

Newsletter Issue 3



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3 October 2024





Headteacher News

Curriculum offer

We are continuing to focus on designing and delivering an exciting, enriched curriculum for your children and we are seeing examples of amazing learning taking place across school. Just this week, we shared this with three separate visitors to the school who all commented on how polite and focused the children are and, how good their knowledge is and pride in their learning too.

If you'd like to know more about the learning taking place across school, please look at the curriculum section of our website where you will find each Year group's overview.

Home learning – remember it is always so beneficial to spend time focusing on reading and practicing numbers and times tables for Y2 -6 children. Year 6 will have additional homework to prepare them for the homework demands at secondary school. This will help your child's academic performance and develop their love for learning.

Reading focus

Reading together is one of the most important things parents can do for their children. Do try to spend 10 minutes a day listening to your child read, or encourage reading time silently if they prefer this way of reading. Click here for some great ways to support your child's learning at home https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/home-and-school/supporting-learning-at-home?utm_source=parentkind.org.uk&utm_medium=301

“Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most

“Children who read well are far more likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple.”

Bali Rai

Have a wonderful weekend when it gets here

Sarah Holman

Headteacher



[Click here for dates](#)

Governor's Update

On 24th September 2024, our Full Governing Board met to discuss various important matters impacting our school. This was our first meeting of the academic year, and my first as Chair of Governors. It began with a warm welcome and a prayer.

This board meeting was largely administrative. For example, governors need to declare any potential conflicts of interest, confirm that they sign up to our Code of Conduct and that they have read and understood the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education document. We also discussed the training we need to ensure our skills are kept up to date for our role as governors.

The Chair and Vice chair positions were duly elected, with Juan Garzon stepping up to the vice chair role. We also received an update on the last remaining governor vacancy – that of a foundation governor (a position appointed by the diocese). We are hopeful to fill that soon.

We reviewed, discussed and agreed the 2024-25 strategic document (ensuring a focused approach for the upcoming academic year) and the new Sissinghurst school Vision ("Let your light shine!") which was the culmination of a lot of work by the Head Teacher and staff.

I hope this summary gives you an insight into the important work being done by our governing board to support and improve our school. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us using the school office email.

Peter Denyer

Reminders

Absence

Please note that we do not reply immediately to holiday notifications from parents. You can expect to receive a reply within a month of your request. In line with current government guidance, we cannot authorise any absence that is planned, eg for a family holiday in term time. We only consider cases that are exceptional (for example, due to a bereavement) where there may need to be an absence from school.

Contact information - parents

Just a little reminder that if you have had any changes to contact details during the last few months please remember to let the office via telephone or email.

Flu Vaccinations

A reminder the school nursing team will be in school on the 6 November to give flu vaccinations to the children across all year groups. The letter giving parents all the details and a link for your permission or to advise you do not want your child vaccinated was emailed out earlier this week. See website link below for the letter :- [Flu Vaccination Letter](#)

Secondary School Applications

A reminder that online applications for secondary school admissions is open and the national closing date for all secondary school applications is the 31 October. Click here for full information <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

Safety Procedures

We always have emergency evacuation and lockdown practices at the start of the year and several times across the year too. The children were amazing in both in the last few weeks. The whole school was silent and it almost felt like the summer holidays were here again with no children in school! All schools must have 'lockdown procedures' in place to ensure the safety of everyone in school. There is a wide variety of scenarios which may trigger a lockdown such as a warning being received of a risk locally, a stray dog, air pollution, extreme weather or an intruder. We always talk through each drill at an age appropriate level, and share the alarm sound too, so children understand but are not frightened.

Supporting pupils – useful website – NHS Pod

Check this great information website if you need any information on support for your child

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/> In the pod, you will find films, resources and links that can help your child achieve their therapy goals. We support children and young people to develop their skills to their full potential, so they can participate in everyday activities. We work in partnership with you, your child and any other important people in their life. The Pod has been developed by the Children's Therapies Service, provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust.

The search engine on this part of the NHS website is useful www.kentcht.nhs.uk , for example to search ADHD in children to see support and information that you may find helpful.

Drop in sessions - Remember also, we now offer drop in SENCO and FLO and ELSA sessions – book via the office – dates can be found

here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Drop+in+sessions&pid=92>

Disabled Bays/Infants in Cars

Just a reminder 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.

Also, parents have told us this week that some children have been upset in cars left alone. If you have a young sleeping child in the car and need any assistance collecting your school child please do not hesitate to call the office and we will try and assist where possible.



Report on Sissinghurst Flower Show Society's Autumn Show 2024

The Society's Autumn Show was held in the School Hall on Saturday 14th September 2024.

