Newsletter Issue 5



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12th November 2026



Headteacher's News

Curriculum Enhancement

Our curriculum is taught as separate subjects and offers many opportunities for children to be successful in the 21st century. You can see our curriculum intent here https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+and+Class+information&pid=44 along with how we implement this and measure the impact of learning in all subjects. It is vital that children learn skills and have the knowledge they need to become successful adults of the future. We are always considering what the future might look like and what skills children may need for their futures. With the fast moving developments, particularly in technology and science it can feel difficult to keep up but we ensure we use research to guide our decisions and principles and are continually developing and enhancing our curriculum offer so it strengthens as it embeds at Sissinghurst so we can offer the very best to all our children.

Anti-Bullying Week

We have thought about the importance of showing kindness and saying NO to bullying and that we celebrate differences between us and how these differences make the human race so interesting. Throughout the week, all children have thought about kindness, respect and forgiveness. Through assemblies and class discussions, the children have learnt 'What is bullying?' They have explored the different forms of bullying and how to deal with bullying. Once establishing what bullying is, we focused our teaching on KINDNESS (one of our school values) and helped the children explore the effects that the smallest kind act may have on another.

Please reinforce these important messages at home too!

Top tips for KINDNESS

Do things for people! Not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are.

Choosing kindness doesn't cost a thing but can help someone enormously.

Showing manners, politeness and kindness cost nothing.

Every new day we are faced with choices Do you choose # KINDNESS?

Saying or doing a kind act can bring a smile to someone's face!

Remember you never know what someone else is going through in their life.

Acts of kindness will never come back to hurt you and will never be wasted on someone.

Being mean, even if you think it's harmless, can hurt someone else very deeply; think twice about what you say and do.

Acts of kindness are good for you as they release Oxytocin.

"Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change."- Bob Kerrey

We have welcomed a number of visitors to Sissinghurst again in the last few weeks – our new school improvement adviser, governors, staff from other schools to look at our curriculum offer, parents considering our school for their child, our Opal play and lunchtimes too. All visitors,

including a number of prospective parents have been so impressed by the children, our offer at Sissinghurst and of course the amazing learning going on in every classroom and over every part of the school day. We are very proud and continue to work tirelessly so the children get the best primary school experience that they can.

We end this week by showing service by giving to Children in Need, where we welcome students from Homewood again too for the much enjoyed Dance Dash!

It has been the most lovely few weeks in school where we focused on all that is important to us at Sissinghurst – our vision to shine brightly and help others who are facing dark or difficult times and to show our values in all we say and do.

Have a wonderful weekend when it gets here

Sarah Holman



Click here for dates

Children in Need - Non-Uniform Day - Tomorrow





Parents Evening - 17 and 19 November 2026

Please remember to sign up to parents evening via Arbor, Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 Nov 3:30-6pm. Click guardian consultation on the home page.

Snacks



A reminder that if children bring snacks into school for their break they must be healthy snacks like fruit or vegetables, raisins, cereal bars (nut free) or plain biscuits. Please do not send chocolate biscuits, bars of chocolate, crisps or Pepperamis in please.

Coats etc. for cold weather



Please make sure that your child is suitably attired for school now the weather has turned colder. They do need a coat for lunch times as they will, of course, normally be outside for a period of time so they can play and have fun in the fresh air. We are sure you will support us in trying to encourage them to adopt healthy lifestyles now and for the future.

Instagram

SISSINGHURSTPRIMARY

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 few recent pictures:

Elephant Class discovering the difference between Fiction and Non-fiction books











Class worship, here beautifully led by Rhino Ethos Leaders:



Let Your Light Shine – Life at Sissinghurst CofE Primary School

Please see our entry for the next Cake Magazine and look out for it when it is published.

At Sissinghurst CofE Primary School, there are some very special words that mean a lot to us:

“Let your light shine.” – Matthew 5:16

We hear these words in collective worship, see them around our school and try to live by them every day. But what does letting our light shine actually mean?

Sometimes it means being brave enough to put our hand up in class, trying something new or not giving up when things get difficult. Other times, it means being kind, helping a friend, including someone in a game or making somebody smile.

Our Christian values are an important part of school life. In collective worship, we listen to Bible stories, sing, pray and think about how we can make good choices. We also enjoy taking on responsibilities, whether that's helping younger children, being event leaders, Team captains or leading worship.

One of the things we love about Sissinghurst is being part of a village community. We enjoy visiting the church, taking part in special services and sharing celebrations with our families and the people of Sissinghurst.

