

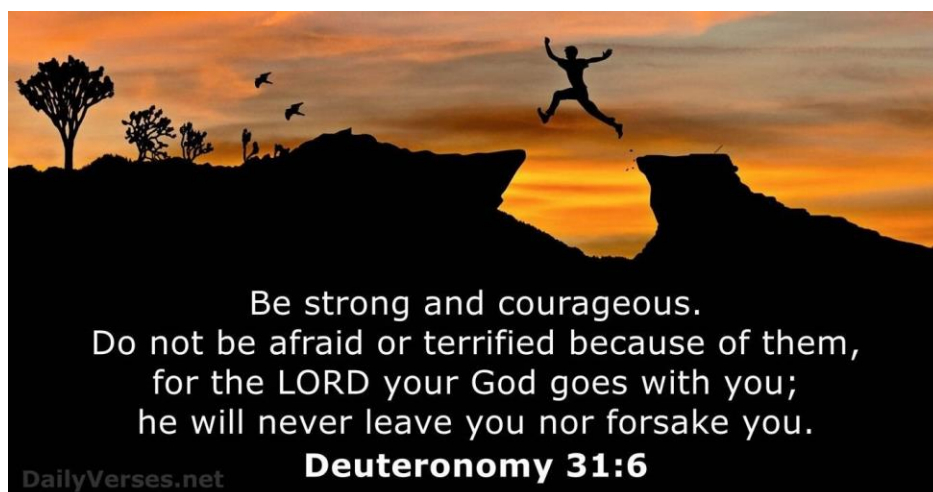
Newsletter Issue 13



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20 March 2024





Headteacher News

FoSS

We want to start this week's newsletter with a huge thankyou to FoSS and to each of you too. Not only did we see last week an enormous amount of secondhand clothing (280kg) go for reuse to raise money for school but we also received almost £6000 towards a class set of ipads and cases. These have been on our wish list for a long time and we are delighted to have been able to make this purchase. Without fundraising and your generous donations (if you remember we held a non uniform day recently and this alone bought one ipad) we just could not have bought these. This means the computing curriculum offer can be strengthened and children can be using more up to date technology alongside our existing chromebooks and laptops.

We cannot wait for the next FoSS event coming up – a colour run – not just fun but another way to raise money for school priorities and to ensure children at Sissinghurst can have so many more things than tight school budgets can buy.

Reading

There are so many benefits to reading including improving our self-esteem, mental health, well-being; being able to be lost in new worlds in our imagination alongside learning facts and understanding other people in the world, cultures, languages and historical events. One of our two key priorities at

Sissinghurst is reading and it was a delight to see the following comments from our recent school improvement adviser visit:

- *Reading is a clear priority at Sissinghurst, both in terms of teaching and learning and building a love of reading.*
- *There has been a significant increase in expectations for reading lessons and, in the sessions seen, it is evident that teachers are trying to meet them.*
- *There is clarity about the approach to guided reading now, which is clearly outlined in documents and templates, and this approach is being followed effectively. This reflects the wider improvements around accountability.*
- *Pupil voice around reading highlighted that pupils are clear about the expectations for reading lessons and presentation in books. They are able to see clear links between reading and other subjects and reflect on how the reading strategies are helping them to become better readers. They can see how reading provision has developed and are positive about the books they can access and the opportunities to read books they may not otherwise have chosen. Ultimately, they shared that they read more now, both at school and at home.*

Along with our wonderful vocabulary parade recently for world book day, we hope the work we are doing on reading inspires a little more reading for everyone. We see a huge difference in the confidence and speed in the reading of those that read frequently. Please do try and aim for 20 minutes at least three times a week to make a real difference to your child's progress.

Uniform

Thankyou for your feedback on school jumpers. Overwhelmingly 72% of parents chose to stick with the current jumpers so we will be informing the uniform provider of this.

We may at some time in the future look at simplifying the logo as this increases the cost, but at the moment, we just wanted to let you know about continuing with the jumpers we have.

Attendance:

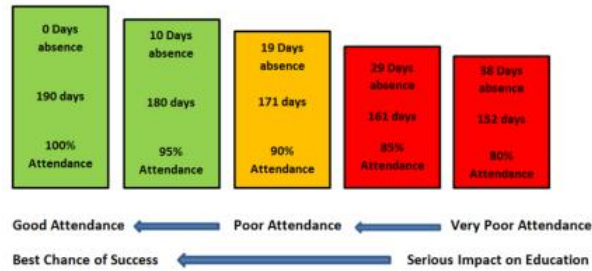
A huge thank you to those who ensure their child(ren) have great attendance. At 94% we are currently just above the national average and as a school are nearly reaching our target of 95%. We are through the winter bug season so this should get better and better. We do have a number of families that our FLO Mrs Ridgway is working with and Mrs Desai to improve attendance as it is critical for good learning and the positive educational experience that all children deserve.

