

# Newsletter Issue 10



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31st January 2024



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## Headteacher News

I cannot believe I am already writing the last newsletter of the term. Time is flying by and so much is going on at Sissinghurst! We have had various visits from the local authority and governors this term and it has been very exciting and productive to be talking about how our curriculum is growing and developing and for the children to share their books and learning with visitors. How much children know and remember is important as this helps them use and apply this knowledge across their learning and helps them make links and new learning easier to access. Teachers and Teaching Assistants have been focusing on adapting the curriculum so it is accessible to all learners and this is something all schools are focusing on so all children make super progress.

### Surveys

It is almost a year since we last sent you questionnaires when Ofsted visited Sissinghurst. We plan to send similar questions to you annually so we can consider how well we are doing and any areas to improve on from all the school community. Your views are vital to us and we do hope you can spend 5 minutes completing the link which was sent to you via Studybugs on Monday. Please complete the questionnaire by next Friday, 9 February.

Children will be completing a similar questionnaire in school and staff also. I will share the findings with you when all the responses are collated.

### Safeguarding

All staff regularly receive updates for child protection and safeguarding. Click here for safeguarding information <https://sissinghurst.ovw8.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=27> and remember that although we have a number of DSLs to help you, Mrs Ridgway can always assist if you need help or advice and that I (Mrs Holman) am the safeguarding lead at Sissinghurst Primary.

### Wellbeing

We also have an amazing wellbeing section of our website. This includes information and support on a variety of issues that frequently as families, we need. They include – Anger and Behaviour, Anxiety and Self-esteem, Being calm, Grief and loss, Family time and much more – do take a look <https://sissinghurst.ovw8.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Wellbeing&pid=32>

Coats etc. for cold weather

Please make sure that your child is suitably attired for school as the cold weather continues. They do need a coat for lunch times as they will, of course, normally be outside for a period of time. Can you please also ensure that your child brings in a tracksuit or 'old' sweater and jogging bottoms for outdoor games lessons. They can be left in school in your child's PE bag. It is important that all children take a full part in PE and games lessons and are suitably clothed for outdoor sessions so that they can enjoy them without getting too cold. We are sure you will support us in trying to encourage them to adopt healthy life styles now and for the future.

We look forward to the disco next week and wish you a happy holiday when it gets here.

Sarah Holman



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

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## Attendance

Navigating the school year, we're thrilled to share uplifting news about our attendance at Sissinghurst Primary!

Excellent attendance is one of the secret ingredients for success. At Sissinghurst, each day unfolds as an opportunity for discovery, growth, and fun. Your child's daily presence isn't just about personal success; it also adds vibrancy to our school community. However, we understand that some children who have medical needs may have a lower attendance rate.

Picture the impact when every child is here, ready to engage, learn, and share their unique perspectives. Regular attendance not only boosts academic achievements but also fosters a sense of belonging and fellowship among our children.

Attendance is a team effort: A big thank you to our children, parents, and staff for prioritizing attendance at Sissinghurst Primary. Parents, your role is vital in promoting attendance. Your encouragement, support, and emphasis on the importance of being present significantly contribute to our children's success. By prioritizing school, you're laying the foundation for a lifetime of positive habits and a love for learning.

Attendance figures to date:

Lion Class - 95%

Giraffe Class - 92%

Elephant Class - 95%

Zebra Class - 95%

Rhino Class - 96%

Eagle Class - 95%

Leopard Class - 94%

Thank you for being an essential part of our vibrant and thriving school community!

Mrs Desai

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## Reading – how we teach it

Please click here for full information, including how to pronounce pure sounds when helping your child read at home. <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=English&pid=59> Please note that we use a whole class teaching approach at Sissinghurst, and our volunteers and some key adults hear readers who need extra help. Once children are more fluent readers they move away from the reading scheme books onto more complex texts.

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## Governor's Update

January often seems like the longest month of the year and already the festivities in December seem like a long time ago. As a Parent Governor (I have a daughter in year 5), I enjoyed seeing the children come together at Trinity Church for their end of year Christmas service with Rev Pete, great to hear the children sing and showcase their talent. I will also look forward to using my Old Spice gift set, purchased for me at the school Christmas Shopping Day, I promise!

With the new year in full swing, our governing team has already met within our subcommittee groups, Learning and Development and Resources. I sit on the Resources committee responsible for overseeing financial matters and resource management. It plays a vital role in budgetary decisions, financial planning, and ensuring effective use of resources to support the educational goals of the school.

Collectively we review how and where the budget has been allocated, taking into account both income and expenditure, helping to ensure that money is well utilised to provide the best education and resources we can for our children.

It's been great to visit the school recently as see the children busily enjoying their day, always reminds me of how blessed we are with our school environment, a relatively new school in comparison to others but one that stills needs constant maintenance which all needs to be planned and budgeted for.

We have exciting plans for a new building which will provide an additional classroom space, now that we have moved to a single form entry school. This will be an area of focus to ensure we are making the right financial decisions during its construction. Another topic of discussion was looking at other sources of income we can generate through the school such as renting out the hall for external clubs and private hire, which can all go towards achieving some of the school's long-term ambitions.

The school has made great progress this past academic year and over the next term governors will be meeting to review where we are as a governing body and how we want to work going forward.

Although we have fulfilled our governing positions within the parent community, we do have a vacancy for a foundation governor following the departure of Wendy Eastwood. If you know of anyone who isn't directly connected to the school as a parent, looking for an opportunity to volunteer their skills for the benefit of their local community, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the school office for more information. Also, a big thanks to Wendy for your service.

