



STEP BY STEP
SCHOOL

SBS CONNECT

JUNE 2026 |
ISSUE 17

IN STEP WITH
LIFE @SCHOOL



Leadership Retreat
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Summer Camp
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Pehal
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The Great Escape 2026

Strong schools and organisations are built through aligned, connected and empowered leaders. Leadership retreats create a valuable space away from everyday routines, allowing teams to reflect, reconnect and strengthen the trust and collaboration that shape a shared organisational culture.

The Great Escape 2026 began with a 5:00 AM departure and a five-hour journey to The Corbett Hideaway, by the Ramganga, where the school leadership team stepped away from their usual pace and entered three days of reflection, dialogue and meaningful connection.

The retreat blended experiences in nature with purposeful leadership conversations and team activities. **‘The Courage to Lead, The Culture to Follow’** encouraged leaders to reflect on trust, decision-making and the complexities of leadership, while **‘Line of Judgement’** helped colleagues understand each other beyond roles and responsibilities. Activities like Blindfolded Jenga brought in humour while reinforcing the importance of listening, trust and shared responsibility.

Amidst the quiet of the forest and honest conversations, the retreat became more than an offsite experience — it became an opportunity to strengthen relationships, deepen leadership learning and build a stronger foundation for the school community.

A memoir

The retreat days were shaped less by presentations and more by conversation, about trust, courage, communication, accountability and the culture we hope to build together. Colleagues shared not only strengths and successes, but also doubts, mistakes and moments that shaped them as leaders. A collaborative challenge brought alive the importance of clarity, listening and alignment, while informal walks, meals and conversations deepened connections across teams. We returned with a stronger sense of trust, shared purpose and the reminder that leadership is not a solitary role, but a journey we take together.

- Payel Duttagupta, Head of Middle School



My Leadership mantra is 'modelling' - Demonstrating by my own conduct what I expect from my team

- Urmi Debroy, Curriculum Leader
International & IBDP Coordinator



Leadership for me is about knowing each member of the team, understanding their strengths, giving opportunity to collaborate and move towards a common goal.

- Anita Prasad, Head of SEN



My role has taught me to be patient, be collaborative and to be accountable - I've learnt to use feedback to course-correct for better outcomes.

- Sheetal Verma, Programme Coordinator
Foundation Years



Leadership is an ongoing journey of reflection, learning & growth, where we continuously work on ourselves, w/awareness and intentional in how we show up - recognising we may not have all answers, while creating an environment for people & possibilities to flourish.

- Kriti Shroff, Head of Communication,
Engagements & Alumni Relations



The Other Side of Summer Break



As the classrooms go silent, the school gets louder in other spots.

While the classrooms rested this Summer, the corridors widened, and the playgrounds waited. But behind that quiet, the school was anything but asleep. Summer is when the non-academic teams step fully into view, even if their work remains mostly behind the scenes. Administration, Finance, IT, HR, Communications, Secretarial Support, Library teams, and the didis and bhaiyas used the break to ready the campus for another year of unhindered learning.

Repairs were completed, maintenance was full-swing, spaces refreshed, systems checked, records updated and workspaces reorganised. Corridors were cleaned deeply, classrooms inspected, digital networks strengthened and maintenance lists chased down to the last hinge, tile and cable. The library went through careful stock-taking, while HR and Finance tightened records, audits, budgets and processes. Support staff received routine guidance on safety, hygiene and student engagement. Communications continued to keep the school's voice alive through website updates, blogs and planning for the eventful year ahead.

To students, summer may mean pause. To the teams at school, it is a race against reopening. By July, every polished floor, painted door, working screen, updated file and ready room carried the imprint of those who quietly kept SBS moving while it looked still on the outside.



“

“Summer is when the real work happens. While campus seems quiet, repairs, upgrades, deep cleaning and safety checks continue with care. Each completed task helps create a safe, welcoming, well-prepared environment, ready for a seamless reopening for students and staff.”

Shariq Sayeed, Head of Administration

”



“

“Our records are a quiet treasure, carrying the story of the people who make SBS. Summer allowed us to sort them with care, while focusing equally on onboarding the right people who will add strength, warmth and purpose to the school.”

Anjali Khanna, Head of Human Resources

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“

“Behind a smooth reopening are hundreds of tiny details, carefully tied together before the first student walks in.”

Neerja Vaid, Academic Secretary Senior School

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“A big thank you to everyone who held the fort through the summer. The care, effort and patience behind the scenes truly show.”

