

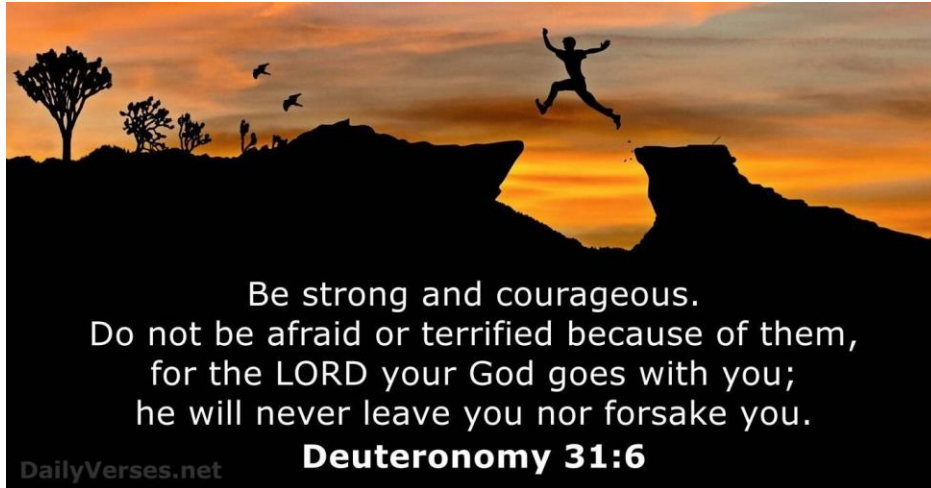
Newsletter Issue 14



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17 April 2024





Headteacher News

I recently had the pleasure of joining a school council meeting and thought you would like to see the insightful comments below from the council. The children really thought hard about the responses and how other children may be feeling, truly showing their kindness and empathy.

School Council feedback regarding pupil surveys - Mrs Holman joined Mrs Desai and the council for their meeting and we were all pleased that overall the feedback was overwhelmingly positive with children talking about their love of school, friends and learning. Just what we would want at Sissinghurst.

We discussed the less positive responses and their thoughts for reasons of disagree / strongly disagree response below:

I like coming to school – We do not like 'coming' to school as it means we are often in a rush, having to drop siblings off and do a big school run or walk to school. We would prefer a later start (like 10am) as we have to be in by 8.30 and don't like rushing.

The council members also thought some children may say this as they don't like being separated from their mum or dad. It might help to take them to their teacher and their teacher could give them a special job when they come in to school to take their mind off it.

The work I am asked to do challenges me – we may have a tutor and have covered some things (eg maths) before or not want to put this as agree as we think it could be negative to say work is too hard / challenges us. It is better to say we have a go to better to say work is easy or we can do it. We don't think it is too easy as lots of things we are learning are quite hard so does challenge us. We don't think maybe some children understood this question.

Behaviour in classrooms is good

Problems are dealt with quickly and fairly

Behaviour outside the classroom is good - We answered and discussed all these together as we think they are linked. We think we need to improve behaviour when our normal teacher is not teaching us. We can behave differently and talk over each other or not listen as well as to our normal teacher. We should share our rules so we do the same thing whoever is teaching us.

Outside the main problems are to do with football and playing It or wrestling games like play fighting. Sometimes unkind things happen with friends and children not taking turns or saying things (like the football rota) are not fair when they are. It could be calling other people names and doing crazes (in and outside) like pointing on tables, putting their hand over someone's head hovering and doing or saying cheese touch, can often be linked to 'IT' type things or games. We should not play it as people do not like being it and say it is not fair and get upset. These problems can be brought back into the classroom after lunch and may be the reason some children said things don't get resolved quickly or fairly as they are problems that often happen. Part of growing up and need a lot of help to be fair and for all children to agree.

At our next meeting we need to come up with ideas for seating in the dining hall as this can cause problems for some children although others of us like being able to choose who we sit with each day.

School meals are good

Some children say the food is bland and we preferred meals before. There was nowhere to say 'don't know' or 'don't have dinners' so most children put disagree because they could not agree. This was the same for bullying (and sorting out problems) as nowhere to put if you had not been bullied so put disagree so we need to add this option on next year's survey.

We are looking forward to a lovely summer term with lots planned. I cannot believe I have been at Sissinghurst now for a year. So much has changed and improved in that time but so much of the good has remained too. I would like to take this opportunity to say I am grateful to work with such amazing children and to have a super staff team and wonderful families that make this community so special.

