

Newsletter Issue 8



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9th January 2025





Headteacher News

Happy New Year

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all! May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your cards, gifts and kind wishes at the end of last term. I hope you all had a good break with your friends and family.

The children have been thinking about New Year Resolutions and being determined to keep them this week. This encourages us all to think about things we want to change, start or stop. Our assembly to start the term focused on this and it was very interesting to hear what resolutions the children are working on.

Twitter / X

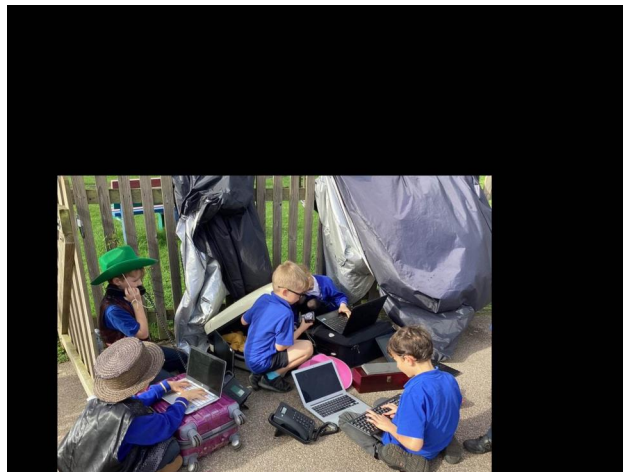
There are lots of exciting things planned for this term and it has been delightful to see the children return with such enthusiasm for learning. Please do follow our Twitter /X-feed if you

are not already so you can keep up to date on <https://twitter.com/sissinghurstVA> . We are delighted to have over 178 followers so far. We include photos of each class and play and lunchtimes each week. Do have a look so you can see what wonderful things are going on in school.

Opal Play

It has been a great start to term 3 with so much exciting learning already taking place. Staff enjoyed a wonderful training day on the last day of term last year where we spoke about Opal Play and how it is going in school.

We are delighted that our play and lunchtimes are going from strength to strength. Children are enjoying them so much more and our behaviour and first aid incidents are reduced. The photos below (from Twitter last term) show the kinds of things going on to keep your children fully learning and enjoying themselves for every moment of the school day. We will be holding a non-uniform day later this month so you can bring in items for our playtimes. Almost everything on offer has been donated. Do remember that if you have anything similar to what you see and wish to pass it on to us – we are always very grateful for donations!





Great pupils at Sissinghurst

We were delighted to receive comments at the end of term praising our pupils during their walk to and from the church service on the last day and also to the choir in their performance at The

Trinity Café in the last week of term. It is always fantastic to hear such positives about our pupils and a great way to start the new year.

Winter Weather

As the weather continues to be wintry questions will inevitably be asked about the school operating as normal. We sent a letter explaining this and how we operate if extreme weather. It can be found on our website

here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/title=Letters+Home&pid=11> We will always endeavour to stay open and only in very rare circumstances would we consider closing. If this was a decision that we needed to take we would ensure that all parents receive a text / studybug message as well as adding messages to our website and Twitter feed. Remaining open may mean that the organisation of classes and staffing may alter slightly due to the potential for some staff not being able to travel to work. Please avoid calling the office to check if the school is open as it will be unless you receive a message.

For new families to Sissinghurst, we send a fortnightly newsletter each fortnight on a Thursday. Please do take the time to read the contents and check diary dates to keep well informed with all that is going on in school.

I hope you have a lovely weekend when it gets here.

Best wishes,

Sarah Holman



[Click here for dates](#)

Governors

We welcomed some new governors to our governing body last term. Here is a little information about three of them and how they will contribute to school development and improvements. You can click here to see more information about our governors <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Governance&pid=17>

I joined the Governing Board of Sissinghurst VA Primary School very recently - in November. Having moved to Sissinghurst in July 2023, I have been keen to become involved in life within the village and when the opportunity of a Foundation Governor role came up for Sissinghurst VA Church of England School, I expressed my very keen interest. I live in Sissinghurst with my husband, 3 dogs and Roxy our pet rabbit. My daughter and a number of our grandchildren live in Staplehurst and I have always been interested and involved in trying to ensure they have a happy upbringing and enjoy and are fulfilled by their educational experiences. Whilst I retired some two years ago, my career was very IT related - working in large and medium sized

organisations where I led some large teams and a number of suppliers to ensure their IT services were resilient and reliable. A lot of that experience is something that I can lean in to in my Governor role and I very much look forward to being involved and meeting more people and children at school as well as parents and other stakeholders.

