

Newsletter Issue 7



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6th December 2023

Headteacher News

In our last newsletter of the term it is with joy that we share a little of school life with you. Throughout the school we hear infants rehearsing their songs and see the Y1 children acting out the story of Christmas for their 'Wriggly Nativity' tomorrow. It is a delight and we cannot wait for the school and parents to see.

We have been thinking about advent in the last week and the children were so excited thinking about the Christmas story and what it felt like to wait for something so exciting. We have been talking about how we prepare for Christmas and the lovely traditions we have.

Today we are holding our Christmas shop in school. We thank our FOSS for organising this and ensuring children can spread a little joy in the wonder of Christmas as excitement builds.

Of course the first of December brought joy to us too as the first few snowflakes fell and children were beside themselves with awe and wonder and wishing for sledging, snowman building and much more! Of course it was a brief flurry and we had to then temper our expectations but still had hope of what might be.

Support

There may be families in our community who find this season a challenge for whatever reason and I hope they have the support around them that they may need. Remember we are here if anyone needs support. Please just let us know and we can book a time for you to speak with Mrs Ridgway who can listen, help and guide you at this time.

Staffing

Mrs Christie leaves us this week for her new school. We wish her well and thank her for being such a great TA at Sissinghurst for the last few years. We will miss her.

Mr Tennant leaves us at the end of term. We are grateful for his work in Y6 for the last 2 terms and wish him well in his new post. Mrs Lea will work alongside Mrs Desai in Y6 from January.

We say goodbye at the end of term also to Mrs MacFarlane. Mrs MacFarlane has worked at Sissinghurst, teaching many children in KS1 over the years and leading RE and phonics across the school. We are so grateful for all she has done in her time with us, seeing many changes and working with many families in the last 10 years. We know she will be a valuable member of the KCC SEN team and wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

Dates

All our dates for families are here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Diary+Dates+%26amp%3B+Newsletters&pid=12> but please particularly note ...

Tomorrow – Nativity for infant parents at 2pm

Tuesday, 12th – Wear normal uniform with a Christmas jumper replacing our school one. You can wear hats, antlers, etc too. Christmas Dinner day.

Wednesday, 13th – parties in the afternoon – teachers will contact you to let you know information for your child's class

Friday, 15th – Christmas service in church 9.30-approx 10am – join us if you can, but note there is limited seating so you may have to stand at the back. Also Open Afternoon from 2pm - Where parents are invited to tour the school, see books and speak with class-based staff from 2pm. You will need to sign your child out and they will get a sticker to show this has happened so Mrs Holman can check this on the gate before you leave. We do hope you can make it.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and enjoy the celebrations too in the run up to the big day.

Sarah Holman



[Click the link to see Dates for Diaries](#)

FOSS Chair AGM Report - 22nd November 2023

Click the link below to read the Report:

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=FOSS&pid=20>

FOSS Christmas Shopping

What a fabulous morning! The children were so happy with the gifts that they chose.

The FOSS volunteers were fantastic! We had shop keepers and lots of wrappers and they worked like Christmas elves to get the whole school through the shop by lunchtime.

The event raised just short of £1000 which is incredible. Thank you all for your enthusiasm and generosity.

We do have some left over gifts and our pop up shop will pop up next week (weather permitting) and you will be able to purchase extra gifts. Details to follow.

Thank you and Merry Christmas from the FOSS team.

Parking

We are lucky enough to have 39 designated parking spaces in the car park. Today, for example, school and nursery staff are using 27 out of the 39 spaces. This leaves 12 spaces.

The building project on Cobnut Close is due to finish around easter time, so unfortunately the extra few spaces on the road will most likely not be available until then.

There are approximately 170 pupils at the school. Whilst we are more than happy for parents to use spaces that are available, especially those with young children and pushchairs, as you can see, the car park is not built for parent parking.

If you choose to use the car park, please only do so when it is not already at capacity. If the car park is at capacity, please park at The Milk House.

If you choose to enter the car park whilst it is overcrowded, or park in undesignated spaces, especially at the end of the day, please do so with extreme care and consideration for others and do not park near the gate.

