

Newsletter Issue 8



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3rd January 2024



Headteacher News

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your cards, gifts and kind wishes at the end of last term. I hope you all had a good break with your friends and family.

There are lots of exciting things planned for this term and it has been delightful to see the children return with such enthusiasm for learning. Please do follow our Twitter feed if you are not already so you can keep up to date on <https://twitter.com/sissinghurstVA> . We are delighted to have over 135 followers so far.

It has been a great start to term 3 with so much exciting learning already taking place. Staff enjoyed a wonderful training day on Tuesday where we focused on two of our focus curriculum areas – PSHE and Art and the opportunities we provide for children to excel in these subjects. Miss Wells and Mrs Wolfe led informative sessions for staff to consider in the morning and we used the afternoon to plan excellent opportunities across the term for reading and writing for each year group.

The children have been thinking about New Year Resolutions and being determined to keep them! This encourages us all to think about things we want to change, start or stop. Our assembly to start the term focused on this and it was very interesting to hear what resolutions the children are working on!

Great pupils at Sissinghurst

We were delighted to receive comments at the end of term praising our pupils during their walk to and from the church services on the last day and also to the choir in their performance at The Trinity Café in the last week of term. It is always fantastic to hear such positives about our pupils and a great way to start the new year.

Winter Weather

As the weather continues to be wintry questions will inevitably be asked about the school operating as normal. We sent a letter explaining this and how we operate if extreme weather. It can be found on our website here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Home&pid=11> We will always endeavour to stay open and only in very rare circumstances would we consider closing. If

this was a decision that we needed to take we would ensure that all parents receive a text / Studybug message as well as adding messages to our website and Twitter feed. Remaining open may mean that the organisation of classes and staffing may alter slightly due to the potential for some staff not being able to travel to work. Please avoid calling the office to check if the school is open as it will be unless you receive a message.

Staffing changes

We welcome two new staff this term. Mrs Woods as teacher in Giraffes and Miss Culley as a Teaching Assistant working in Elephants and Zebras.

For new families to Sissinghurst, we send a fortnightly newsletter each fortnight on a Wednesday. Please do take the time to read the contents and check diary dates to keep well informed with all that is going on in school.

I hope you have a lovely weekend when it gets here.

Best wishes,

Sarah Holman



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

Clubs for Term 3

We are delighted to be able to offer clubs as taster sessions for children at Sissinghurst to try new sports or things over the course of the year.

Please remember we offer our wrap around care if you require childcare facilities rather than an activity club.

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Extended+Services+and+Clubs&pid=14>

REMINDERS

Parking



Just a reminder to please be kind and considerate to all our families when parking in the car park and to park safely. Please DO NOT park like this as it wastes valuable parking spaces. Many thanks

Uniform Expectations

Please see link below. Just a reminder please to wear black shoes, no nail varnish, navy trousers (we have seen some pupils in black trousers or joggers – these are not uniform). Thank you for your support.

<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=319&type=pdf>

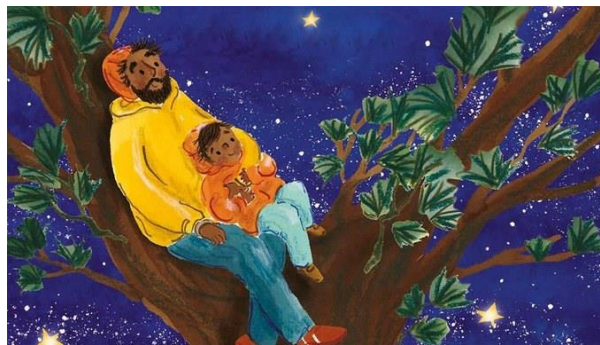
Healthy Snacks/Water



Please remember to send your child to school with a named water bottle and a healthy snack. Children in the infants receive free fruit and vegetables from the local scheme.



We know January isn't everyone's favourite month - but we ARE kicking off 2024 with some really wonderful children's books! Check out our picks here: <https://booktrust.org.uk/books-we-love> Pic: Nanette Regan



KOOTH

Kooth is a mental health and wellbeing platform that offers online counselling support. Not only do we offer access to counselling, at Kooth we feature self help tools including online journaling, goal setting and mindfulness techniques. We also have a community space on our Kooth magazine and discussion boards where young people can give and receive advice and support from others their age.