Andrea Griffiths

I recently joined as a Foundation Governor at Sissinghurst School given my involvement at Trinity Church Sissinghurst. My son also started in the reception class this year and I wanted to get involved in the governance of the school. I have a variety of skills to offer given my background in the finance industry and more recently, the philanthropy sector. I am looking forward to joining the Learning & Development Governance Committee in due course and hope to add value here in terms of thinking about how best to lead the school in this area.

Rachel Vinton

I am Elsie Wood, mother of two daughters, one of whom is currently in Year 2, Elephants class. I joined the board as a Parent Governor at the end of the summer term in 2024 and am a member of the Resources Committee. As a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, I hope to apply the knowledge and skills gained from my professional background to support my role on the board, alongside attending meetings and conducting monitoring visits from the perspective of a parent.

Elsie Wood

OPAL Non-Uniform Day - Friday, 24th January

On Friday 24th January, we will be holding a non-uniform day to help us gain some new resources for OPAL playtimes.

We ask that the children come in to school with a toy/s that we will be able to use to create an outdoor small world area. Although we call it 'small world', we ask that the toys are of a reasonable size so that they don't get lost easily outside. For example, a polly pocket size toy would be too small, but a Barbie would be perfect. Below is a list of ideas for what your child could bring in:

- Barbies and other similar sized figures
- Medium/large toy vehicles – trains, cars, trucks, diggers etc.
- Teddies
- Dolls / Babies
- Houses / Buildings
- Model trees, plants etc. to make different play scenes.
- Animals
- Large building blocks
- Furniture (toy size)

If you don't have any toys that you are able to donate or you are willing to contribute further towards our OPAL playtimes, we have an Amazon wish list of resources that we would love to provide the children with. If you click on the link below, it will take you to the wish list where you are able to purchase items that will be sent directly to the school. Amazon Wish List:

<https://amzn.eu/5DJenRk>

Thank you for helping us to keep developing our OPAL playtimes.

New year fitness challenge for children

Get energised with a 10 minute shake up game from your favourite Disney character.

Click here to access: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/10-minute-shake-up/>

NHS Pharmacy First Service - Important Information

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and get back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

- **Earache** (aged 1 to 17 years)
- **Impetigo** (aged 1 year and over)
- **Infected insect bites and stings** (aged 1 year and over)
- **Sore throats** (aged 5 years and over)
- **Sinusitis** (aged 12 years and over)
- **Uncomplicated urinary tract infections** (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

§ Shingles (aged 18 years and over)

The person will see a pharmacist in a private consultation room. The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically appropriate, offer to supply treatment for the condition*. If treatment is provided, an electronic message will be sent to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated.

Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other healthcare professional, as appropriate.



Kent Police Child Centred Policing - Parent Teacher Conference

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting our first online workshop for parents and teachers. The event will be held on Microsoft teams Wednesday 22nd January 2025 1600 -1700 hours. The subject covered will be "sexortian" and will give guidance on what this is, signs to look out for and what to do if you or someone you know finds themselves a victim of this crime type.

[Please click here to register for the event](#)





Courses starting Jan 2025

Course Code	Course Title	Start	End	Day	Start Time	End Time
ONL/148495/P/PF	Managing Children's Behaviour	07/01/25	28/01/25	Tuesday	19:00	21:00
ONL/148604/P/PF	Supporting your Child with Language (ESOL)	08/01/25	12/02/25	Wednesday	12:30	14:30
ONL/148426/P/PF	Supporting Your Child's Anxiety	14/01/25	14/01/25	Tuesday	19:00	21:00
ONL/148481/P/PF	Supporting Your family through our Screen Obsessed World	15/01/25	15/01/25	Wednesday	12:45	14:45
ONL/148275/P/PF	Keeping up with the Children - English	16/01/25	06/02/25	Thursday	09:30	11:30
ONL/148277/P/PF	Autism Awareness	16/01/25	06/02/25	Thursday	19:00	21:00
ONL/148713/P/PF	Autism Awareness	21/01/25	11/02/25	Tuesday	10:00	12:00
ONL/148671/P/PF	Supporting ADHD in the Home	22/01/25	12/02/25	Wednesday	13:00	15:00
ONL/148682/P/PF	Supporting ADHD in the Home	22/01/25	12/02/25	Wednesday	10:00	12:00
ONL/148962/P/PF	Exploring Behaviour Strategies	22/01/25	22/01/25	Wednesday	19:00	21:00

