

Newsletter Issue 2



Newsletter Issue 2

19 September 2024





Headteacher News

Our newsletters are sent every fortnight and should give you a snapshot of school life, reminders of dates and things going on in school along with some community information. School information is always first if you find the Sway document too long for you! We have tried to get the length of the letter right but are aware it is too short / infrequent for some of you and too long and frequent for others!

School Improvement

Each year we focus on areas of improvement so we are continually trying to drive the school forwards, taking on board local and national changes to ensure children at Sissinghurst get the best educational experience that they can with us. This year our key areas of foci are adapting the curriculum (in all subjects) to ensure children are enabled to be successful. Success of course looks different for individual children, but the challenging curriculum on offer means we know that children are making connections across and within their learning (past and present) and knowing and remembering more. We will give regular updates on this work to keep you informed.

We are also working hard to continue to improve progress in English and maths, focusing on the teaching of early reading and how this is developed into KS2 and for maths how we use manipulatives

(equipment) to model mathematical concepts to enable all learners to be successful alongside improved fluency in maths, especially with times tables.

It is an exciting year where children can enjoy school with superb new play opportunities alongside our supportive school community to ensure everyone can flourish and 'shine.'

Curriculum and Class information

Parents often ask their children what are you learning. You can find the answers easily here.

We are proud of our curriculum offer. Please do look here at class pages <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+Groups&pid=45>

for an overview for the term / year, our reading spines (books studied over the coming year) and copies of the letters you received last week from each teacher.

Admissions

It is that time of year again when we are planning tours for new YR pupils joining us next September. If you have a child of nearly school age, please do join us on Wednesday 6 November in the morning or afternoon for a short speech and tours with our fantastic Y6 pupils. See more here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=9>

We also have some spaces across the school now we have 7 classes and have increased our admission number to 30. Please do contact Mrs Hodges in the office or pass on this information to friends or neighbours if you know anyone who may like to join our school.

Have a lovely weekend when it gets here

Sarah Holman



<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Calendar+Dates&pid=91>

Non uniform day – Monday 21 October

For the last academic year many children have enjoyed reading to Pickles our school reading dog. Pickles comes in for two afternoons each week to listen to children read with his owner Daphne. Pickles loves listening to readers but he does sometimes fall asleep as he is so relaxed. Children love reading to him and really try hard with their pronunciation and retelling the story to him so he understands it. Pickles and Daphne are fully trained and do not just help in schools. He has a very busy diary! To thank both of them for giving their time so freely we are having a non-uniform day for donations to PAT <https://petsastherapy.org/information/support-us/donate> or via Parent Pay and we can donate for you.

Click here to find out more <https://petsastherapy.org/information/information-for-establishments/schools>

We look forward to working with Pickles again this year so he can continue to help us all be super readers!

Reminders

Healthy Snacks and Lunches

Please remember to send in fruit or vegetable snacks for break time if your child is in Y3-6 (Lions, Giraffes and Elephants receive free fruit in school). Please also remember if your child has a packed lunch in school they should be a healthy selection of foods and not a plethora of buffet items, cakes and biscuits! Thankyou for your help in encouraging healthy living choices.

GDPR

A big change towards the UK's data privacy law came into effect on the 25th May 2018.

The General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR for short) is a positive change towards giving data subjects more control over how their data is used and how they are contacted. In line with this, we have changed both our Data Protection and Privacy Notice. It details how we collect, use, share and store personal data. It also provides you with information on the new rights available to all data subjects when Data Protection laws changed.

You can view our Data Protection and Privacy Policy via this link on our website. Please note you have the option to remove your child's information for sharing in some cases. Speak to Mrs Holman or Mrs Branson should you wish to do this or discuss it.

Car park

Please can we ask that parents do not double park along the left hand side of the car park when coming into school for drop off or collection of children. This makes the driveway too narrow to manoeuvre and congested. Thankyou for your support. Remember the Milk House kindly offer their car park if you want easy parking and a little walk to school to avoid the traffic. This applies before school and at the end of the day. Thankyou to the Milk House for this kind offer to our families.

Disabled Bays

We have 4 disabled parking bays in the car park for our 4 families who need them. Please do not use them if this is not you. These families need to be able to have a safe and comfortable start to the day and we thank all the families who do not use these spaces even when parking is difficult.

Cars parked in disabled bays without blue badges. Red Vauxhall Astra DV16 VXU from school Ford people carrier S100 EFM from learning tree.