A parent has reported that a Nissan Qashqai (reg BW15 DPX) parked by the gate on double yellows yesterday preventing people leaving the car park. Please can we ask again that you are considerate to others regarding where you park.

Thanks in advance,

Sarah Holman

Headteacher

Vaping

Just a reminder that vaping is NOT permitted on the school grounds or in the car park itself. Anyone found to be vaping on the premises will be asked to please leave the school site.

Year R Admissions September 2024

If you have a child due to start in Year R in September 2024 we would advise that online applications are now open for parents wanting to apply. The closing date is midnight on the 15th January 2024. Applications should be made online. Offer day is 16th April 2024 where you will be offered a school for your child.

Please see link below for full details and for the link to make your application. There is also a booklet with lots more information for parents to read.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places#tab-2>

If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Garner in the school office.

Term Dates 2024-2025

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=360&type=pdf>

GetSafeOnline.org

Will your children be keeping safe online this Christmas, with those new devices and lots of time on their hands? Talk to them about what they're doing and guide them in the right direction and choose good parental control software/apps.

<https://x.com/getsafeonline/status/1731655615611625711?s=58>

Kooth Talks Webinars

Supporting the mental health of children and young people in the community.

The following webinar is available on the Kooth Engagement Team website. Link below

<https://vimeo.com/koothengagementteam>

- **Support for young people experiencing anxiety or stress this winter:** [Thurs 14 Dec, 6-7pm](#)
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[Tunbridge Wells District Children's Centres](#)

Please [CLICK this link to see our latest SWAY](#) , showing you everything that's going on in our Children's Centres and within the local community along with lots of useful information for yourself and your family....

NEW for this week

Southborough Library will be changing their opening times from the 4th December, please see the flyer.

NEW in Section 5 - SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

5.3 - Parenting Support

· **Kent Fire and Rescue** are offering **FREE Home Safety Visits** - for more information and to book your visit take a look in *Section 5.3*.

· **Family Rights Group and Advocacy Service** is for parents, grandparents, relatives, friends and kinship carers who are involved with children's services in England or need their help. They support families to understand the law and child welfare processes when social workers or courts are making decisions about their children. For more information visit: [Get Help and Advice - Family Rights Group \(frg.org.uk\)](http://frg.org.uk)

· NEW from **BBC Tiny Happy People**:

1. Your baby's physical development and their language growth.
2. Potty training for parents of children with additional needs
3. Water play can benefit discovery and language learning

5.5 - Support for your well-being

· The Citizen's Advice Bureau are able to offer support on **Money and Perinatal Mental Health**, take a look at the flyer in *Section 5.5* for more information.

NEW in Section 8 - DOMESTIC ABUSE

· **West Kent Domestic Abuse Conference** taking place on the 6 December at 9.30am, take a look in *Section 8* for more information and to obtain your ticket.

· **Get ready to take part in the 16 Days of Action: End Domestic Abuse campaign from 25 November - 10 December 2023.** Starting on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ending on International Human Rights Day, this global moment presents an ideal time for you to Know, See, Speak Out about domestic abuse and the support services available across Kent and Medway. To find out more and how you can take action, visit *Section 8*.



[Tunbridge Wells District Children's Centres](#)

NOVEMBER

[Go to this Sway](#)

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Sessions@ Larkfield Leisure Centre

Everyone is welcome at our centres, and we recognise the importance of inclusive environments for those with SEN (Special Educational Needs) and disabilities. Have a look at our Weekend & Holiday Swim Sessions and Saturday SEN Club at Larkfield Leisure Centre! Our facilities are ideal for people with disabilities, [with easy access](#), dedicated changing facilities and hoists to aid access to the Fitness Pools. Before visiting please view [details of our Child Admission Policy](#). **SEN Swim Sessions** Our SEN Swim Sessions are designed to help those with special educational needs and disabilities to access the swimming pools during busy periods, when queuing may not be an appropriate option. These sessions will be in operation during peak times such as weekends and holiday periods. Spaces are limited to 15 per slot and can only be booked by those with an appropriate SEN Priority Card and their immediate family. Weekend SEN Swimming Slots are planned: 10am, 12 noon, 2pm and 4pm (subject to change - please check with reception) School Holiday SEN Swimming Slots are the same as the weekend slots. If you pre-book a SEN Swim session, and there is a queue which is not moving when you arrive, you may advance to the front of the queue and notify reception that you are here for a SEN session. You will collect your bands and pay for the session (if not already done so). If the queue is moving when you arrive, please wait in line unless it stops moving.