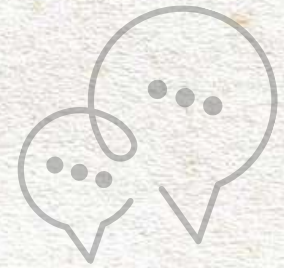
Neha Mishra, Faculty Junior School

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SPORTS

LEADERSHIP

TALK



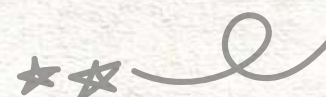
A few weeks ago, the then newly elected Sports Council sat down with students of Grades 4 & 5 for an earnest Sports Leadership Talk, and what followed was far more than a conversation about games.

It became a lively exchange on confidence, discipline, teamwork, communication and what it truly means to lead.

Council members shared personal stories from the field: moments of pressure, mistakes, wins, responsibility and learning. What stood out most was the way the younger students responded. They thoroughly savoured the exchanges, listened closely, and asked thoughtful questions about sportsmanship, overcoming challenges, balancing academics with sport, and leading by example.

The interaction reminded everyone that while every sporting journey is different, the lessons are often the same: support your team, stay disciplined, take initiative and keep showing up.

The session ended on an energetic note, leaving the students inspired to carry leadership beyond the field and into everyday school life.



THEIR CHRONICLES



Yashica Daga
School President

"Why do we play sports – for fitness, medals, fun? Maybe. But the real reasons run deeper. As children, we dreamt of becoming Virat Kohli or P.V. Sindhu, wore jerseys like uniforms, begged for extra P.E. minutes and lived every match. Then boards, tuitions and deadlines slowly pushed sport to the sidelines. I started badminton in Grade 2 and played at state level. When I stopped regular training, I realised what sport had given me: focus, discipline, clarity and consistency. It never pulled me away from academics; it pushed me further. Sport made me a better student, leader and person."

"Discipline and sacrifice are often spoken about in sports, but living them daily is different. For a student-athlete, assignments, exams and training often collide, and consistency matters more than motivation. Progress is rarely instant; months of practice can come down to one second. Early mornings, strict routines and missed plans become part of a purpose bigger than comfort. Sport has shaped me beyond fitness, teaching resilience, teamwork, leadership and perseverance. These are not just sporting skills; they are life skills!"



Vedant Chandra
Sports Captain



Atharv Aneja
Sports Coordinator

"Sport has been one of my biggest teachers. From childhood, football made me feel alive, confident and happy. When I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes, everything became harder. I stopped playing for over a year, learning to understand my body, manage my health and accept that wellbeing had to come first. Returning was not easy, but I rebuilt confidence step by step. As school football captain for five years, I learnt leadership, teamwork and responsibility. Sport taught me that setbacks are temporary, consistency matters, and health must never be ignored."

"It was never a decision. Running gave me silence, squash gave me fire, and football gave me belonging. Balancing all three meant early mornings, late training, no free weekends and many missed plans. Slow results were the hardest; I often wondered if anything was changing. But I kept going because quitting would have hurt more. As a female athlete, I learnt my body is not decoration; it is strength, skill and purpose. Sport gave me confidence, identity and the courage to be myself."



Meher Gupta
Sports Coordinator



Advait Lal
Sports Vice Captain

"Growing up, sports were always part of my life, from football and cricket in P.E. to hours of badminton training. But tournaments often ended without medals, and watching others succeed made me question myself. Slowly, I began studying my losses, improving my footwork, stamina, diet and discipline. After lockdown, athletics gave me a new challenge and new confidence. Looking back, failure was never the end; it was what taught me to grow."

"Most athletes have heroic childhood stories. Mine was simpler: I was a professional sport-quitter. I tried everything, declared each one "my sport," then left because it was boring, repetitive, or involved too much running. Then my parents dared me to choose anything, so I picked fencing, mostly to be difficult. Unfortunately, I loved it. Fencing kept me thinking every second and taught me discipline, failure, focus and calm under pressure. I started late, but that made it mine. Sport doesn't just shape athletes; it shapes people."



Naisha Gupta
Vice President

Summer Camp 2026



The Swimming Summer Camp 2026 made quite a splash over four energetic weeks, bringing together over 80 students from Grades 1 to 10 for a summer filled with learning, determination and fun. Throughout the break, our young swimmers embraced new challenges, set personal goals and worked consistently to enhance their confidence, technique, endurance and water safety under the guidance of experienced coaches.

Beyond mastering strokes and building stamina, the camp fostered discipline, perseverance and a love for the sport. Every session encouraged students to push their limits, celebrate small milestones and grow into more confident swimmers.