There is always something exciting happening at school, from trips, sports and performances to music, Forest School and simply having fun with our friends. Every day brings new opportunities to learn, grow and discover what we are good at.

We know that everyone is different, and that's what makes our school special. Some of us love maths, others enjoy art, music, reading or sport. We all have different talents, and we are encouraged to celebrate them.

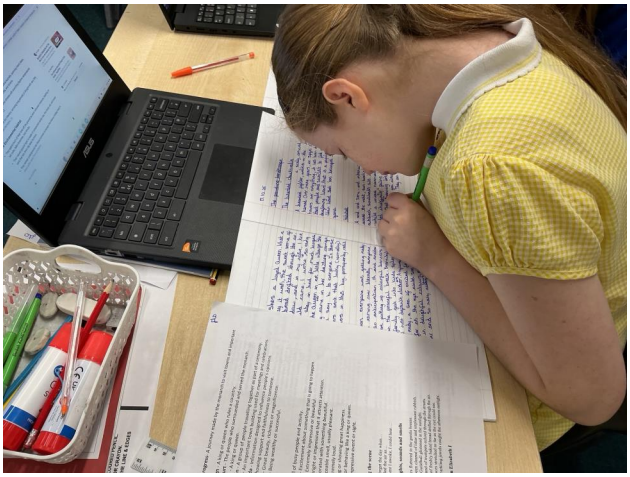
At Sissinghurst, we've learnt that letting your light shine isn't about being better than somebody else. It's about being the best person you can be and helping others to shine too.

From the children of Sissinghurst CofE Primary School







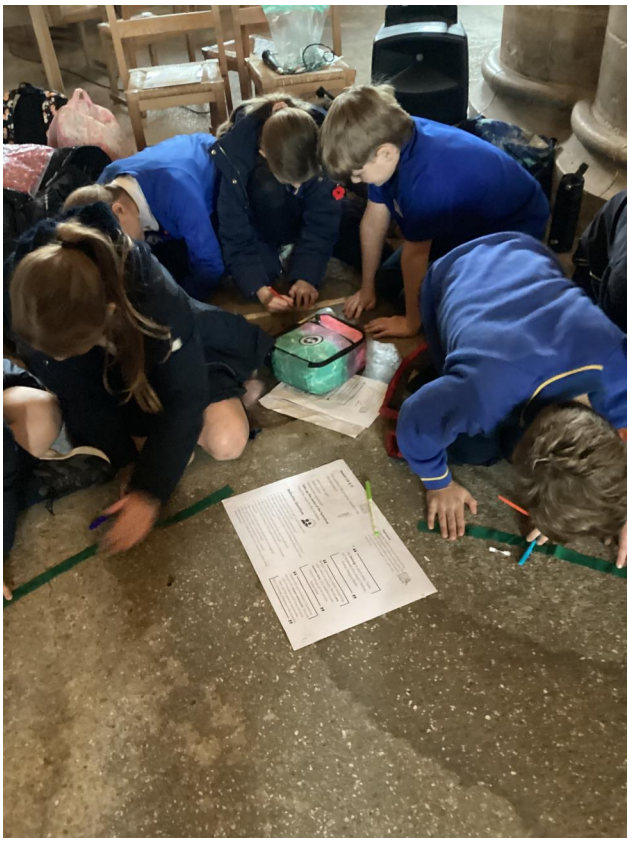




Year 6 Trip to Canterbury Cathedral

Our visit to the cathedral was a wonderful experience for the children. The excitement began with the train journey, which added to the sense of adventure! Once at the cathedral, the children enthusiastically took part in a range of engaging workshops and prayer space activities, giving them opportunities to reflect, explore and learn. It was lovely to see the children participating with such interest and curiosity.





Sandhurst Football Tournament, Thursday 15th October

Our Sissinghurst footballer's; Alex B, Charlie R, Ben S, Billy H, Finn C, Karter P, Calu B, all took part in this great tournament held by Sandhurst primary school.

This was a 5 aside event with roll on subs. We were one of nine other local schools to take part. With the 10 teams split into two groups of 5. Two matches played simultaneously on two pitches. The winners of each group progress to the final for first and second place and the runners-up in each group play for 3rd and 4th place.

Sissinghurst got off to an excellent start, playing with great skill won their first match against Cranbrook 2-0. Our second match against Colliers Green, we did lose 3-0, but Sissinghurst came back strong, winning the next two games against Frittenden and Sandhurst yellows, both 3-0!

This meant Sissinghurst came runners-up. We played against the runners-up in the other group which was Lamberhurst. The match finished 1-1, we went to penalties.... We won, which left us finishing in 3rd place!!

