the performance will provide students with an opportunity to reflect on these important issues in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

Shout Out to Rosie, Year 8

I was delighted to receive an email at the end of last week from the parent of Rosie in Year 8, who wished to share some of Rosie's achievements outside school.

One of these achievements was Rosie's nomination by her peers and Scout Leaders for a **Jack Petchey Award**, which she received the previous evening. What a wonderful achievement, Rosie – we are all very proud of you!

Please do remember to share your child's achievements outside school with us.

We love hearing about what our students are doing beyond the school gates and celebrating their successes with our wider school community.

Jack Petchey Foundation

Congratulations to the first Jack Petchey Award recipients of this academic year: **Roman, Navjot and Riley**.

All three students have shown outstanding commitment to their studies and participation in school life. Navjot and Riley have also contributed to events and activities within their local communities.

Each student receives £300 to spend within the school. They have chosen for the money to support the PE Department, the Library and the SEND Department.

They will receive their awards later in the year at the Jack Petchey Awards Evening, where they will have the opportunity to meet other winners from across the borough.

Congratulations once again to all three students on this well-deserved recognition.

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Next week, our Year 11 students will begin their mock GCSE examinations. Students have been issued with their individual examination timetables.

These mock examinations are an important opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned so far and to identify any areas where further support or revision is needed ahead of their final GCSE examinations.

Please support the school by stressing to your child the importance of attending school every day throughout the mock examination period and ensuring that they arrive on time, prepared and ready to do their very best.

We wish all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck.

Mrs Airoll
Headteacher

Year 8 Celebration Evening

Our Year 8 Celebration Evening is on Thursday 19 November, please kindly return your reply slip to let us know you will be attending.



SPORTS NEWS

Fixtures



Key Dates

19 November	Year 8 Celebration Evening
26 November	Year 10 Parents' Evening
03 December	Year 9 Celebration Evening
04 December	Christmas Fayre
10 December	Year 10 Celebration Evening
17 December	Year 7 Parents' Evening

Student Absence Reporting

If you need to report your child absent from school, please use the MCAS app. Instructions of how to do this have been sent to you via MCAS Announcement.

The old text message system is no longer available to parents.

If you have any queries, please email:

MCAS@southchurchschoool.com

Menu

SWAN'S RESTAURANT **WEEK 2**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Meal	Chilli Con Carni Served with Boiled Rice & Tortilla Chips	Macaroni Cheese Served with Garlic Bread	Roasted Halal Chicken Thighs Served with Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Gravy	Homemade Steak Pie Served with Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Gravy	Halal Chicken Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Coleslaw
Vegetarian Meal	Korma Vegetable Curry Served with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread	Potato Skins with Peppers, Red Onion & Cheese Served with Salad	Vegan Cottage Pie Served with Vegetables & Gravy	Cheese & Onion Slice Served with Mashed Potatoes & Peas or Baked Beans	Vegan Spicy Bean Burger In a Bun Served with Potato Wedges & Coleslaw
	Jacket Potato with Cheese ,Baked Beans or Tuna Mayonnaise Available Monday – Thursday **Small Pasta & Sauce Available Monday - Thursday**				

Remembrance Day

Today, Wednesday 11 November we held our annual whole school Remembrance parade and service for students and staff.

Our standard bearers Riley and Connie did a superb job of parading with the union flags then we handed over to Mrs Airoll for the opening address.

Jasmine and Annabelle read the poems “Why wear a poppy” and “In Flanders Fields” followed by a thought-provoking speech from Mrs Langdon.

We then began our act of remembrance, with Mr Carter reciting the Exhortation before the last post was played and the 2-minute silence held. Lenny, then read the Kohima Epitaph before the whole school stood for the National Anthem.

It was also wonderful to have many students, along with Mrs Langdon and Mr Winyard proudly came to school in their cadet and youth organisation uniforms.

The student's behaviour during this service was outstanding and they were all a credit to the school. The service was a moving tribute to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.











congratulations

Word of the Week

Congratulations to AJ, our student 'Word of the Week' winner for the week before half term, scoring an impressive 87 points for his use of PARTICIPATE or PARTICIPER in French!

Who will be our student winner of the certificate, book vending machine token and chocolate prize this week?



Diwali - Festival of Lights

Our Student Leadership Team manned the stall at breaktimes on Monday for students to take part in activities to celebrate Diwali.