Have a lovely weekend when it gets here

Sarah Holman

Staff Changes - Sept 2024

We are currently recruiting for 2 posts for September 2024. Mrs Delorie has made the decision to take retirement after many years of dedicated service at Sissinghurst. I am sure, like me, you will be wishing her well nearer the time, but for now we just wanted you to know. Also Mr Boyles, from September, will be reducing his teaching days. No changes will affect the current Elephant and Eagles Class.

Uniform Reminder

We consider our school uniform to be a crucial part of the high expectations that we have for our school. Your support is very much appreciated and we would ask that all parents ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately, without nail varnish and with only plain stud earrings and watches for jewellery. Can we remind you that trainers are not part of our school uniform and black shoes should be worn. Also navy smart trousers if your child chooses to wear trousers to school.

Most items of school uniform can be purchased from any supermarket or high street retailer.

We do offer uniform at heavily discounted prices at our PTA shop with items from £1 that are nearly new. We also can offer support with uniform supplies if a family needs this. Please just let us know via studybugs or pop into the office and we can get these for you.

Click here to see our uniform

expectations <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=19>

Colour Run

The first Sissinghurst Colour Run was a great success. We had loads of fabulous feedback from parents and the children clearly had a blast! Laughter filled the air

The array of baked goods was astonishing and really helped to boost the fundraising total. After all that running a sweet treat was well deserved!

The whole event raised £580 for the school. We hope to make the next one bigger and better!

This term we are hoping for sunny weather and the return of the Friday lolly sales. We have lots to look forward to. Term 6 will be the last school disco of the year and the Leavers After Party!

Thank you all for your support!

FOSS

Friday 26 April - Non-Uniform Day

Donations for reading books

Wear your own clothes and give a donation either via Amazon wish list (link to follow) or with money via Parentpay.





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

Digital Detox ...

Too much time spent on devices?

Do your older children spend too much time on their devices? The speaker below gave a talk recently for Cranbrook Secondary School parents and some told us they found it useful so we are sending the link to you so you can access her information and resources.

Tanya Goodin

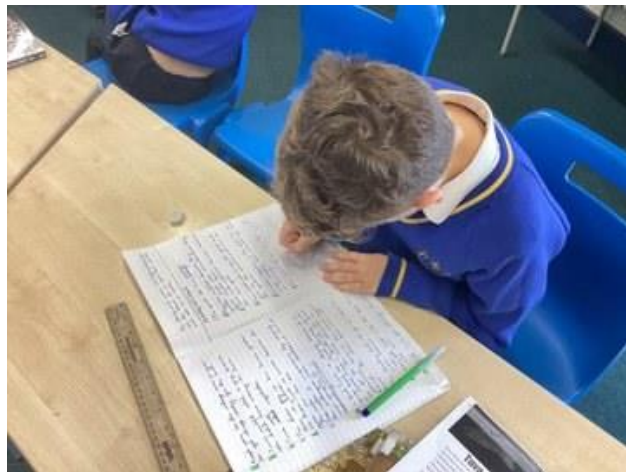
Tanya is a bestselling author, pioneering thinker and campaigner on tech ethics and digital wellbeing, and founder of the digital detox movement Time to Log Off.

[Digital Detox Expert](#) | [Tanya Goodin](#) | [Author](#) | [Speaker](#) | [Campaigner](#)

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 so far this week.

Eagles have read the prologue and are making predictions about their new reading text 'Viking Boy'





Elephant class enjoyed making clay pinch pots decorating them using the 'score and slip' method to join clay pieces together.







Report on Sissinghurst Spring Flower Show

The Society's Spring Show was held on Saturday 23rd March in the School Hall.

The weather recently has been comparatively mild and very wet but the flowers do not seem to have minded the extra rainfall as the hall was a colourful scene of narcissi, shrubs, hellibores, primroses and even some early tulips.

It was good to see cookery and floral arrangements well supported but photographs of spring blossom were disappointing.

The school children had some great ideas for their Spring Themed pictures with collages, paintings, handmade chicks and sheep and caricatures as well. As always, their lovely collections of spring flowers outshone the low number in the class for the adults.

Their decorated flower pots showed imagination too with painted flowers, modelling clay in bright colours, paper friezes and even real flower petals. The Rice Krispie bird's nests had neat additional touches of chicks and eggs. The Junior exhibits always add so much to the Shows and to quote the Judge, a big thank you to you all for their incredibly hard work to make such a variety of lovely entries.

