

Newsletter Issue 3



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8th October 2026





Headteacher's News

I cannot believe we have only been back to school for a month. It seems like we have been back forever and it definitely seems a long time ago that we were sweltering in the heat and desperately sharing the one classroom with aircon. How times change and everything moves on!

The children have settled in so well to their new classes, we have welcomed many new families too – the school is growing and filling with our extra class – it is unbelievable to think that just 3 years ago we had mixed age classes and only 160 children! We now have 203 children at our school and only have spaces in Y2 and Y6.

I feel time is passing so quickly this year, perhaps because I am getting older or perhaps because I only have 3 days a week at Sissinghurst this year with 2 days a week at Cranbrook Primary. I am proud to say is that the staff are all working so hard to ensure your children have wonderful

learning experiences at our school and to secure special memories at primary school too. Many classes have trips being organised already to supplement learning and Y4 are part way through their swimming lessons – a very important life skill and they are loving the coach journey just down the road to the Weald Pool! Mrs Desai and the team are doing a wonderful job in my absence, no one misses me at all which is how a great school should be – not relying on any one person. We are a team and you definitely feel that when you come to Sissinghurst.

Parent Evenings

Hopefully you all popped in to meet the teacher earlier in the term. Early next term we have our slightly more formal parent evenings, where you get to spend more time with the teacher and look at your child's learning in their classrooms and ask how they are progressing with their learning. You will get a sign up email about this before the half term, so look out for it.

Opal Play

If you have not signed up for an Opal play session, do contact the office – a fabulous way to feel part of your child's day and see the school in action at lunchtimes. It is always wonderful to see parents enjoying what we enjoy every day.

Just a reminder that the last day of term is on Thursday 22 October and we are all looking forward to the disco too next Friday, 16 October – we hope to see you there.

Have a lovely weekend when it gets here

Kind regards

Sarah Holman



[Click here for dates](#)

Board of Governors Update

We would like to share an update from our first Board of Governors meeting of the academic year and highlight some of the key areas Governors will be monitoring throughout the year.

Governors unanimously agreed that Andrea Griffiths should continue as Chair for another year, with Charlie Tweddle appointed as Vice-Chair.

Peter Denyer will remain as Vice-Chair until November to support a smooth handover before stepping down as a Governor after 10 years of service. Governors thanked Peter for his considerable time, commitment and contribution to the school and governing board.

During the meeting The Board agreed its Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct for 2026/27 and will complete a Board Effectiveness and skills audit to identify strengths and areas for development. A compliance visit in October will also review governance arrangements and ensure required protocols are being followed.

The Board also reviewed the school's finances and budget monitoring arrangements. the Headteacher's strategic priorities and current school data, including pupil numbers and information relating to pupils with special educational needs (SEN). This enables Governors to monitor progress and ensure decisions reflect the needs of pupils.

Safeguarding, online safety and social media

Safeguarding remains a key priority, with Governors monitoring mandatory training, including Safeguarding, GDPR and Prevent. Emily Hill has now stepped down as Safeguarding Link Governor and this role has been transferred to Elaine Highwood who like Emily, brings relevant DSL experience to the role.

Online safety remains a focus, particularly in light of AI and the potential manipulation of images which is part of our ongoing work to keep children's privacy and safety at the heart of our communications.

Governors also remind parents and carers of the importance of following the school's online safety policy. Social media should be used positively to celebrate our school community; photographs of children should adhere to the updates online safety policy and any concerns should be raised directly with the school through the appropriate channels.

Finally, the Governors heard that the school is trialling a staggered wraparound service in response to requests from parents. Governors will review this with great interest focussing on the impact it has on pupils and families as well as parent and carers feedback

The Governors look forward to continuing to work closely with school leaders, staff and families throughout the year.

Elaine Highwood

Board of Governors



Secondary Admissions

For children starting year 7 in September 2027 applications opened on Monday, 1 September and close on Monday, 2 November 2026.