You all have made us so proud.

Well done team!

Mrs Saxby



Parent & Pupil Survey from Caterlink

The survey can be completed by parents alongside their child at home and takes approximately 9 minutes to complete and will provide us with valuable feedback on what we are doing well and, importantly, where we can improve our service.

Please click on the **QR code** to access the survey. The survey will remain open until **20 December**, and we encourage as many families and pupils as possible to take part.

Once all responses have been reviewed in the New Year, we will share a summary of the feedback and key findings with the schools that have participated.

Thank you for your support in helping us gather this important feedback. The insights provided by pupils and parents will help shape our service moving forward.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCYZD5L

Letter from KCC re HAF Vouchers



To Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education
County Hall
Sessions House
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Email: KentHAF@kent.gov.uk
Date: 12 December 2026

Action Required

Dear Colleagues

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Christmas 2026 school holidays

The HAF Programme will be returning for the Christmas 2026 school holidays. Therefore, we would appreciate your support in promoting the programme to eligible children and families within your school community.

You will be aware of recent changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility categories, which have created two groups – targeted and expanded FSM pupils. Government has been clear that only pupils in the targeted FSM group are entitled to wider support beyond their FSMs. Access to HAF is one of the extended benefits that apply to the targeted FSM group only. The HAF Programme offers funded holiday activities, enriching experiences and healthy meals for children in the targeted FSM group. The programme helps children stay active, build friendships, develop new skills and access nutritious food during the school holidays.

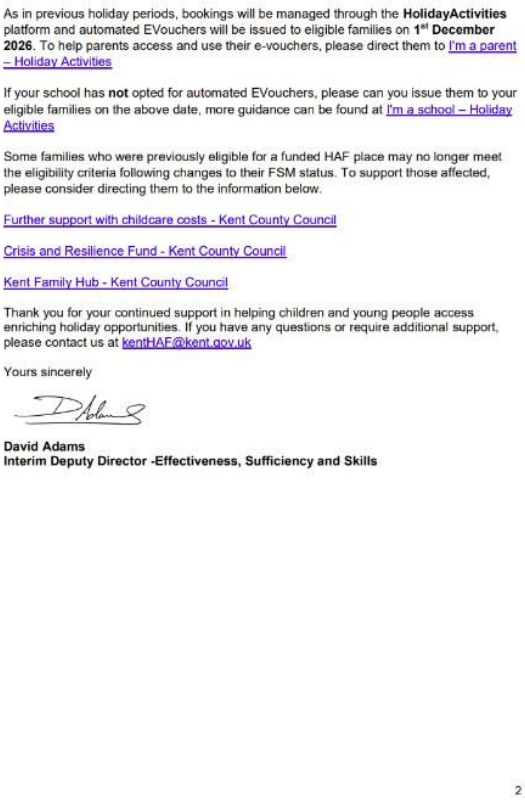
Accordingly, EVouchers will only be issued to children in the **targeted** FSM category. For schools using automated voucher distribution, please ensure your MIS clearly identifies pupils within this category. Where this is not in place, automated distribution will be disabled and vouchers will need to be issued manually to eligible pupils.

We would appreciate your continued support in promoting these opportunities to eligible families by:

- Sharing HAF information and booking details with eligible families through emails, text messaging services and newsletters.
- Promoting the programme on your school's website and social media channels.
- Displaying HAF promotional materials provided by local delivery organisations.
- Encouraging eligible families to explore the activities available in their area.

Further information about the programme is available on the Kent County Council website: Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) - Kent County Council

kent.gov.uk



As in previous holiday periods, bookings will be managed through the **HolidayActivities** platform and automated EVouchers will be issued to eligible families on **1st December 2026**. To help parents access and use their e-vouchers, please direct them to I'm a parent – Holiday Activities

If your school has **not** opted for automated EVouchers, please can you issue them to your eligible families on the above date, more guidance can be found at I'm a school – Holiday Activities

Some families who were previously eligible for a funded HAF place may no longer meet the eligibility criteria following changes to their FSM status. To support those affected, please consider directing them to the information below.