Wishing everyone a great Term 3 and 4!

Nathan Blackmore

Parent School Governor

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## **Safer Internet Day - Tuesday, 6th February 2024**

On Tuesday 6th February it is International Internet Safety Day. We recognise this every year at Sissinghurst and would like to encourage parents to take this opportunity to talk to your child about how to stay safe online.

There will be an assembly for the children on Monday 5th to introduce them to Internet Safety Day and then during the week they will take part in some activities with their class teacher to help reinforce internet safety rules and tips.

There is a 45 second video for parents here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD5KW6dgnv0&t=43s>

And there are suggestions for conversations you may want to have at home together with plenty of advice here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

Also remember to refer to our school internet safety pages <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Internet+Safety&pid=71> as there is a wealth of information for families here and copies of our last parent workshop slides also.

If you have any concerns about internet safety then please come and speak to us.

Mr Boyles

Computing Lead



## FOSS Disco - Friday, 9th February 2024

We invite you to come in Movie themed outfits or premier night, red carpet glamorous outfits or just what makes you happy 😊 Please remember to sign the consent form by Wednesday 6th February and pay £3 per ticket on ParentPay. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-IESOQhE5mzOFEBBAIgDqTCHlfGGdCSNoq-051gy5\\_7L5uA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-IESOQhE5mzOFEBBAIgDqTCHlfGGdCSNoq-051gy5_7L5uA/viewform)

FOSS need volunteers in order for this event to go ahead so please let us know if you can help out.

Many thanks

FOSS



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## World Thinking Day – 22nd February 2024

Girlguiding Kent Weald county covers areas of Kent which includes the towns of Maidstone, Malling, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. We currently have nearly 3000 young members supported by adult volunteers.



World Thinking Day is a celebration of ten million girls worldwide that has taken place on every 22 February since 1926. It remains a day for all Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world.

There has been a tradition of inviting children who are members of Girlguiding and Scouts to wear their uniform to school on 22nd February. Alternatively, members may wear their promise badge.


We invite all members of Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels to wear their uniform this year on World Thinking Day to join in the celebration.

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## **World Book Day - Vocabulary Parade Extravaganza!**

**Date: Thursday, 7th March 2024**

Get ready to unleash the power of words as we celebrate World Book Day in a unique and extraordinary way this year – with our Vocabulary Parade! Instead of donning the usual book character costumes, let's bring words to life with creativity and flair.

 What's the parade all about? It's about showcasing the brilliance and beauty of words that make our books come alive! Children are invited to choose a word that captivates, amazes, or simply resonates with them. Think outside the box and choose a word that tells a story of its own.

 Ideas for Participation:

1. **Wearable Words:** Create eye-catching signs to wear around your neck, displaying your chosen word boldly or just display the word.
2. **Hats Off to Vocabulary:** Craft a hat that highlights your extraordinary word. Let your headgear do the talking!
3. **Dress as the Word:** Transform yourself to represent your chosen word. How can you visually represent it?
4. **Wordplay Outfits:** Get playful with puns, idioms, or phrases. Let your outfit become a living expression of language.

Remember, the more descriptive and imaginative your word, the better! Consider using adjectives or words that evoke emotions. For example, rather than being a "pilot," you could embody "adventurous." Let your creativity run wild!

Throughout the day, we'll engage in a variety of activities centred around our chosen words. It's going to be a day filled with linguistic exploration and excitement.

So, get your thinking caps on, grab your dictionaries, and let's make this Vocabulary Parade a memorable and enchanting experience. Who can come up with the most extraordinary word? Let's find out at the parade where words will take centre stage and creativity will know no bounds!

Warm regards,

Mrs Desai, Events Team 📅 ✨

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## Rev Pete

As you know, as a church school, we have close links with Trinity and Frittenden churches. Rev Pete is not only the vicar but one of our school governors and visits school regularly to help offer support and advice to staff, children and families and to support teachers in delivering lessons on Christianity. Please do look out for him on the gate as he will try to be there in the morning or after school on occasion and is always there for our families if you want to talk. His contact information can be found

here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Christian+Distinctiveness&pid=42>

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## Twitter/ X

Do follow us on Twitter/ X to keep up to date on all the exciting activities/lessons the children are taking part in. Here are a couple of our tweets over the last couple of weeks.

Rhino Class delighted us with an assembly showcasing all their learning this term.



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Zebra class had a parent visitor in to share a Roman artefact to help with our lesson 'what do artefacts tell us about life in the Roman times?'



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## Christmas Gifts - A Big Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone for their kind gifts from the Amazon Gift List. We are very fortunate at Sissinghurst to have such generous parents/carers and the staff and children are very grateful indeed.

The Gift List is still live and we are adding new books to it all the time. If anyone would like to purchase an item for our classrooms they would be greatly received. The link is below:

<https://amzn.eu/ORsEApR>

Thank you

Mrs Desai

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## Kate's Swimming - Independent swim school in Linton

### Our Background

A highly regarded independent swim school, Kate's Swimming offers carefully coordinated programmes for introducing and developing confidence in babies, toddlers and juniors in water. A dedicated team of fully qualified STA/Birthlight teachers ensures that all pupils get the best out of their sessions.

A fun and exciting approach is taken in order to encourage children to thrive and progress whilst enjoying their classes; we welcome all skills, abilities and ages, believing everybody should have the opportunity to develop this core life skill.

Maximum 1-8 ratio with assistants in the water. Intensive Courses at Easter and the Summer Holidays for rapid progress.

Please see website link below:

[Home | Kate Swimming \(katesswimming.co.uk\)](http://katesswimming.co.uk)

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