We are commissioned, and therefore free to young people at the point of need, by the local ICB who are keen to make sure every young person aged 10 - 25 in Kent is aware of their access to this platform.

We are a website at www.kooth.com that is accessible on all browsers and through all devices, including mobile, tablet and desktop.

We also have some exciting news to share! Our Qwell adult service was launched on 1st of October and will be rolled out for the whole population of Kent & Medway for those aged 18+. Qwell works the same as Kooth but is aimed at adults. The content and layout are different but the services we offer for adults are the same as for young people. You can access Qwell at www.qwell.io

Kooth and Qwell are somewhat different from traditional support services that may not be available after the end of the working day. We are staffed by fully trained and qualified counsellors who are available until 10pm each night, 365 days per year. We've found that over 70% of contact with the service is made by young people after traditional office hours.

With no long waiting times or referral process, Kooth and Qwell are a fantastic way for young people and adults to get the help and support they need, when they need it, rather than having to wait long periods for an appointment.



Shelley Williams (She/Her)

Engagement Lead Kent

5 Merchant square

London

W2 1AYTel: 07917 806608

www.koothplc.com

[Kooth Free Resource Hub](#)

[Research Library: View our Archives](#)[What's On Your Mind?: Support for Students](#)[Kooth](#)

[Work: Employee Mental Health Support](#)



Our free recommended reading lists for KS1 to promote independent reading and reading for pleasure through a diverse and vibrant range of books for pupils in Year 1 & Year 2.

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks1-school-pupils/...> [#edutwitter](#)
[#teachertwitter](#) [#kidlit](#)



UPLANDS ACADEMY SIXTH PHASED CLOSURE: CONSULTATION

<https://www.uplands-academy.org/sixth-form-consultation/598.html>

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=h9hEll4RaUeWOiK-GjFaFbRaUJnyh1BsCagHzeOeBVUQjZIVVJNQJERjVTOFlwMzBTOUc0SVRGMi4u>

The Sissinghurst Drama Class

Drama Workshops with

East Sutton Community Youth Theatre

Will be held in the Main Hall On Tuesdays from 7.45 a.m.to 8.50 a.m.

Restarts SPRING TERM on Tuesday 9TH January 2024 School Years 2 to 6.

Drama with Mike Dyer-Ball.

Mike is a Professional actor, who trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, appearing at many repertory Theatres,

including the Marlowe, the Vaudeville Theatre, West End, and in TV drama, such as Casualty. Formed ESCYT in 1993.

Productions, Scenes, Drama Exercises [“Suspension of Disbelief”] such as *Outdoor Survival, Hotel Fabuloso, Haunted House,*

***Rabbits and Ferrets,* Dancing, Singing and a host of other activities. Confidence building/Imaginative/FUN!**

COST for TEN weeks, only £50.00.

☑ It is loads of fun ☑ Why not give it a try?

Joining E.S.C.Y.T means access to:-

Our Fantastic Summer Fun Camp in August 2024 (29th Year), www.summerfuncamp.co.uk

Theatre trips to London to see shows including *Lion King, Matilda, Annie, Mary Poppins etcetera.*

Please don't miss this golden opportunity!

Brochure and Enquiries, please 'phone/email:

Mike Dyer-Ball: www.escyt.co.uk

On 01622 844321 / 07885 790 781/mike@escyt.co.uk



Start the [#newyear](#) by putting your child's [#onlinesafety](#) first. [#ParentalControls](#) are designed to support children online. With so many options from content restrictions to [#screentime](#) management, you can customise them to suit your child

<https://bit.ly/3JYRU5g> [#parents](#)



If your child is spending money gifted to them over the holidays, make sure they use the right apps to stay safe

<https://bit.ly/3Rdqeix> [#marketplace](#) [#parents](#) [#onlinesafety](#) [#finance](#) [#spending](#) [#kids](#)

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