The camp concluded with a joyful Presentation of Learning, where students proudly demonstrated the skills they had developed before an enthusiastic audience of parents, siblings and grandparents. Their confident performances reflected the dedication and progress achieved over the course of the camp. Each participant was also presented with a badge in recognition of their effort, commitment and remarkable journey.

The beaming smiles said it all - this was a summer of growth, achievement and unforgettable memories, leaving every swimmer inspired to dive into new milestones ahead.

Making D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) Really Dear!



In the month of May, the Junior School English Department brought parents into the heart of the reading classroom through Empowering Young Readers, an interactive workshop for parents of Grades 1 to 5. Designed as an experiential session, it offered a lively glimpse into how reading is nurtured at SBS - not as a task, but as a joyful habit.

Parents participated in DEAR time and experienced an Interactive Read Aloud, exploring how predictions, purposeful questions and thoughtful conversations can make stories come alive. The session highlighted how these practices build comprehension, critical thinking and a strong Reader's Identity in children.

Reading Stations added another engaging layer, showing how students interact with texts through varied activities while teachers observe, confer and support different learning needs. Parents also saw how reading, listening, speaking and writing come together in our multi-skill approach.

The workshop ended with curated summer reading lists, encouraging children to keep turning pages through the holidays!



SUMMER DIARIES!



The great 2026 refresh!



Summer vacation? For us, it's planning season. 😊

July 17



Ctrl + Alt + Prepare for the new session. 💻



The school may be on a break, but HR's inbox definitely isn't. 📧 😊



This room speaks fluent excel, budgets, and "just one more approval." 😊



Our kitchens always keep the heat on



Our check-ins keep the summer progress in check



The smiles are telling when every part of school aligns



Here, the ball is rolling, always!



Summer is for deep cleaning - no points for guessing!



Clearing the dues - one bill at a time!



Readying ourselves to welcome!



Safe. Sound. Secure. Up the game.



Structuring the restructure while we can!



*PO: Work mode on
Fun mode never off*



Mend mend - make it shine!



Leaving no surface unpolished



Quiet campus. Buzzing story room...

Of Beginnings & Belongingness

पेहल 2026

The recent additions to the SBS family from across the past few months came together for PEHAL 2026, a 3 day journey designed not only to inform, but to help them belong. Each morning began gently, with quiet check-ins, moments of connection, and space to arrive fully before the day unfolded. A small ritual conveying the message: At SBS, our teams are not rushed into roles; they are welcomed into a community.

The first session introduced new colleagues to the story of SBS, its vision, values, learner profile, learning principles, and Core Teaching Commitments. Trust, reflection, purposeful practice and shared growth emerged as the quiet anchors of classroom life. With induction kits in hand, facilitators and new joiners came together for a group photograph, a simple but meaningful reminder: you are SBS.

The following sessions moved deeper into the craft of teaching. Pedagogy and inquiry were explored through the lens of visible thinking, everyday routines, discussion strategies and practical tools that can turn a classroom into a space full of questions, curiosity and participation.





Classroom management brought an honest and grounded conversation. Rather than focusing only on rules, the session looked at relationships, rapport, emotional safety, clear expectations and the importance of understanding children across different ages and stages. At SBS, managing behaviour begins with seeing the child.

Communication formed another strong thread through PEHAL. A session on structured dialogue explored best communication practices, and how careful listening and thoughtful language can build trust. Alongside this, activity-oriented sessions on systems, policies and professional responsibility helped new colleagues understand and appreciate the rhythm of the school and their place within it.

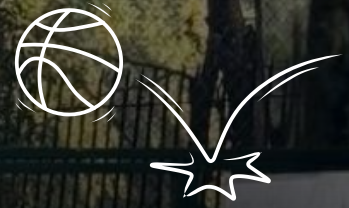
Fittingly, *PEHAL* ended not with information, but with connection. The closing circle brought reflection, appreciation, laughter, stories, gratitude and warm exchanges. It felt less like an ending and more like the beginning it was meant to be. Reiterating that an induction is not a checklist - it is a tapestry of people - with purpose & possibility.



Welcome to SBS!



POWER PLAY AT THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP



Our U-17 Boys Basketball team brought great spirit and an equally great game to the District Basketball Championship 2026, held at Gautam Buddha University, between May 18th to 22nd.

With strong wins against DAV Noida and New Green Lawn Public School, the team powered through three rounds to reach the quarter-finals. In a thrilling match against Samsara The World Academy, they missed victory by just one point, 32–31.