Entries were rather low in vegetables and flowers chiefly due to the unpredictable weather conditions of a cold spring and then a wet and cooler than average summer.

Cookery class entry numbers were disappointing but were of a high standard. It was good to see an increase in the floral arrangement classes with lovely flowers and foliage. Clouds and water photographs from adults and under 16's showed a variety of interesting cloud formations and seaside pictures.

The children's entries of a 3D model of a spider showed great creativity and amazing ideas. Some looked ferocious and scary, there were origami spiders, one made from Meccano, several even had real insects in their webs and one even had a name. Their webs were made from a variety of materials too.

There were some absolutely original ideas in their class for a decorated photo frame and it was difficult to decide on the overall winners. Some entries contained pressed flowers, others were based on Autumn or Christmas themes and there were even Barbie themes as well. The Learning Tree also produced an impressive display with some little ones only 2 years old.

Cookery animal cupcakes were very popular and the children obviously enjoyed using their imagination to decorate them carefully with spiders, snakes, butterflies, frogs, hedgehogs and pigs amongst their ideas.

The Judges commented that every Junior entry reflected so much care and attention and demonstrated how creative everyone is. Thank you for spending time to do your best work for this Autumn Show.

The show was well attended during the afternoon and everyone enjoyed tea and homemade cakes, a raffle and there were sideshows to entertain the children

Rev. Pete Deaves presented the awards and invited children to draw a raffle ticket which they hoped would be their own!

The Children's Rose Bowl was awarded to Arthur for his spider and Rafe received the Denis Hemsted Youth Cup for his seaside photograph. The Learning Tree Shield went to Teddy.



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

Team work or create our own obstacle course in Lions to keep off the floor! It is lava!



Fantastic learning about keeping safe and also careers we may be interested in for the future. Thankyou [@HomesFernham](#)







Managing Sleep

Is your child having sleep problems?

- Discuss how poor sleep affects our children's and our behaviour?
- Find out about everyday tasks that could be interfering with sleep?
- Explore different ways to help our children and ourselves get more sleep?

This course is for you!

Where: On-line via Zoom
Date: Wednesday 20 November 2024
Time: 9.30-11.30
To book a place please email/phone:
TWFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk / 03000 418 059

We want you to enjoy learning with us. To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

FREE, fun & informal courses



Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills

Internet Matter @IM_org

[Internet Matters@IM_org](#) October is [#CyberSecurityAwarenessMonth](#) and a good time to check-in on your child's privacy & [#security](#) online. Do they use strong passwords? Are their profiles private? Are their devices protected from cyber attacks?

SISSINGHURST & FRITTENDEN CHURCHES

FRIDAY
1ST NOVEMBER
4-5:30PM

PARTY
GAMES
& FUN!

WEAR
BRIGHT
CLOTHES!

LIGHT
PARTY!

@ST MARY'S
FRITTENDEN
TN17 2DD

BIBLE
TALK,
CRAFTS

HOT
DOG
PARTY
TEA

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
& YOUNGER SIBLINGS (EACH FAMILY
MUST HAVE AN ACCOMPANYING ADULT)

PLACES ARE FREE BUT LIMITED
EMAIL CLAIRE@SISSANDFRITT.ORG
TO BOOK YOUR PLACES



Integrating Mindfulness for Parents & Children
Together (IMPACT) Course

Does your 8-11 year old child...

Find it hard
to self-
regulate
emotions?

Struggle to
manage
"big"
feelings?

Overreact to
minor
difficulties?

Is your
relationship
with them
suffering?

Is their
behaviour
impacting on
your family life?



If so, then register to join our FREE 6 week course running for an hour on Saturdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November and 7 December from 9.30am at Ivy Court Surgery, Tenterden.

Experienced Head Teacher, Mental Health Practitioner and Mindfulness Teacher David Bignell will lead parents and their children through various Mindfulness techniques to help give you coping mechanisms that can be used both at home and in school to address all of the above.

For more information and to register your interest please email:

contact@tenterdenmindfulness.co.uk

Limited
places
available

Tenterden Mindfulness Group is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales. Charity Number 1181209

Trio Bohemo & Britten Sinfonia Concerts - Centenary Hall, Benenden School



SPECIAL OFFER

Two free child tickets with every paying adult

HEMSTED

BENENDEN SCHOOL

Wednesday 20 November WWW.HEMSTEDPARK.COM

BOXOFFICE@HEMSTEDPARK.COM

7.30pm 01580 236699

Benenden School | Cranbrook | Kent TN 17 4AA

Britten Sinfonia

Max Richter's Vivaldi Recomposed

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>

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