You can apply for up to 4 schools:

- Put the schools in your order of preference.
- It's in your best interest to list 4 schools.
- Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or
- give priority for a place over another child.
- You are not able to name the same school more than once.

To apply for a school outside of Kent, name the school in your application with your other preferences. Your application details will be passed on to the relevant local authority for processing.

To help you choose the schools to add to your application:

- read the advice about [choosing a school](#)
- find information about open days from the school's website or [contact the school](#)
- read the [guide to secondary admissions for 2027 \(PDF, 1.4 MB\)](#)

Apply

To apply for a year 7 place, complete the online application form.

<https://kent.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Admissions.aspx>

If you provide an email address on your application, they will email you on Monday 1 March 2027 to tell you which school you have been offered or view your offer online.

Drop-In Sessions

Need to talk to one of our amazing inclusion and wellbeing team? Remember we offer drop in SENCO sessions, book via the office – dates can be found here and book up fast. Mrs Ridgway is free if you wish to speak with her on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, just wait to see her if you wish to or book via the office ...

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Drop+in+sessions&pid=92> Remember to see your class teacher in the first instance regarding how your child is getting on in class or at school. If it is general school or home or friendship issues then Mrs Ridgway can help but if something specific regarding a SEN need then Mrs Wolfe is the person you need to speak to.



Contact information - parents

Just a little reminder that if you have had any changes to contact details during the last few months please remember to let the office via telephone or email.

Jewellery in School

A reminder that children should not wear any jewellery in school. This includes material bracelets, necklaces, earrings. Please note earrings must be removed for PE and all physical activity in clubs and tournaments too and swimming. A normal watch is allowed.



Smart Watches / phones in school

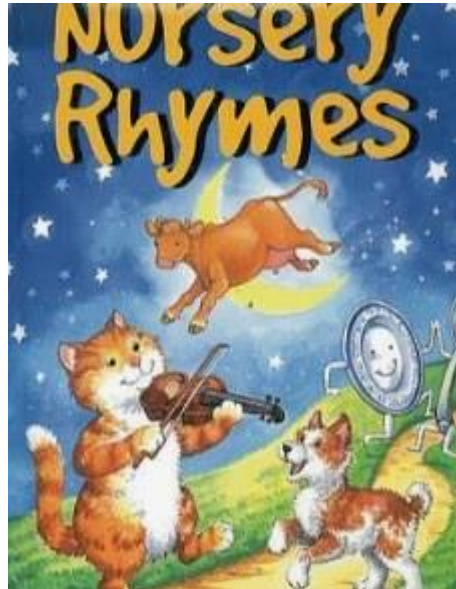
A reminder that in line with government guidelines we do not allow smart watches or phones / devices in school. If your child needs a phone (eg walking home alone) they need to hand it in to the office for safekeeping on arrival and pick up before they leave school at the end of the day.



Younger Children

Please do use these nursery rhyme links (from our reading scheme Little Wandle) to learn them together – a fantastic way to help speech develop and early reading too!

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabNurseryRhymesVideos>



ELSA

ELSA in a school stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Many of our Teaching Assistants offer emotional support to our pupils when needed. This includes help with friendships, social skills, emotions, bereavement, social stories and therapeutic stories, anger management, self-esteem, counselling skills such as solution focus and friendship.

Click here for some resources we use in school

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=ELSA&pid=39>



Rawlinson Fun Run, Friday 2nd October

A fantastic thank you and well done to our Rawlinson runners;

Year 2

Rosie R, Betty P, Amelia B, Archie H, Rowan M, Austin E, Aaron S.

Year 3

Daphne H, Amelia P, Clemmie H, Ben C, Joe W, Jack G, William C, Sam B, Rupert P.

Year 4

Madeline G, Juniper T, Florence H, Albert G, Theo C, George G, Stanley S, Max W.