Good attendance means ...

Being in school at least 95% of the time (180-190 days of the year)

There are **365 days** in a year and **190 days** in a school year.

This leaves 175 days for holidays, shopping, birthday treats and non-urgent medical appointments.



Have a lovely Easter break when it gets here.

Sarah Holman



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

End of Term Reminders

Wednesday – 2-3pm Colour Run on field

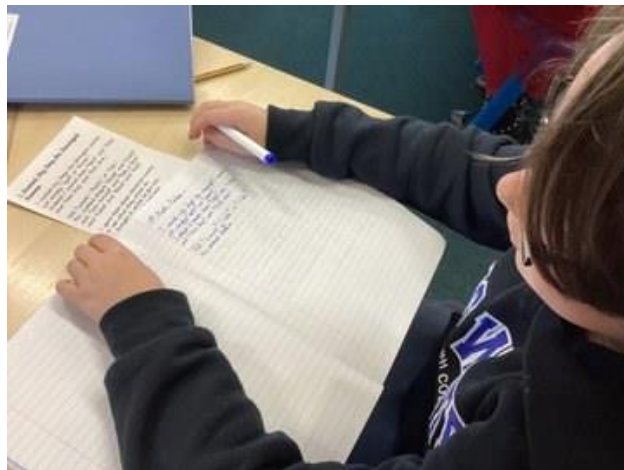
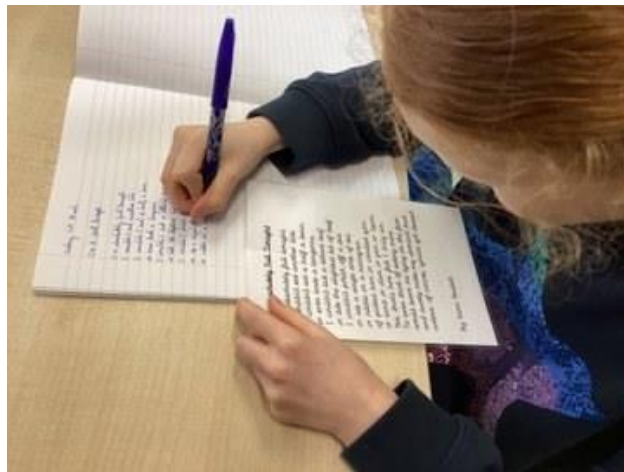
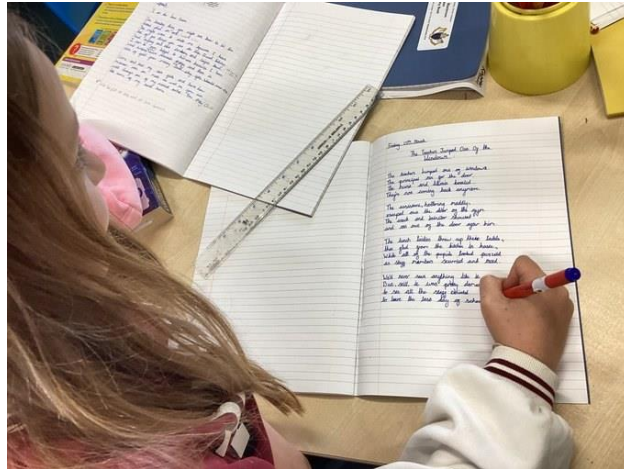
Thursday – 9.30-10am Easter Service in church – all welcome but note limited seating at back so you may need to stand

Thursday – 2-3pm Open afternoon – all welcome to look at books, tour school and speak with school staff. You will need to sign your child out and get a sticker so that they can leave early if you wish to take them from 2pm.

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.

Perfecting our handwriting in Eagles



Lions developing curious minds with water movement in the sunshine



Zebras developing their tennis skills in PE.





Sissinghurst Flower Show Society - Saturday 23 March

REMINDER - AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW THIS SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024

FROM 2.30PM IN SCHOOL HALL

Please enter one or more of the following categories:

- A piece of Spring time artwork (no bigger than A4 please)

- A decorated flower pot
- A mixture of spring garden flowers in a jar
- 4 rice krispie bird nests

In exchange for your child's entry to the show they can wear their own clothes on Friday 22nd March.