Worship

We welcome families to Friday worship from 9-9.30 every Friday. Please sign in at reception and find a chair at the back of the hall when you arrive. This is a celebration assembly where we may sing a song, share great things in school and from home and have things like weekly house point updates and celebrate birthdays. Please also note, Lions are not coming in for a while to let them settle in to school life first and that this Friday (20 Sept) it is in church (with Lions) for our Harvest Festival service.

Communication

We welcome feedback and ideas - positive and negative. Please do share any thoughts, ideas or niggles with us at any time, especially if they are common themes on your class WhatsApp groups so we can listen and consider suggestions to continually improve – we are always open to new ideas.



Advert - Part Time School Cleaner

We have an advert on Kent Teach for a cleaner. Part time, term time only 15 hours a week.

[Part Time School Cleaner Facilities at Sissinghurst \(VA\) Church of England Primary School, Sissinghurst \(kent-teach.com\)](http://kent-teach.com)

Free School Meals

Is your child eligible for free school meals?

Even though Early Years and KS1 children are entitled to a free school dinner, it is never too soon to register eligible children for free school meals from Reception to Year 6.

This will result in extra funding being offered to schools to support your children with school resources and trips among other things.

We encourage you to [check your eligibility and apply online](#) as the school can benefit from the additional funding. If you need some help with this, please contact Mrs Branson, the School Business Manager.

If you apply and are eligible, even if your circumstances change, you will remain eligible for benefits-related free school meals until your child finishes their current phase of education (either Year 6 if they are in primary school or Year 11 if they are in secondary school).

If you think you might qualify, it is very easy to check using the Kent Free meals website.

[Free school meals - Kent County Council](#)

Mr Nourish's Birthday - Thursday, 3rd October 2024

Please note that there will be a change to the menu on this date.

NOURISH GROW WITH US

Mr Nourish's Birthday

Thursday 3rd October 2024

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Chicken Burger in a Bun with BBQ Sauce or Ketchup ^{1,5} | Sweetcorn |
| Baked Bean Burger in a Bun ^{1,5 Vg} | Coleslaw ⁹ |
| Jacket with a Choice of Fillings ^{7,8,9} | Jacket Wedges |
| | Birthday Cake ¹ |
| | Mr Nourish Party Ring ¹ |
| | Fruit Pots |

Competition

DESIGN A BIRTHDAY CARD FOR MR NOURISH

HAND IN TO THE CATERING TEAM

PRIZES TO BE AWARDED ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Key: V Vegetarian; VG Vegan

Dishes marked with any of the following numbers contain the matching allergen: Allergen code: (1) Wheat; (2) Gluten; (3) Crustaceans; (4) Soybean; (5) Mustard; (6) Sesame; (8) Sulphites/Sulphur Dioxide; (7) Milk; (8) Fish; (9) Egg; (10) Peanuts; (11) Molluscs; (12) Celery/Celery; (13) Nuts; (14) Lupines; (15) Oat; (16) Gluten; (18) Barley; (19) Chickpea

Twitter / X

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

Counting in tens in Elephants this afternoon



Loving to hang, swing and climb on our new equipment





Trinity Church Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday, 7th December

The church team welcome everyone to see the decorated trees in church on this day. We will be decorating a tree on behalf of the school so you will see ours there if you go along. There is a competition for the best dressed tree.

The festival will include refreshments, the Scout's will have a cake stall, lucky dip, face painting, Christmas crafts, a BBQ and a band. In the evening there will be a concert with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheous Male Voice Choir and a guest singer. There will also be a pop up bar from The Milk House.

Speech and Language Podcast

Great podcasts here for parents – some titles include – Why can't my child sit still, Why does my child not listen to me and many more!

In this podcast series Speech and Language Therapists, Alison and Juliet, answer some of the most frequently asked questions about talking, listening and understanding. They share their own experiences and offer suggestions of things you can do as a family to support your child's communication skills.

[Podcast - Speech and Language Link](#)

Please support one of our parents who is doing this amazing challenge if you wish.



In June 2025, I will be embarking on a 10-day adventure in Peru. During this time, I will stay with a local family and help within the community before setting off on the famous Salkantay Trek to Machu Picchu (64km), all to support Dragonfly Cancer Trust.

The Dragonfly Cancer Trust provides critical support to young cancer patients and their families by helping them make cherished memories.



I am so lucky to be a mother of two beautiful, healthy children, so I am dedicating every step of this trek to making a difference in the lives of families facing the unimaginable.