At least one person in the booked group MUST have a qualifying SEN Priority Card. To qualify for a SEN Priority Card, you must have one of the following:

- [TMBC Leisure Pass](#) or Leisure Pass letter from TMBC
- Valid and in date Blue Badge ID
- DWP letter for incapacity/carer's allowance
- Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independent Payment (PIP)
- Headed letter from a medical practitioner dated within 12 months of application

To book, please call LLC Reception on [01622 719345](tel:01622719345) or at reception on your next visit. You may book 7 days in advance. **Saturday SEN Club** meets on 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Our Saturday SEN Club offers two hours of entertaining sporting activities to customers with special learning needs or disabilities and their carers. Come along and join in the fun, make new friends and learn new skills. Activities include swimming, short tennis, trampolining, table tennis and badminton - activities may vary due to the instructor present on the day. The Club meets 5pm to 7pm on the first and third Saturday of each month. £3.20 per person, carers go free.

<https://www.tmactive.co.uk/locations/larkfield-leisure/swimming-pools-prices/10-centres/larkfield-leisure-centre/648-sen-sessions-llc>



Bedwetting - reasons and how to stop it - ERIC

See attached link

<https://eric.org.uk/childrens-bladders/bedwetting/>

The School Nurse Team can become involved if needed via a referral from Mrs. Wolfe.



#WE ARE
THE HAWKS!!!
COME JOIN US!!!

WE NEED YOU!!!!

U8's/Yr3

TRAINING:-THURSDAY NIGHTS AT
BETHANY 6.30-7.30pm.
MATCHES:-SATURDAY MORNINGS!!
hawkhurstunitedjfc@gmail.com



CALL, WHATSAPP OR
EMAIL FOR MORE DETAILS!
07596909464

Church News

Frittenden Church





TN17 2DD

parking on road

Sissinghurst Church TN17 2JL

*parking in rear part of
The Milkhouse carpark*

Sunday by Sunday @10am

DATE	ALL SERVICES @10AM* (except red!)	DATE	ALL SERVICES @10AM* (except red!)
5 th Nov	Family Praise (½ hr)		
12 th Nov	10:30 @Frittenden War Memorial 10:50 Remembrance Service	12 th Nov	10:50 Remembrance Service with our Uniformed Organisations & groups
19 th Nov	Communion & groups 		
		26 th Nov	Communion & groups & W ²
3 rd Dec	Family Advent Praise (½ hr)		
		10 th Dec	Communion & groups
17 th Dec	Communion & groups	17 th Dec	5pm Carol Service <i>older children</i>
		24 th Dec	Morning Worship & provision
24 th Dec	3pm Crib Service (½ hr)	24 th Dec	4pm Crib Service ½ hr
	Mon 25 th Christmas Family Communion		Mon 25 th Christmas Family Communion
31 st Dec	Communion & provision 		
7 th Jan	Family Praise (½ hr)		
		14 th Jan	Communion & groups 
21 st Jan	Communion & groups 		
	<i>Slow down, get your bearings, look again and discover LIFE ACCORDING TO Jesus in 2021 - it's new, online & free!</i> 	28 th Jan	Morning Worship & groups & W ²
			* If you're running late, don't worry, just slip in... More info on website or call Claire/Pete: 852275



Sissinghurst & Frittenden Churches
warmly invite you to our

Christmas Services *December 2023*

Sun 17th - Carol Services	5pm at Trinity 6:30pm at St Mary's
Sun 24th Christmas Eve Crib Service	3pm at St Mary's 4pm at Trinity
Christmas Eve Communion	8pm at Trinity 11:15pm at St Mary's
Mon 25th Christmas Day Christmas Day Communion	10am at Trinity 10am at St Mary's
Sun 31st New Years Eve Joint Churches Communion	10am at St Mary's



For more details check our website