Please bring your entries to the School Hall on the Friday morning at drop off and place your entry on your class table.

Child's own work with minimal adult help. Entries from children at other schools are welcome. To be judged in school year age groups.

Please mark your entries clearly with your name, class and age.

Please take this fantastic opportunity to get involved with the local flower society. It's great fun and you can visit the school hall, where it's all taking place to find out where your child's entry has come. If you're new to the community, it's a lovely way to meet people and take a look at all the entries and see the fabulous things they can grow in their gardens and bake in their kitchens.

FOSS Colour Run - Wednesday 27 March

Dear Parents/Carers

It's time for the FOSS Easter fundraiser! We will welcome in springtime with a dash of vibrant colour with our first ever colour run! An event that can run whatever the weather and gets everyone involved. Prices start at £4 entry only and you provide a white t shirt and glasses for your child to wear. £8 for the full package which will include entry, t shirt and glasses. This will be available to pay on Parent pay, all payments must be in by Friday 22nd March 2024 at 2pm.

On the day we are asking for parents to arrive at 2pm to watch the children on the school field and the event will finish at 3pm, if you choose to purchase more colour pouches for parents this will be available at £1.50.

We will also be running a colourful cupcake or cookie competition these will also be sold on the day of the event and an entry from each class is in a chance of winning a prize!! Please can you have a written list of all ingredients for your baked goods so that it can be displayed.

Many thanks

FoSS



HOLI – The Festival of Colours, Love and Spring



Holi is a popular and significant Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love and Spring. Holi isn't just any celebration – it's a joyful journey that marks the end of winter and welcomes the arrival of spring in India. Imagine streets alive with the beat of drums and the twirl of dancers, as families and friends come together to share in the festivities.

At the heart of Holi are the vibrant powders called 'gulal'. These powders are like magic – they turn the air into a canvas of colours, where everyone is an artist! From bright reds to sunny yellows, each hue represents the joy and energy of the season.

But Holi isn't just about colours – it's about connections too. As the rhythms of drums and traditional melodies fill the air, Holi becomes a symphony of joy, uniting communities in celebration. It's a time for people to come together, to mend friendships, and to start anew. And what better way to do that than with sweet treats and traditional music that fills the air with happiness?

This year Holi falls on the 25th of March. Let's celebrate Holi our way by joining in the Colour Run. Let's embrace the spirit of this wonderful festival and celebrate the bonds of friendship and the beauty of springtime together.

Are you excited? Get ready to paint your world with joy and join in the fun of Colour Run/Holi!





GetSafeOnline.org

Online gaming has been proven to have many benefits for kids. We'll help you to work with your child to find the best games for their development, fun and safety [#gaming4good](https://getsafeonline.org/gaming4good)
<http://getsafeonline.org/gaming4good>

Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying

Skids Safety Net Keeping children safe online


A Parent's Guide to Cyberbullying



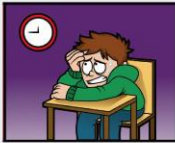
scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

Many young people who are victims of cyberbullying suffer in silence.

They feel they can't turn to parents or a trusted adult for support as they fear they may get in trouble or have their devices taken away from them. It can carry on all day, all evening and all weekend for the world to see, causing a lot of emotional stress to the victim and their family.



It can very quickly lead to the victim feeling trapped, scared and vulnerable to grooming and blackmail.






Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skids Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Skids www.skipssafetynet.org

Grants and Financial Support for families with disabled children

for families with disabled children

Did you know that there is lots of financial support available to families who are supporting a disabled child? A disability is not just a physical impairment, Autism, ADHD, and other neurodiversity issues can entitle you, your child and your family to additional support. DLA (Disability Living Allowance) is the main financial support available and this opens many other pathways to further support. To apply for DLA you can visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-living-allowance-for-children-claim-form>

While this seems like it may be a difficult process, there is lots of help and support available from organisations such as Early Help, Health Visitors service, Citizens advice and online forums. A common misconception is that you must have a diagnosis before you can apply, this is not the case, diagnosis times are at a record high and support is needed long before this can happen. Once the process starts for requesting a diagnosis you can apply for DLA. This is not a means tested benefit, meaning only your child's needs will be taken into account, not your income.

If your child is granted DLA you can also apply for carer's allowance, this can be done either through gov.uk website or if you are in receipt of Universal Credit, you can apply through your online account.