We call it a proud run marked by teamwork, discipline and determination.



Honing Skills With Summer Drills



The summer break brought along weeks of relaxation for most of us, however our young athletes refused to stay back - they were back on campus, training with purpose for the upcoming CBSE tournaments. Day after day, they reported to school with focus, energy and discipline, using the break to sharpen skills, build fitness and strengthen team spirit. Their commitment to practice, even during the holidays, reflects remarkable passion, resilience and love for the game. Every drill, sprint and session has been a step towards representing the school with confidence and pride. We are incredibly proud of their effort and wish them great success in the tournaments ahead.



The Campus Awaits...



TEJAS
सूर्य का तेजस् रूप,
सबसे तेजस्वी, सबसे शक्तिमान !
अपनी जलती हुई आग जैसे नारंगी रंग से
यह हमें हर बुरे विचार से लड़कर
समाज को ऊँचा उठाने की प्रेरणा देता है।
The Sun in its Tejas form:
The most radiant, the most powerful !
With its fiery orange hue, it inspires us
to fight against every negative thought
and elevate society to greater heights.

TEJAS
रूप,
आकाश का प्रदीप !
आग को जलाकर,
हम की राह पर
देता है
Tejas form:
Length, and light !
Evil, inspiring us
Love, and wisdom.

School just isn't the same without our students. The corridors miss their chatter, the playgrounds miss their laughter, and every corner of campus feels a little too quiet. Awaiting their return with energy, curiosity and joy - ready to make the school feel wonderfully alive again.

COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!



View the moments on
Instagram >>

The Power of Written Feedback: Building a Shared Language for Learning

By Dr. Anubha Pandya, Ms. Anita Prasad & Ms. Chetan Singh

Written feedback has always been one of the most time-intensive parts of a teacher's work. Marking books, writing comments, noting next steps and guiding.

Improvement requires time, thought and care. Yet, research reminds us that feedback is powerful only when it is clear, purposeful and helps students understand how to move forward. John Hattie's work places feedback among the highest-impact influences on learning, while Dylan Wiliam and Paul Black's research highlights that comments focused on improvement often matter more than marks alone. This understanding shaped our school's journey with written feedback as a key teaching and learning goals. We began with enthusiasm, but soon discovered something important: different parts of the school understood written feedback in different ways. For some, it meant a structured end-of-task comment with clear targets. For others, it was an ongoing written dialogue in a student's notebook. In some classrooms, feedback came at the end of a unit; in others, it was part of everyday learning.

None of these approaches was wrong. But the absence of a shared language meant we needed to first build common ground.

Student Feedback - Geography Test

Overall Performance: ☐ Excellent understanding ☒ Good understanding ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Needs improvement

Strengths:

- You've underlined the keywords and concepts in your responses.
- Answers are well structured and supported with relevant examples.

Areas to improve:

- Read the questions properly to avoid attempting incorrectly.
- Diagram interpretation needs improvement.

Specific Feedback:

- Conceptual clarity: ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Weak
- Map/Diagram interpretation: ☐ Strong ☒ Moderate ☐ Weak
- Answer presentation: ☐ Clear ☐ Needs more detail ☐ Needs more accuracy

Teacher's Comments:

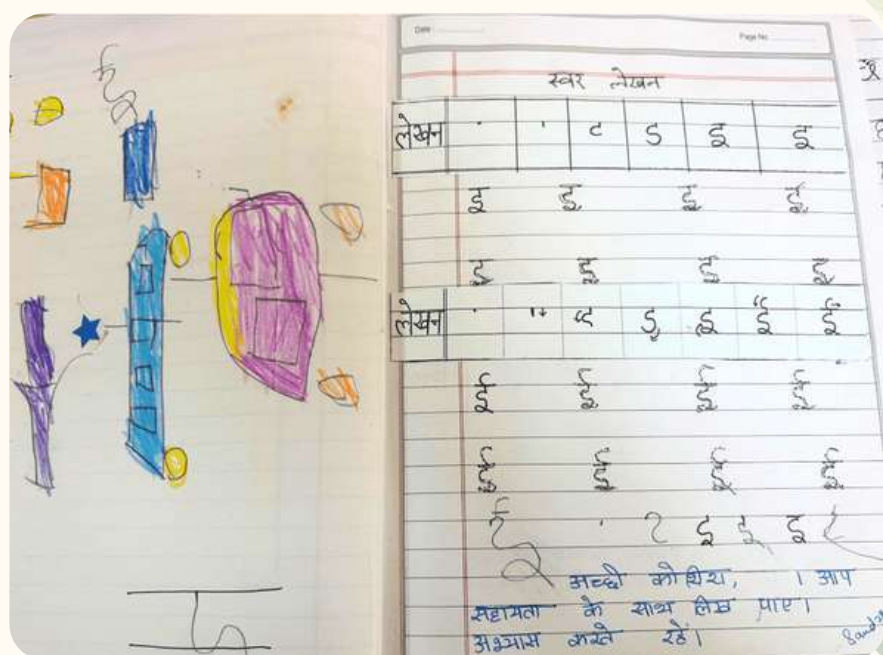
Keep revisiting the concepts. You have strong grasping ability, make use of it to further enhance your performance.