To book a place on our FREE courses go to:

Family Learning courses (<https://www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/course-areas/health-wellbeing-and-personal-development/family-learning/?pageNumber=2&pageSize=10&sortOrder=StartingSoonest&alreadyStarted=No&courseArea=Health%2C Wellbeing and Personal Development&category=Family Learning>) and [Work Skills courses](#)

If you can't find the course, please copy the code on the left (e.g. ONL/146824/P/PF) into the search box



HEALTH COACHING

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH NEURODIVERISTY AND THEIR
FAMILIES
PILOT SCHEME

10 SESSIONS FROM THE 22ND
JANUARY

AT HOMEWOOD SCHOOL
INSIDE SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY'S - 16:30PM - 17:30PM
SIBLINGS AND PARENTS/CARERS
CAN JOIN IN

OUR FUN, ALL-INCLUSIVE CLUB IS OPEN
TO ALL ABILITIES OF CHILDREN AS THEY
WILL LEARN HOW TO RUN, GET FIT, LEARN
ALL ABOUT HEALTHY HABITS AND HAVE
LOTS OF FUN.

Email
clare@b2rhealthcoachingservices.co.uk
for more information

B2R
HEALTH COACHING





If your child plays [#VideoGames](#), explore 24 step-by-step guides for consoles, games and platforms to help you set up [#ParentalControls](#). Manage in-game spending, content restrictions, communication settings and more

<https://bit.ly/3qYvPg3> [#parents](#) [#OnlineSafety](#)

[From internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org)



Worried about your child's behaviour or their emotional health? Need support for relationship issues or other family life worries? Our team can help - message us on WhatsApp on 07441 444125 - we are open till 9pm today <https://ow.ly/B1nh50UAbst> #FamilySupport #SupportForParents

**WhatsApp
Family
Support
Service**

 **07441 444125**

www.familylives.org.uk

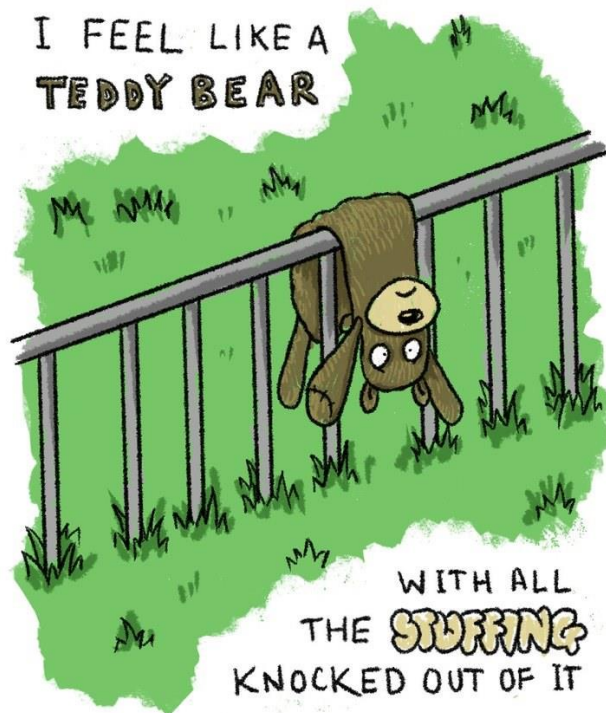
The graphic features a dark blue background with a hand holding a smartphone displaying a WhatsApp chat interface. The text is white and yellow, and the phone is light blue.

The NSPCC logo consists of a solid green square with the letters "NSPCC" written in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center.

NSPCC

Parents and carers! If you and your child are finding January tough, you're not alone. Childline has a whole toolbox of ideas you can share with your child to boost their wellbeing

<https://bit.ly/4093SUO>



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

Common Road, Sissinghurst, Kent TN17 2BH

Tel: 01580 713895 / Fax: 01580 710051

office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk / <http://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk>

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