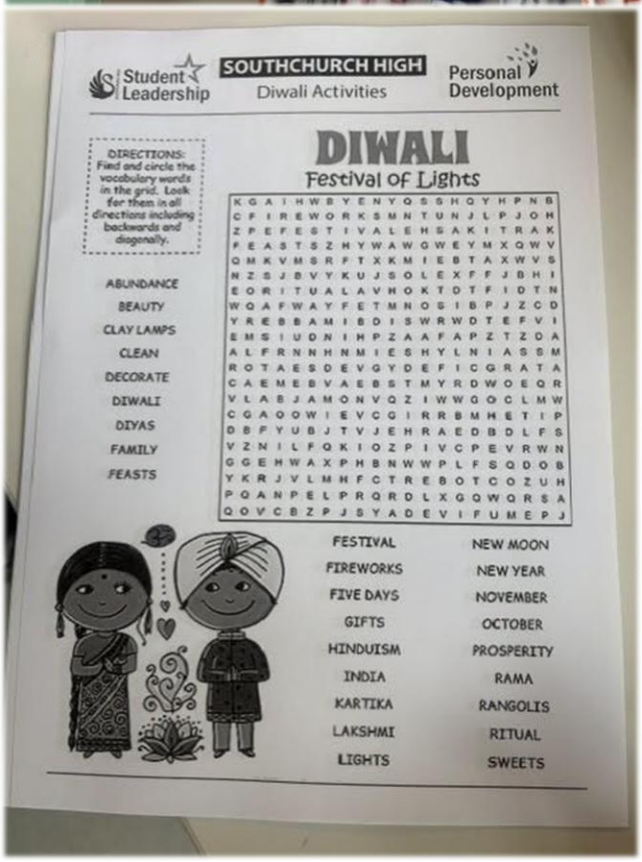










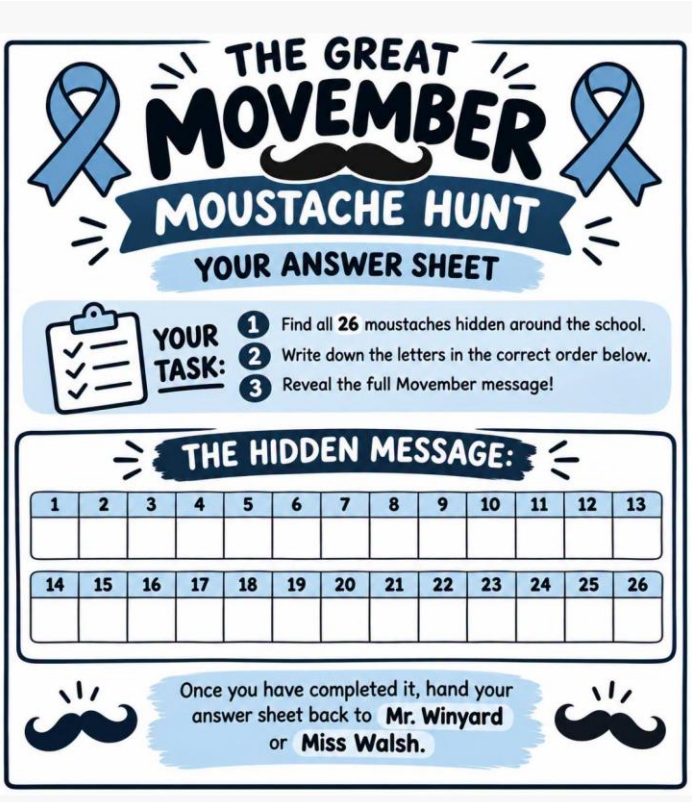


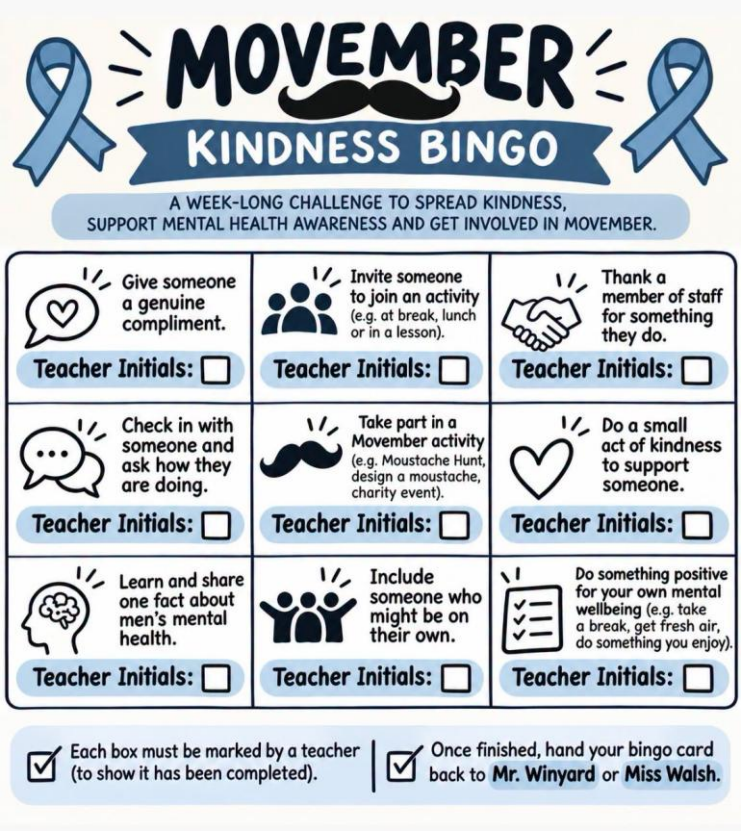
Movember

Our teachers, Mr Winyard and Miss Walsh, have some fabulous activities for our students to take part in for Movember!

Please encourage your child to join in by finding the moustaches or the completing the kindness bingo.







Christmas Raffle

We are excited to announce that tickets for our Christmas raffle will go on sale next week! We have a selection of great prizes, and the winners will be announced at our Christmas Fayre on 4 December. Don't worry if you can't make it, any tickets bought before the day, will be added to the draw at the Fayre.

Please bring change into school next week. 3 WEEKS TO GO!



WELL-BEING

Spending time outside can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing.

For example, spending time with family or friends, doing things like growing food or flowers, exercising outdoors or going to planned events can have lots of positive effects.

These activities can improve your mood, reduce feelings of stress, improve your physical health and your confidence. It can also help to meet new people, connect with your local community and reduce loneliness.

With this in mind, why not visit the Big Switch On event taking place in Southend this Saturday. A full day has been planned to celebrate the diverse community and culture in the city of Southend!

Date: 14 November 2026
Where: Southend High Street and seafront
Cost: Free
Time: From 9am
9.00am - Christmas Market stalls open
12.00pm - Markets, crafts, entertainment and music
6.00pm - Christmas Light Switch On in Victoria Circus
7.30pm – Seafront Fireworks finale

Getting together with others outside to watch the free entertainment, followed by fireworks at the seafront, is a wonderful way to lift your spirits!



Useful helpline details

Childline 0800 1111
https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

Samaritans 116 123
https://www.samaritans.org/

Young Minds https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/find-help/i-need-urgent-help/
Shout Text YM to 85258

Attendance Matters

Just a reminder that the attendance challenge is still open, with prizes available for great attendance!





Library Corner

Word of the Week:

Estimate

verb

Definition: Find an approximate answer by rounding before calculating.

This week's theme is: Remembrance Day

Key date: 11th November

Did you know?