Signature of Teacher: *Chetan Singh*

Key Concepts Self-Assessment

Name: _____

Key Concept	Green	Amber	Red
1. Atmospheric pressure variation with height	☐	☒	☐
2. Greenhouse effect vs. role of ozone layer	☐	☒	☐
3. Types of fronts (cold, warm, occluded, stationary)	☐	☒	☐
4. Isobars and how they show pressure on maps	☐	☒	☐
5. Structure of atmosphere (layers, tropo, etc.)	☐	☒	☐
6. Role of water vapour in the atmosphere	☐	☒	☐
7. Factors affecting planetary winds (Coriolis force, heating, etc.)	☐	☒	☐
8. Local winds (land breeze, sea breeze, valley breeze)	☐	☒	☐
9. Ways the atmosphere heats and cools (radiation, convection, etc.)	☐	☒	☐
10. Temperature distribution: latitude, altitude, distance from sea	☐	☒	☐
11. Functions of each atmospheric layer	☐	☒	☐
12. My preparation for the test	☐	☒	☐



Through meaningful professional conversations, teachers reflected on what written feedback looked like in their classrooms and what they hoped it would do for students. From these discussions emerged a set of shared principles. Written feedback, we agreed, should be purposeful, accessible and dialogic. It should not simply record that work has been seen; it should help students think, respond and act.

Importantly, this shared understanding did not ask every classroom to look the same. Instead, it allowed feedback to remain responsive to age, subject and context. In subjects with extended writing, feedback may include detailed comments, areas for development and clear next steps. In practical or technical subjects, a short, precise comment may be more effective when linked to a specific skill. In younger year groups, feedback is often more conversational, encouraging students while gently guiding improvement.

What unites these approaches is intention: to move the student forward, make them feel seen and give them something meaningful to act on.

Though this journey is still unfolding, early shifts are encouraging. Students are beginning to engage more deliberately with feedback, not merely glancing at marked work, but pausing, reading, reflecting and responding. Teachers are also reporting richer feedback conversations.

Most importantly, students are beginning to ask better questions — not just, “What mark did I get?” but “What do I need to do next?” That shift is exactly where meaningful learning begins.



A Small Detour A Bigger Destination!

Some journeys begin in familiar corridors, over lunch-break laughter and plates of SBS rajma chawal.

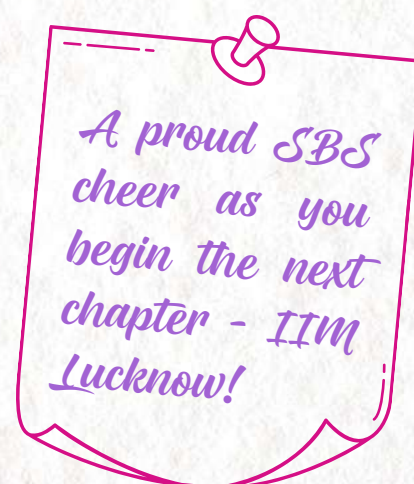
Keya's path then wandered through CA, McKinsey & Company and now IIM Lucknow - not always straight, but full of grit, pauses, pivots and one steady thread running through it all: resilience.

01

What does your life look like at the moment?

I am at an exciting turning point. I have recently wrapped up my role as a Senior Finance Analyst in the Corporate Tax team at McKinsey & Company, where I worked on tax compliance, reporting and process improvement across global teams.

My next chapter begins at IIM Lucknow this June, where I will join the MBA PGP programme as part of the Class of 2028. I am currently in Noida and will soon move to Lucknow, ready to learn, grow and build a wider understanding of business and leadership.



02

How did your journey unfold after SBS?

