

Newsletter Issue 1



Newsletter Issue 1

4th September 2025





Headteacher's News

Welcome back to all our families after a lovely summer break even though mostly the weather was not particularly summery! We do hope you all had a good break and a rest with time to see some of your family and friends. Thankyou so much for the lovely cards, messages and gifts that were given to staff at the end of term – very generous and so appreciated by us all.

It has been lovely seeing the children's smiley faces and hearing chat and laughter throughout the school again. We are so impressed that your children have come back and settled in so well to their new classes. It is like they have never been away. We hope that they have told you all about their first few days in their new class.

I would particularly like to welcome all our new children and families who are beginning their learning journey with us at Sissinghurst this term.

Please feel free to catch leaders or Mrs Ridgway (our FLO) at the gates in the mornings or at the end of the day should you have any questions that you would like to ask. We believe passionately in working together and would encourage you all to speak with your child's class teacher should you have any concerns. Teachers can email or send you a Studybug message or

give you a call if you prefer at lunchtime or at the end of the school day. We are delighted that Mrs Evans continues in her ELSA role across the school to support them emotionally so that they can be successful.

YR Parents

Welcome to Sissinghurst Primary School if this is your first child joining us. The children in Lions are settling in beautifully and already showing our school values of courage and kindness.

Feel part of the school day - <https://x.com/sissinghurstVA>

Have a look on X / Twitter - if you do not follow us please do – we are delighted to be able to Tweet as we go so you will be able to see your children in ‘real time.’ We try very hard to ensure a variety of school life is shown over the week so please keep looking to see what your children are up to in school. Please note, we may have back or side-of-head shots of any pupil but they should not be recognisable if we do not have your permission to put them on our website or Twitter account. Please do always speak to the class teacher or let the office know if you have any queries about Twitter so we can assist you.

Thank you

Special thanks go to our cleaners and Mr Humberstone who have worked tirelessly to ensure the school has been cleaned from top to bottom in time for the start of term. Finally, thank you all for getting your children in this week, on time and looking so smart in their new uniform and shiny black shoes. I have not stopped commenting on how smart your children look and what pride they are taking in themselves and our school.

An exciting year at Sissinghurst has definitely begun and the children have been amazing of course!

Kind regards

Sarah Holman and the team at Sissinghurst

Reminders

Thankyou for ensuring your children are back to school looking so smart and on time in the mornings.

A few reminders below for your information.

Fruit and Water

Please can we remind you that we only provide fruit / vegetable snacks for children in KS1 as part of the government scheme. You are welcome to bring in similar healthy snacks for children in KS2 (Y3-6).

Children need a water bottle freshly filled each day please and especially in this weather to wear sunscreen and bring in sunhats to protect them as best we can.

Letter from your teacher

A letter from each class teacher will be coming to you this week for class specific information about the curriculum and PE lessons, but in the meantime please note forest school times below and that PE kits can stay in school for the term and go home at the end for washing so you do not have to worry about another thing to remember!

Forest School – Tuesday afternoons – if you can help please contact the office – we always need helpers to make this run successfully.

Year groups are linked to term number to try to make things easier – children should wear long sleeves and covered legs on this day, not uniform as they will get messy. Forest school will not be cancelled this year as this caused confusion last year. If we do not have enough parent volunteers for certain activities (eg campfires) then we will just run other activities that may be on the school site for safety.

Term 1 (now) – Year 1 Giraffes

Term 2 (Nov – Dec) - Year 2 Elephants

Term 3 (Jan – Feb) – Y3 Zebras

Term 4 (Feb – March) – Y4 Rhinos

Term 5 (April – May) – Y5 Eagles

Term 6 (June – July) – YR and Y6 – more info nearer the time from our forest leaders about how this will work

Worship

Remember we welcome families to worship each Friday at 9am. This lasts for approximately 20-30 minutes and includes a celebration of the week, certificates, house points and much more – do join us if you can – no need to book – just sign in at office and take a seat in the hall!

Harvest Festival

Harvest Church Service on Wednesday, 24th September from 9.30am until 10.00am. Parents are welcome to join us in church for this service. Please do walk down with us if you can to supervise the children.

Car park

Please can we remind you to park safely, ideally when you drop or collect your children you do this quickly to clear space to keep things as safe as possible. Please do not double park also anywhere in the school site as this makes moving in and out of spaces dangerous.

Thankyou all for your ongoing support.



Message from Governors

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers, and Staff,

As the new academic year begins, the Governors extend a warm welcome to everyone at Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School! We hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for a year filled with learning and growth.

Our school's deeply rooted Christian vision, "**Let your Light Shine**" continues to guide all we do. This vision encourages every member of our school community to flourish, thrive, and become successful, well-rounded citizens.

