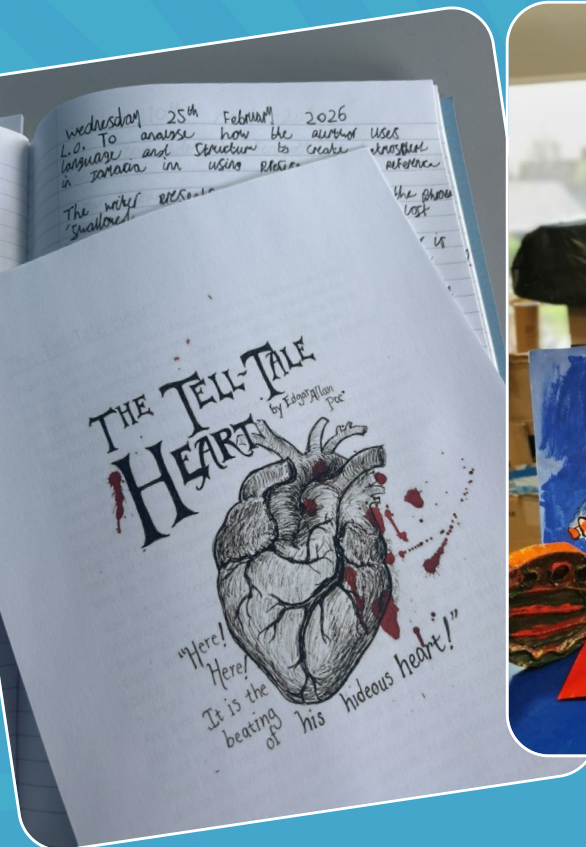




Southern
Cross

Southern Cross Newsletter

Spring 2026



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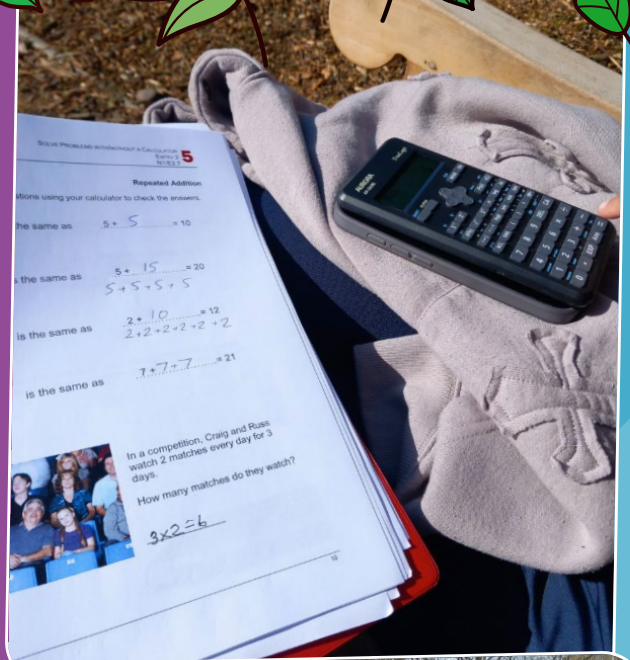
The Great Outdoors

With research showing that outdoor learning can boost confidence, teamwork, communication, and motivation, we're always looking for opportunities to take learning beyond the classroom. This term has been jam-packed with fantastic outdoor experiences!

Pupils enjoyed navigating their way across Longford Park using a map and compass, putting their problem-solving skills to the test. We also had fun exploring the playground and enjoying a game of disc golf!

Our Year 7 nurture group had the exciting opportunity to meet Jason Manford and take part in some filming. They had a brilliant time chopping wood, cooking outdoors, and fully immersing themselves in hands-on learning.

But outdoor learning isn't always about getting your hands dirty! Sometimes it's simply about a change of scenery, soaking up the sunshine, and learning in a different environment. We're looking forward to more sunny days and even more opportunities to take learning outside!



The Big Picture

Our Art students have been incredibly busy working on their GCSE coursework this term. It's been wonderful to see their creativity flourish as they experiment and take risks with their designs.

Throughout the process, pupils have explored a wide range of artistic movements, learning about visionary artists and the emergence of new artistic materials. As a result, we have not only improved our technical skills, but also our understanding of different cultures and perspectives around the world. This shines through in our pupils' creations, from beautifully painted landscapes to colourful collages and embroidery. Well done to our talented young artists!



Wellbeing

At Southern Cross, wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We ensure our learners have plenty of opportunities to take part in mindfulness activities, bringing a sense of calm and positivity to the classroom. Whether it's drawing, colouring, or completing a jigsaw, these moments give pupils the chance to reflect, recharge and refresh.



Recipes for Success

We've been cooking up a storm in the kitchen this term! It's lovely to see our young chefs growing in confidence - not just in their cooking skills, but in their understanding of where food comes from and why it's so important to our health.

We've had lots of fun experimenting with different flavours and recreating our own homemade "takeaway" favourites - all the flavour and enjoyment, but with a much healthier twist!