Further support with childcare costs - Kent County Council

Crisis and Resilience Fund - Kent County Council

Kent Family Hub - Kent County Council

Thank you for your continued support in helping children and young people access enriching holiday opportunities. If you have any questions or require additional support, please contact us at kentHAF@kent.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

David Adams
Interim Deputy Director -Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills

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If you wish to follow any of the links please click on the pdf version of the letter here:

https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Home&pid=11

Cranbrook Town Band
Training and Foundation





Please drop gifts at one of the following: Maddisons Residential; St George's Childcare; The Amelia; Hoopers; Royal Victoria Place; Big Yellow and Notcutts. Thank you for your support. For more information please visit twmta.co.uk or contact trevor.crawford@mayorstoyappeal.co.uk

The Amelia · ROYAL VICTORIA PLACE · BIG YELLOW SELF STORAGE · MADDISONS · St George's · Tunbridge Wells Borough Council · HOOPERS · Notcutts

kae Family Learning
kent adult education



Christmas CRAFTS

A creative experience for the whole family!

Where:

Family Hub Outreach Centre (Cranbrook)
Carriers Road
Cranbrook
Kent
TN17 3JZ

Work together to make cherished memories and beautiful crafts that celebrate the joy of togetherness.

Date:

8th December 2026

Time: 3.30pm – 5.00pm

To book a place please contact:

TWFAMILYHUB@KENT.GOV.UK

03000 418059

Kent County Council

For more information scan the QR code

kentadulteducation.co.uk

FREE, Fun & Informal

LOCAL SCHOOLS
LOCAL BUSINESSES
OUR COMMUNITY
One Magical Christmas

SUPPORT LOCAL SHOP LOCAL

TENTERDEN CHRISTMAS Window Trail

FIND THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS IN SHOP WINDOWS ACROSS TENTERDEN

Look out for the festive items from the traditional Christmas song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' displayed in participating shop windows.

Pick up your trail sheet from Tenterden Town Hall and search for the 12 items in the town's shops.

1 COLLECT YOUR TRAIL SHEET
Available from Tenterden Town Hall.

2 SEARCH THE SHOP WINDOWS
Find all 12 items from the Christmas song.

3 CONNECT EACH ITEM TO WHAT SHOP YOU SAW IT IN.

4 ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW
Return your completed sheet to Tenterden Town Hall and be in with a chance to win a fantastic prize, donated by our local businesses!

A fun, festive activity for all the family

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER
6PM – 9PM

TRAIL SHEETS AVAILABLE FROM
TENTERDEN TOWN HALL

Support Local ♥ Shop Local ♥

LOCAL SCHOOLS
LOCAL BUSINESSES
LOCAL COMMUNITY
One Magical Christmas

TENTERDEN CHRISTMAS *Window Trail*

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS TRAIL

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Write the shop(s) where you found each item.

1. *Partridge in a Pear Tree* _____
2. *Two Turtle Doves* _____
3. *Three French Hens* _____
4. *Four Calling Birds* _____
5. *Five Gold Rings* _____
6. *Six Geese a-Laying* _____
7. *Seven Swans a-Swimming* _____
8. *Eight Maids a-Milking* _____
9. *Nine Ladies Dancing* _____
10. *Ten Lords a-Leaping* _____
11. *Eleven Pipers Piping* _____
12. *Twelve Drummers Drumming* _____

Name: _____
Age: _____ School: _____
Contact: _____

ENTER THE PRIZE DRAW
Return your completed sheet to Tenterden Town Hall and be in with a chance to win a fantastic prize, donated by our local businesses!

Support Local ♥ Shop Local ♥


SANTA AT THE MUSEUM
5TH & 6TH DEC 2026
10AM - 4PM
BOOKING VIA WEBPAGE FOR SANTAS GROTTO
RAFMANSTON.CO.UK
HE'S ON HIS WAY
BOOK HERE
SANTA'S 'HELI-GROTTO'
Santa's grotto and present included in normal Museum admissions fee (Event T&Cs apply)
TICKETS ARE AVAIABLE ON THE DAY
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM


WATERPIXIES
SWIM SCHOOL
NURTURING THE TWINKLE IN EVERY SWIMMER
INTRODUCING
WaterPixies Swim Plus
Better technique. More to explore.
A progressive programme combining swimming tuition, technique development, fitness and a variety of aquatic activities — including Rookie Lifeguard classes, games, team challenges, synchronised skills and lifesaving challenges, plus stamina and endurance sessions.
Bethany School, Goudhurst, Kent
25m × 13m pool
NEW SWIMMER ASSESSMENT MORNING
Sunday 6th December
Can't make it? Individual assessments can be arranged.
Weekend sessions launching January 2027
ENROLMENT NOW OPEN
Opportunities for children of all abilities, as well as adults looking to improve their technique and fitness.
waterpixies.co.uk | swim@waterpixies.co.uk | WaterPixies Swim School | waterpixies_swim



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

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

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