- The Geneva Convention, the main treaty on how war should be fought, has been signed by every country in the world.
- Since 1800, more than 37 million people worldwide have died fighting in wars.
- Armed conflict costs the world more than $14 trillion a year, which is the equivalent of $5 (£3.91) per person.
- According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, there are currently around 130-armed conflicts taking place throughout the world in regions such as Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.

		9	3	4		6		
4	5					1		
	8	7		5		4	2	
	2		4			9	6	3
			2	1		7		
3		8		7	5	2	1	
	1		8	9			3	

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1-9

Words can go in any direction in the wordsearch puzzle.

Freedom
Peace
Silence
Flanders
Memorial
Poppy
Wreath
Forgiveness
November
Remember

H Q R A Q J W S T M X Z R
B H A E W W R R O C M G E
S G E G Z E Z D E E A T B
I I G C D H E N E A I D M
L V L N A E G H S S T N E
D A A E R E B U T F D H M
R L I F N R P A W I Q N E
F M H R V C T V N R Z I R
S W H N O V E M B E R F Y
Z M P X V M J B E X Q J A
E T S K B S E Z Q Q W B U
U N F S S S C M P O P P Y
Z T S S E N E V I G R O F

LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Welcome to the Library

Miss Watson and Ms Strover would like to remind you that the library is open every day during break & lunch and Monday-Thursday after school. The library is a calm, quiet place to come and sit and read in one of our comfy reading areas or to enjoy boardgames; such as chess and scrabble. Students also have access to the computers for study or coursework.

Chess Champions

Do you want to learn a new skill that improves your logic, concentration and problem solving? Then learn how to play chess! Chess runs every day during our opening hours. If you decide to play a competitive game, the winners are added onto our Chess Champions leader board!

After School Club: Monday-Thursday

The library is open to students after school to enjoy the same activities that we have running at break & lunch. These activities run until 4.30pm.

Please note that we are closed after school on Fridays.

Important Information

Accelerated Reader

Remember to quiz each book you finish on Accelerated Reader to add to your word count. There are prizes for all students who climb our ladder and reach the word count goals. See the librarians for your login details.

Teams Page

Remember to check the library teams page for updates and announcements, news articles and Accelerated Reader leader board information.