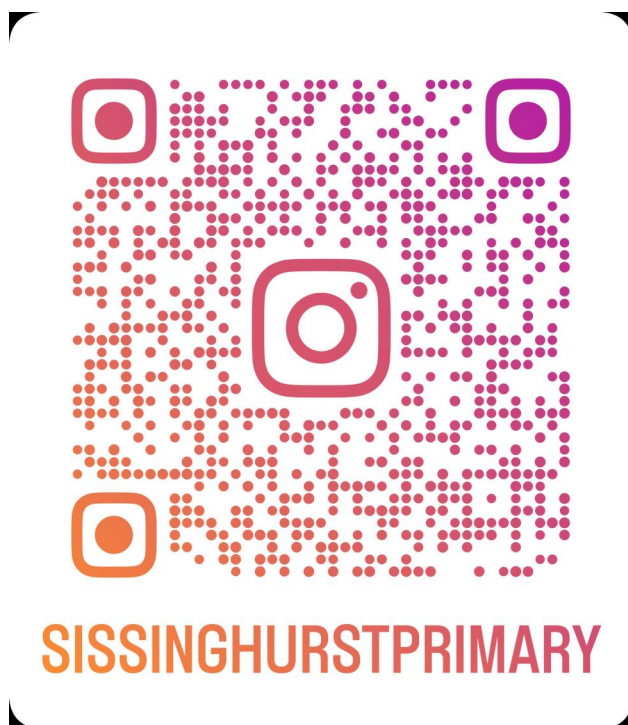
They all ran their race, finishing in great positions! Well done to Joe W, who won a medal for coming 2nd in his race. Also, to Rosie R and Madeline G for finishing in 4th place. Each race, for gender and year group starting with the year 2 girls, had around 50 to 60 children participating.

Well done team!

Mrs Saxby



Instagram



Do follow us on instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sissinghurstprimary/>) to keep up to date on all the exciting activities/ lessons the children are taking part in. Here are a couple from the last two weeks:

In Eagles the children were learning about the process of filtration. They became baristas and used filter paper to separate the liquid from the solid coffee grounds.





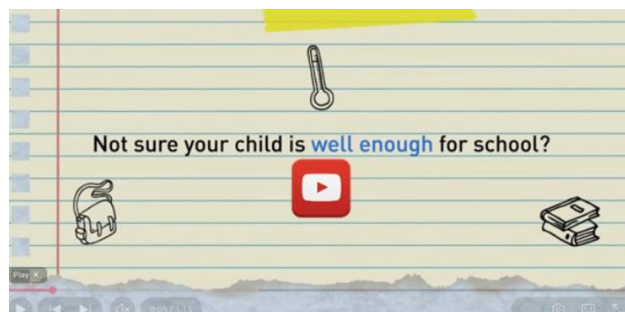


Building a structure that is tall and strong in Giraffes this afternoon





Communicating with parents about illness



1 - [Click Here](#)

There are a range of materials available to support with health and attendance-related messages throughout the year. You could use these at parents' information evenings, in newsletters, or on your social media channels. These include:

- [Our guide to communicating with parents about attendance](#), with ready made, evidence-based resources, such as
 - [an animation on school absence due to illness](#)
 - [an NHS poster on illness decisions](#) to share with parents directly and support staff in conversations with parents
- [NHS communications products](#) for encouraging flu vaccine uptake, that can be downloaded after registering with the portal.
- You can direct parents to the [NHS Is my child too ill for school?](#) guidance and use the communications resources in this section to support your conversations with parents.

Celebration of Community Reading

Please see the attached flyer and template for a book cover competition organised by the Parish Council



NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

You're invited to celebrate books!

Our community book group has spent the year celebrating the National Year of Reading, helping to expand minds, build confidence and bring people together. Now it's time to celebrate the books! Join us for a free, book-themed afternoon for all ages, with discussions, bookmark making, book cover designing and, of course, refreshments.