The rain stayed away in the afternoon and members and everyone enjoyed tea and homemade cakes, the ever popular raffle and there were sideshows for the children. Potatoes for the Autumn Show Competition were on sale, together with some plants and Autumn flowering nerine bulbs.

Rev. Peter Deaves presented the trophies, ably assisted by his daughter Molly.

Junior Trophy Winners:

Percy Foreman Trophy for the best artwork in Key Stage 2 year group : Isadora Fieldus

Queen Mother Trophy for the best artwork in Key Stage 1 year group: Max White

Easter Cup for the best entry in other open classes : Willa Green

Learning Tree Shield for the best Pre School entry: Florence Cordrey

Tunbridge Wells Children's Centres

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ***CENTRE CLOSURES FROM 15 APRIL** - as you know our services are moving to a new 'Family Hub' model and therefore from the 15 April activities at the following Centres: The Ark, Harmony, Southborough and Paddock Wood will be ceasing.
- After the Easter holidays we will be continuing to run activities from Family Hub venues across the Tunbridge Wells District – **TIMETABLE** for **Monday 15 April – Friday 10 May** below.
- Keep an eye on our SWAY and Facebook page for further information as to when our new **FAMILY HUB** services will begin.

NEW IN SECTION 5.2 - Baby and Child Development

- **National Literacy Trust - Words for Life** have a wide range of activity ideas to help your child learn through play, take a look at their Link in *Section 5.2*.
- **Tiny Happy People** - 5 skills your child might learn before they are 5 years old, what skills would you add - take a look at this interesting article in *Section 5.2*.

NEW IN SECTION 6 - SEND Support

- **Contact**, the charity for families with disabled children, have a huge range of top tips, detailed guides and FAQs, click the Link in *Section 6*.

[Go to this Sway](#)



Kent Family Hub - Tunbridge Wells

(previously Tunbridge Wells Children's Centres)



Timetable

Monday 15 April - Friday 10 May



Stay & Play with Messy Activities

open to all babies and pre-school children

Wednesdays 13.15-14.45 Family Hub (previously Cranbrook)

Fridays 9.30-11.00 Family Hub (previously Little Forest)



Baby Time

suitable for babies/pre-walking toddlers

Mondays 10.00-11.30 Family Hub (previously Little Forest)

Mondays 10.00-11.30 Family Hub (previously Cranbrook)



SEND Playtime

open to all families who have children with additional needs

Mondays 13.30-14.30 Family Hub (previously Cranbrook)

PLEASE NOTE
NOW TUESDAYS
NEW VENUE/TIME

Bumps to Babes

Suitable for all young parents up to age 21

Tuesdays 11.30-13.30 Family Hub

(previously The Youth Hub)



Tel: 03000 418 059



Email: Tunbridgewellscc@kent.gov.uk



Kent Family Hub
(Little Forest)
Friars Way
TN2 3UA

Kent Family Hub
(Youth Hub)
39A Grove Hill Road
TN1 1SD

Kent Family Hub
(Cranbrook)
Carriers Road
TN17 3JZ



Drama Workshops with East Sutton Community Youth Theatre

The Sissinghurst Drama Class

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

Restarts SUMMER TERM on Tuesday 23rd April 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 Eleven weeks, only £55.00.

💎 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



Junior Cricket at Cranbrook Rugby Club
The Tomlin Ground,
Cranbrook Rugby Club
TN17 2PN

- ▶ Under 9's for Reception class to Year 4, Sunday's 9-10am, softball cricket
- ▶ U11's for Years 5&6, Sunday's 10-11am, Introduction to Hardball cricket
- ▶ Boys and girls, all abilities welcome
- ▶ 12th May to 28th July

Contact Lucy at cranbrookcricketers@gmail.com for more information



Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society

This Christmas they are putting on the Pantomime "Aladdin" at the Queens Hall Theatre directed and co-produced by Jack Davidson. The show dates are 28th December 1pm and 6pm, 29th December 1pm and 6pm and 30th December 6pm. They are keen to have lots of children taking part. They are therefore holding auditions for children from year 3 up to year 11 on Sunday 2nd June at 11am in the Queens Hall Theatre at Cranbrook School. This will last around 90 minutes and will consist of the children learning a song and dance and performing it on stage together. Rehearsals are on Monday and Thursday evenings. Children will not be expected to attend all rehearsals but will need to be available for all performances. If parents have any questions please email Jack at backofficedance@gmail.com.

Kind regards

Rebecca Eva

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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)