At our last Full Governing Board meeting held at the end of last term, the governors discussed and approved several key aspects to enhance our school's journey. We received the Headteacher's Report and the Strategic Document, which outlines our strategic objectives for the upcoming academic year.

Our key priorities for 2025-26 focus on ensuring every child has the best possible experience and outcome:

- **Curriculum Enhancement:** We are committed to ensuring pupils are consistently supported to recall their learning to help them connect new knowledge with what they've learned before. Our particular focus for this year includes Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, and PE.
- **Vision Development:** We continue to explore how our Christian vision empowers ALL members of the school community to shine. We want to give children more chances to practise speaking, debating, standing up for what is right, and helping others.
- **Improved Attendance:** We are dedicated to tracking and improving attendance, ensuring that no one falls behind - each day in school offers unique opportunities for children to build knowledge, confidence, and the essential skills they will carry forward .

We look forward to working together with the entire Sissinghurst community to achieve these goals and uphold our shared vision. Here's to a successful and inspiring year ahead where everyone can truly "Let their Light Shine"!

Peter Denyer on behalf of the the Governing Board

Farewell to Rev. Pete

So, a new school year, and a new season ahead for Team Deaves, as we gear up to move next month! No, not to France - this is just a recent pic from our summer family holiday... In fact, just to a different part of Kent, where I am thrilled to be called to serve the parish of Kemsing with Woodlands, just north of Sevenoaks.

Very mixed emotions, as we have been settled in this special corner of Kent serving Sissinghurst and Frittenden churches and schools and communities since my first Sunday 1st March 2020 (just before Covid hit - remember that!). Although the move came unexpectedly for us, God has led us very clearly, so we trust him as we gear up to say our goodbyes... and gear up for all that lies ahead. We're also praying daily for God's provision of just the right person to come on board and continue all that God's been doing in our parishes. Be assured, the churches are already working hard as they gear up for the recruitment process...

October half term is when we move, so still time for hellos and harvests and handshakes between now and then... And when the time comes, as the balloon aptly says, L'Aventure Commence - The Adventure Begins!

Rev Pete and family





Opal Play

At Sissinghurst, we believe that all children have the right to quality play at all times and in all weather conditions, rain or shine. This ethos is reflected in our school's OPAL programme, which aims to provide outstanding play opportunities for every child.

To ensure this level of play can take place, **it is vital that every child has a pair of wellies in school, at all times, along with an appropriate coat.** Waterproof trousers or overalls are also great as these allow children to access all areas of OPAL play, even on wet days and throughout the winter months.

We want every child to be able to access all aspects of OPAL play, no matter the weather, so please ensure that over the next couple of weeks your child brings these items in to school. If you need some support in obtaining any of these items, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We have a welly storage area on the field where your child will be able to keep their wellies. Please write your child's name in permanent marker on the boots to ensure they do not get misplaced. Waterproof items will be kept in classrooms, but will also need to be named clearly.

Thank you for your continued help in making Sissinghurst playtimes amazing!

The OPAL Team

Flower Show - Saturday, 13th September

FROM 2.30PM IN SCHOOL HALL

Please enter one or more of the following categories:

- **Young Person's Photography (16 years and under) 'Sunset or Sunrise'**
- **Children's Classes - 11 years and under** (free to enter) - 4 jam tarts (own recipe) or
Wooden spoon person

In exchange for your child's entry to the show they can wear their own clothes on Friday, 12th September. 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 its all taking place to find out where your child's entry has come. If you are new to the community, its 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.



Cranbrook Hub

Carriers Road, Cranbrook, TN17 3JT.

Whether you are using a mobile or laptop device, we can support and guide you to get the most out of your online experience.

Every second Friday of the month: 10am – 12pm

- 10th January
- 14th February
- 14th March
- 11th April

- 9th May
- 13th June
- 11th July
- 8th August

- 12th September
- 10th October
- 14th November
- 12th December

To book onto a session and find out more, please visit digitalkent.uk or call **03000 410 950**.


Kent and Medway





As we move into a more digital age, let us help you navigate it's resources and information with support from our Digital Champions

- Discover the benefits of being online
- Explore the job market or career development opportunities
- Pay bills or find the best prices
- Manage and support your health with the NHS
- Use comparison websites to find the best prices i.e. energy tariffs
- Access and apply for financial support
- Using assistive technology to support independence



TRY A BRASS INSTRUMENT
EVENING.

BACK TO BRASS

Learn a new skill -

Come and have a go evening:
Hawkhurst Primary School
Thursday September 11th
6.30pm

No experience necessary, just
get in touch so we know you're
coming along.

Produce music magic with
Cranbrook Town Band Brass
Roots

Any age - any stage - returners
welcome

Contact Charlotte O'Neill on 07943
902745



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)