City in the Community

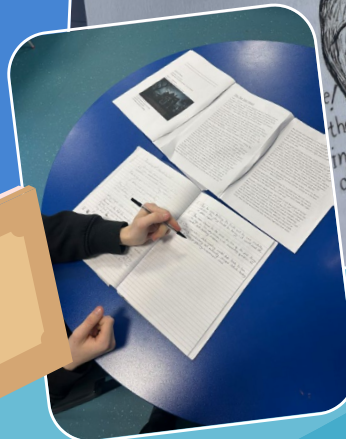
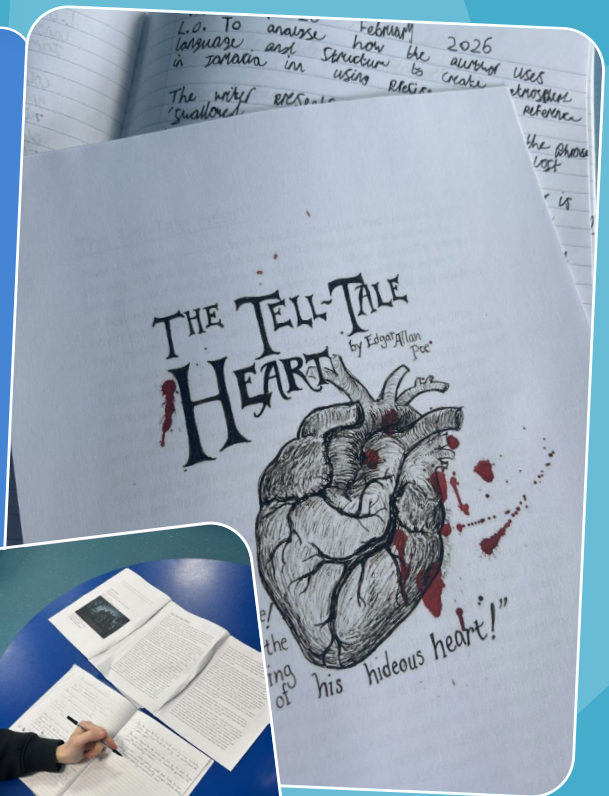
We're thrilled to be working in partnership with City in the Community, an inspiring programme that's all about empowering young people through education, mentorship, and football-based initiatives. As always, pupils have enjoyed getting stuck into exciting PE lessons, workshops, and social action projects. These experiences help pupils to build resilience, teamwork, and the skills they need both in and out of the classroom. This term, we were very lucky to receive a set of football kits to share with our community. It's been great to see pupils wearing the badge with pride!



The Tell-Tale Heart

With GCSEs fast approaching, our Year 11 students have been diving into the world of horror stories. What better place to start than The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe!

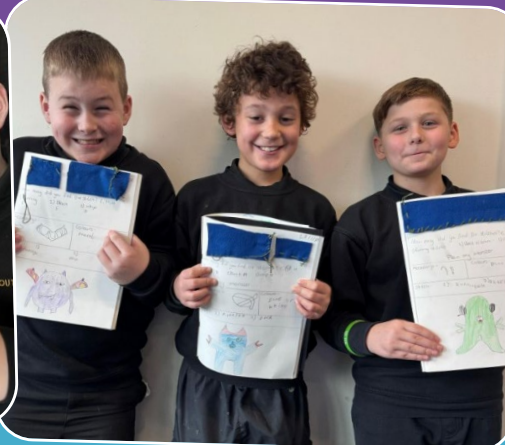
Lessons have been full of lively discussion as pupils explore themes of conflict and perspective, whilst getting to grips with the idea of an unreliable narrator. We've been taking a close look at how authors use language to build tension and suspense, creating an eerie, unsettling atmosphere that keeps the reader on the edge of their seats. We've loved discussing these ideas together as a class, sharing lots of unique insights and interpretations!



Little Monsters

Our Year 5 pupils have had lots of fun bringing their very own Art Monsters to life with a needle and thread! They've mastered some impressive techniques during lessons, including running stitch, back stitch, and cross stitch. These skills have allowed them to add intricate patterns, details, and texture to their designs.

It's been wonderful to watch their ideas come to life, starting from a simple blueprint and gradually transforming into colourful and creative monsters. The patience, imagination, and enthusiasm on display have been fantastic!



Stepping Up to The Challenge

This term has seen our pupils head out on some truly unforgettable outdoor adventures, taking on a series of exciting hiking challenges. From trekking through forests to tackling steep climbs, pupils have shown real determination as they explored some incredible locations.

Our highlights include Teggs Nose Country Park and the iconic Mam Tor, where pupils reached the summit and took in breathtaking views across the Peak District. They even learned how to use a storm shelter on the moors, a handy skill when facing the elements!

Other memorable experiences include a climb up the hills at Todmorden, where pupils visited the “highest beach in Britain” and certainly felt the full force of the wind at the top! A refreshing walk around Dove Stone Reservoir gave pupils the chance to enjoy the stunning scenery of the Saddleworth Moors.

Closer to home, pupils have also explored the rich history of Manchester, visiting locations such as Castlefield Bowl. We learned about the area’s fascinating past, from its role in filming *Peaky Blinders* all the way back to its roots as a Roman fort.

Whatever the weather, our pupils have thrown themselves into each challenge with determination, positivity, and a sense of adventure. We’re so proud of everything they’ve achieved!