Other financial support you can apply for are:

Family fund is a fantastic charitable organisation that work hard to bring support to disabled children and their families. They offer grants for specialist equipment, leisure activities, afterschool clubs, short breaks, furniture and electronics. For further information and to apply please visit:

<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Once the process starts for requesting a diagnosis you can apply for DLA.

<https://www.disability-grants.org/grants-for-children.html> This site offers further information on grants available to children with SEND. Some criteria for eligibility differs, but the terms of the grants are available on the websites.

KCC offer families with disabled or foster children a Max Card. This gives you discount at local attractions including Flip Out in Ashford, Laser Tag, Hythe Imperial Hotel and Spa, Dreamland in Margate, Romney,

Hythe and Dymchurch Railway and many more. To apply visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/social-caresupport-for-SEND/disabled-children-register>

Wingham Wildlife Park offer day tickets and memberships at a discounted cost for SEND children, claiming DLA. This also entitles you to a free carer ticket. Please visit their website for further details. <https://winghamwildlifepark.co.uk/>

LEGOLAND Windsor and other Merlin attractions offer discounted tickets for children in receipt of DLA and a free carer ticket to accompany them. The full details are available on their website <https://www.legoland.co.uk/1/> <https://www.merlinannualpass.co.uk/ourattractions/>



Other local attractions offering discounts are, Dover Castle, who offer a free essential companion ticket for any child receiving DLA and Port Lympne Animal Reserve who offer a free carer ticket when you enter the code MORE in the promotional offer **box at checkout. For more information please visit their websites** <https://www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne/> <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/dover-castle/>

Tunbridge Wells Children's Centres

MARCH

CONSULTATION - School Term Dates

Kent County Council are **consulting on school term and holiday date patterns** and **they would like to know your views** on the proposed dates. In accordance with KCC's usual practice, they are consulting on

arrangements for the period covering the following three academic years: 2025/2026, 2026/2027, 2027/2028. The proposed dates can be viewed in the 'Consultation documents' section found via the following link: [School Term Dates for 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 | Let's talk Kent](#)

NEW IN SECTION 5.2 - Baby & Child Development

- Do you know that **BBC Tiny Happy People** have a huge range of Tips and Advice for your family, take a look in *Section 5.2* including:

1. **Child development and milestones**
2. **Children's speech and language**
3. **How can I celebrate my baby's little victories?**
4. **Ramadan 2024 for new parents**

NEW IN SECTION 5.3 - Parenting Support

- **The National Literacy Bureau** have an **on-line Workshop** taking place on **Tuesday 19 March 10.00-12.00** regarding 'Raising Early Achievement in Literacy' - for booking details take a look at the flyer in *Section 5.3*.

NEW IN SECTION 5.5 - Your Child's Health and Wellbeing

- **Kent Community Health** have some importation information about **School-aged immunisations** in *Section 5.5*.
- **Kent Community Health – School Health Service** are a team of school nurses and practitioners who work with children and young people and families in Kent. You do not have to be in school to use this service, for more information take a look in *Section 5.5*.

NEW IN SECTION 5.6 - Your Health and Wellbeing

- **Amparo** provides free emotional and practical support for anybody who has felt the impact of suicide - their contact details are in *Section 5.6*.

NEW IN SECTION 6 - SEND Support

- **Neurospicy** - peer support group for parents and carers experiencing challenges with their Neuro diverse children. All aged children welcome too. Every Thursday 9.30-11.00 at Toc H Hall, TN4 9HW.








- **Growing Hope** is running some fantastic sessions for parents/carers of children and young people with **additional needs**, have a look in *Section 6* for all that's on offer.

NEW IN SECTION 7 - Financial Support

- **Money Advice Scheme** Kent County Council is currently working with Citizens Advice North and West Kent to support residents on low incomes who are taking positive steps to address their debts. Residents could be eligible for additional support towards their household energy bill and receive up to £500 (subject to eligibility criteria). Take a look at the eligibility Criteria in *Section 7*.