I am reaching out to everyone who knows me for any form of support., your contribution would be greatly appreciated and will help Dragonfly continue its vital work. Your donation, no matter the size, will make a world of difference.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

Lots of Love, Lisa Bosch

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/lisabosch>



Specialist Teaching and Learning Services (STLS)



Kent County Council (KCC) is seeking views on how the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS) might fit within new ways of working that are being introduced as part of the ongoing transformation of Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services in Kent.

The STLS works mainly with Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) in mainstream settings, providing advice, support and training that support early years settings and schools to provide good inclusive education to children and young people with SEND.

New ways of working in Kent and changes to legislation across the country mean we will continue to adapt the services that we provide to support children and young people with SEND. As new ways of working are implemented, and the transformation of SEND services continues, we want to understand how STLS might fit within these new ways of working, whether there are gaps the service might fill, how it can support children to achieve the outcomes important to them and how it might contribute to a financially sustainable model for the future.

Click here for the link <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/specialist-teaching-and-learning-service>

Tunbridge Wells Family Hubs



Tunbridge Wells Family Hubs

Timetable

2nd September - 25th October 2024

Our Family Hubs:

Sherwood
03000 418059
Friars Way
Tunbridge Wells
TN2 3UA
TWFamilHub
@kent.gov.uk

Tunbridge Wells
03000 418059
39A Grove Hill
Tunbridge Wells
TN11 1SQ
TWFamilHub
@kent.gov.uk

Outreach Centre (Cranbrook)
03000 418059
Carriers Way
Cranbrook
TN17 3JZ
TWFamilHub
@kent.gov.uk

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

| | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Monday | Tunbridge Wells Baby Time 10:30am - 11:30am | Sherwood <small>Monthly</small> Talking Walk-in 9:30am - 11:30am (3rd Monday of each month) | Sherwood <small>Fortnightly</small> Twins Group 9:30am - 12:00pm (2nd and 4th Monday of each month) | Tunbridge Wells Talking Through the Teens 1:00pm - 2:00pm |
| Tuesday | Tunbridge Wells Bumps to Babes 11:00am - 1:00pm | Sherwood <small>6 week course</small> Little Talkers 1:30pm - 2:30pm | Tunbridge Wells Chill and Chat 3:30pm - 4:30pm | |
| Wednesday | Sherwood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am - 11:30am | Tunbridge Wells <small>Monthly</small> Family Carers Support Group 10:00am - 12:00pm (1st Wednesday of each month) | Outreach Centre Stay and Play with Bookstart 1:15pm - 2:45pm | |
| Thursday | Sherwood Baby Time 10:30am - 11:30am | Outreach Centre Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am - 11:30am | Virtual Course <small>Booking Required</small> Chatter Time 1:00pm - 2:00pm | |
| Friday | Sherwood Stay and Play with Bookstart 9:30am - 11:00am | Outreach Centre Baby Time 10:30am - 11:30am | Outreach Centre SEND Stay and Play 1:30pm - 2:30pm | |

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

www.kent.gov.uk/familhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council



**LET'S CHANGE LIVES
WITH EVERY SLICE
AT**

Cranbrook Community

When: Monday 23rd September 2024
Where: Vestry Hall
Time: 2:30 to 4 p.m

Why: Because every slice of cake and cup of coffee helps us make a huge difference to people facing cancer.

Come along for a nibble and a natter.

DONATIONS WELCOME CONTACT:
Nita Chandler: 01580 713337
or Keith Moon: 01580 713751

 **WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

FR Registered with FUTURE FINANCING REGULATOR
Number of Companies: 5,000+ registered in the UK, Ireland and Malta (23/07/23)
Scots: 003079791 or the UK: 01580 713337. Traded in order to be more visible.
FRAC16648

Please turn over

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2024 - <https://mailchi.mp/0483fb99fe9d/macmillan-coffee-afternoon-2024...>

Farm Church

When? Sunday 29 September, 2:30-3:30pm

Where? White House Farm, near the Three Chimneys pub in Biddenden

Informal service, live worship music, refreshments.

News & Events

For upcoming local events in the parish of Cranbrook & Sissinghurst:

<https://cranbrookandsissinghurstpc.co.uk/whats-on/upcoming-events/>

Sign up to receive 'Be In The Know' emails from the parish council:

<https://cranbrookandsissinghurstpc.co.uk/>

Or follow the Parish Council Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/CranbrookandSissinghurstPC>

Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School

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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)