VESTRY HALL CELEBRATION

Saturday 10th October

2.00 pm – 4.00pm • Vestry Hall, Stone Street, Cranbrook, TN17 3HA

Discussions • Bookmark making • Book cover designing • Refreshments

Everyone welcome – all ages, all reading levels, all book tastes.

DESIGN A BOOK COVER COMPETITION

Prizes for every age group!

Entry forms available from the Parish Office

A CLASSIC FOR EVERY AGE

Age 5-7
The Worst Witch

Age 8-11
Treasure Island

Age 12-14
The Hobbit

15 plus
1984

Full reading list and details at cs-pc.gov.uk



Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council

Follow us on Facebook or visit cs-pc.gov.uk for more information

DESIGN A BOOK COVER COMPETITION

Calling all budding artists and book lovers!

Use the template below and let your imagination run wild to design any book cover you like! Bring your finished masterpiece along to the 'National Year of Reading' event in October. There will be prizes for every age group so everyone has a chance to win!

Most importantly, have fun, be creative and enjoy designing. Good luck!

Why not colour in all the characters on this page to get you started!

Bring your finished masterpiece along to the free 'National Year of Reading' event in the Vestry Hall on Saturday 10th October, from 2.00pm-4.00pm (see page 24)



MARDEN
RUSSETS
HOCKEY CLUB

DISCOVER HOCKEY WITH RUSSETS!



FROM AGE
RECEPTION ★
& UPWARDS



**SUNDAYS &
MIDWEEK**

**LIMITED
PLACES
AVAILABLE!**



BEGINNERS WELCOME!



FUN, FRIENDLY & INCLUSIVE



BUILD SKILLS, CONFIDENCE & TEAMWORK



MAKE NEW FRIENDS & HAVE FUN



BE PART OF A GREAT HOCKEY FAMILY



EMAIL US TO FIND OUT MORE!

juniorhockey@mardensportsclub.com



#MardenRussets

#JuniorHockey

#RussetsFamily

#UpTheRussets



**Visit Kent Police Museum
in Faversham and
become a detective!**

**FREE
entry**

MOTORCYCLE
**DRESS-UP
OPPORTUNITIES**
**INTERACTIVE
EXHIBITS**
**HISTORIC
EQUIPMENT**
**REAL STORIES
FROM KENT'S
PAST**

Follow clues, explore real crime stories,
discover fascinating police equipment, and
enjoy interactive displays.

Learn how crimes were solved in the past
and see unusual objects from more than 200
years of Kent Police history.

**Looking for something to do this
October half term?**

The museum will be open from **Tuesday 27
October to Saturday 31 October, 10am to
4pm**. For the latest opening times and visitor
information, please check the museum
website before you visit.

Bringing Our History to Life

Kent
Police
Museum

kentpolicemuseum
@kpolicemuseum

www.kent.police.uk/kent-museum
Email: museum@kent.police.uk
Telephone 01795 433028

Barn Dance - Sissinghurst Primary School Hall

Trinity Church is organising this event and everyone is welcome. Here is a link for bookings:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/barn-dance-tickets-2000249451956?aff=oddttdtcreator>



Feedback

We welcome feedback. Please use the form here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/form/?pid=86&form=16> if you ever have any suggestions for us to consider.

News & Events

For upcoming local events in the parish of Cranbrook & Sissinghurst:

<https://cranbrookandsissinghurstpc.co.uk/whats-on/upcoming-events/>

Sign up to receive 'Be In The Know' emails from the parish council:

<https://cranbrookandsissinghurstpc.co.uk/>

Or follow the Parish Council Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CranbrookandSissinghurstPC>

Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School

Common Road, Sissinghurst, Kent TN17 2BH

Tel: 01580 713895 / Fax: 01580 710051

office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk / <http://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk>

Office opening hours are 08.30am to 3.30pm (term-time only)