Easter Holiday Activities

Kent Children's Centres		Tunbridge Wells District Children's Centres EASTER HOLIDAYS 1-5 April				Kent County Council kent.gov.uk
	Little Forest Friars Way Tunbridge Wells TN2 3UA Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm	Harmony High Street Rusthall TN4 8RZ Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am-1.00pm	The Ark Broadwater Lane Tunbridge Wells TN2 5RP Mon, Tues & Thur 8.30am-4.30pm	Southborough Broomhill Park Road Southborough TN4 0JY Tues & Wed 8.30am-4.30pm	Paddock Wood Wesley Centre Paddock Wood TN12 6DS Tues & Thur 9.30am-12.00pm	Cranbrook Carriers Road Cranbrook TN17 3JZ Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm
Monday 1 April	BANK HOLIDAY					
Tuesday 2 April		EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8			Baby Time 10.00-11.30 Suitable for babies/pre-walkers	
Wednesday 3 April			Grandparents & Family Carers Support Group Walk, Talk & Picnic EASTER OUTING 12.00-14.00 Venue TBC	EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8		Kent Adult Education Craft Session 13.30-15.00 Suitable for ages 0-8
Thursday 4 April			SEN EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 10.00-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8 EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 14.00-15.30 Suitable for ages 0-8		EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8	
Friday 5 April	EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8				Baby Time 10.00-11.30 Suitable for babies/pre-walkers SEN EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 13.30-14.30 Suitable for ages 0-8	

		Tunbridge Wells District Children's Centres EASTER HOLIDAYS 8-12 April					
	 Little Forest Friars Way Tunbridge Wells TN2 3JA Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm	Harmony High Street Rusthall TN4 8RZ Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am-1.00pm	The Ark Broadwater Lane Tunbridge Wells TN2 5RP Mon, Tues & Thur 8.30am-4.30pm	Southborough Broomhill Park Road Southborough TN4 0JY Tues & Wed 8.30am-4.30pm	Paddock Wood Wesley Centre Paddock Wood TN12 6DS Tues & Thur 9.30am-12.00pm	Cranbrook Carriers Road Cranbrook TN17 3JZ Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm	
Monday 8 April	Baby Time 10.00-11.30 Suitable for babies/pre-walkers		Celebration Event including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8 FREE REFRESHMENTS				
Tuesday 9 April		Celebration Event including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8 FREE REFRESHMENTS			Baby Time 10.00-11.30 Suitable for babies/pre-walkers		
Wednesday 10 April				Celebration Event including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8 FREE REFRESHMENTS		EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 13.15-14.45 Suitable for ages 0-8	
Thursday 11 April					EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8		
Friday 12 April	 EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 9.30-11.00 Suitable for ages 0-8					Baby Time 10.00-11.30 Suitable for babies/pre-walkers SEN EASTER FUN-TIME including Arts & Crafts 13.30-14.30 Suitable for ages 0-8	



THE UK'S FAVOURITE
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Activity Day Camps

FUN FACT

Spring is the season when animals, like bears and hedgehogs awaken from hibernation!

QUIZ TIME!

- Which insect visits 2,000 flowers each day?
- What's the name for a baby rabbit? (eg. Puppy = Dog)
- What type of bread bun is eaten through spring?
- What two seasons is spring in between?
- Which Disney movie is about a young deer?

SPRING TIME SCAVENGER HUNT!

☐ DAFFODILS
 ☐ WINDY TREES
 ☐ BUDDING BRANCHES
 ☐ LADYBUGS
 ☐ BIRD NEST
 ☐ RAIN CLOUDS
 ☐ BLUEBIRDS
 ☐ WATERING CAN
 ☐ TULIPS
 ☐ BUTTERFLIES
 ☐ KITE
 ☐ BUMBLEBEES

Colour your Butterfly



Fill the pots with plants and flowers!



Help the Squirrel find a golden Nut!



SPRING WORD SEARCH

ALFONSO GARDEN BARN BLOSSOM CHICKS CHOCOLATE DAFFODIL FLOWERS GARDEN GREEN HONEYBEE KITE LADYBUG MUD NUTS PUPPY RAIN ROOSTS TULIPS WARM WORMS

ANSWERS



SCAN ME!
to see more info about our camps!



How many bees can you find?



HEY! I'm BILLY Barracuda! I'm looking forward to blooming spring!



Try and find as many as you can!

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or call 01480 467 567

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SCAN ME & LEARN MORE!

SEN
Magazine

SEN Specialist Jacqui Strubel offers some guidance on helping children deal with processing issues.
[#BESD](https://senmagazine.co.uk/behavioural-emotional-and-social-difficulties-besd/11926/supporting-children-with-processing-issues/...#BESD) [#advice](#) [#processingissues](#) [#teaching](#) [#learningdifficulties](#)



Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Need childcare for holidays? Click here to find the nearest one.

[HAF Programme - welcome information for families \(theeducationpeople.org\)](https://theeducationpeople.org/)



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