After SBS, I took on two demanding tracks together - B.Com. (Hons.) at Delhi University and Chartered Accountancy. It was intense, but it taught me discipline, time management and persistence early on. My CA journey began with an articleship at Walker Chandiok, followed by a full-time audit role. In January 2024, I joined McKinsey & Company's Corporate Tax team, where working across global processes deepened my understanding of finance, collaboration and adaptability.

03 What changed your idea of success?

CA Final results in May 2022. After clearing every stage until then, I expected things to go my way, but I could not clear either group. It was highly disappointing, and more challenging owing to personal emotional stress I was enduring. But it taught me that effort matters, but strategy matters just as much - making me pause, rethink and return sharper.

04 What helped you bounce back?

I stopped trying to bulldoze through the setback and changed the game plan. Instead of attempting both CA Final groups together, I put my energy into Group 1, and cleared it. Then came my first solo trip to Dubai, which became more than a holiday. It gave me space, confidence and a reset. I returned sharper, took on Group 2, and completed my CA. Lesson learnt: sometimes, the comeback needs a better strategy.

Keya Palorkar, Class of '18

05 What SBS memories still make you smile?

Rajma chawal in the dining hall - no contest! It is the kind of simple memory that stays. I also miss walking through the corridors with friends, talking about everything and nothing. Those ordinary break-time conversations became the memories I carry most fondly.

06 What would you tell students at SBS today?

Your school grades do not define your future success. Academics matter, but they are only one part of the journey. Curiosity, resilience, consistency and the willingness to learn from setbacks matter just as much. There is no single path to success - just keep growing with consistency and courage.

07 What is one passion from school you still carry?

Competitive tennis. I miss the rhythm of the court - the rallies, discipline and quiet self-belief it built. It taught me to stay focused, recover after a point, and carry confidence well beyond the game.

Quick Takeaways

A hobby that stayed: Racquet sports - badminton and, more recently, pickleball.
One SBS value carried into life: Resilience.

Mark Your Calendar!

The much-awaited July brings students back to the campus and along with them returns rhythm, action and various events.

For updates through the month, stay connected via:

 www.sbs-school.org 



Scan the QR Code to stay updated with all the events.



On the horizon: July 2026

6th - 10th
July

Samvaad
(Middle School)

16th
July

Game Changers
(Senior School)

18th
July

Parent's Makers Day
(Middle School)

20th
July

Shark Tank
(Senior School)

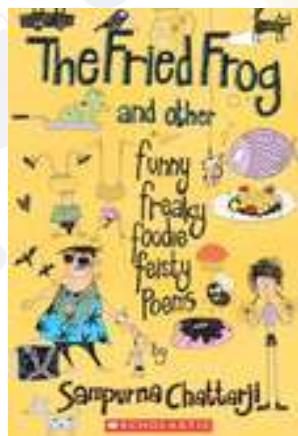
21st - 23rd
July

Ramesh Suri Memorial
Inter School FB/BB/BN
(Senior School)

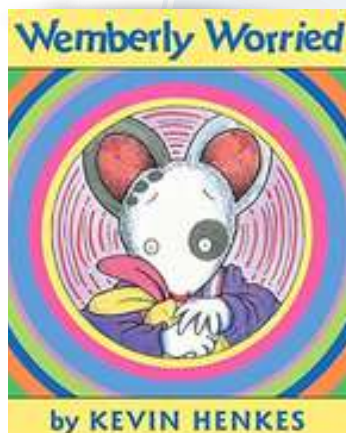
30th - 31st
July

Inclusive SBS interschool
Swimming Meet
(Whole School)

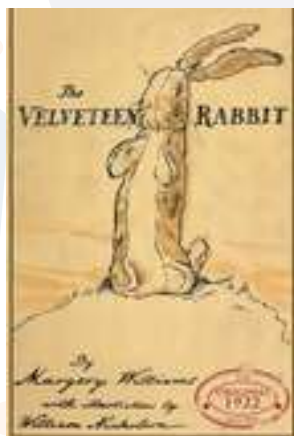
Five Great Reads of the Month



Sampurna
Chattarji



Kevin Henkes



William Nicholson
Margery Williams



Erin Entrada Kelly



Vardhini Amin



SBS Moments





“ I envision SBS as a warm, joyful and nurturing space, where children can explore what it means to live with intelligence and compassion, and grow into integrated and responsible individuals deeply rooted in values of Seva and Inclusion. ”

Mrs. Ritu Suri



Curated by: **Communications, Engagements & Alumni Relations**

For feedback/comments/suggestions, please write to communications@sbs-school.org

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