

# Newsletter Issue 9



**Newsletter Issue 9**

**22nd January 2026**





## Headteacher's News

### School Values

During our assemblies and worship this term we have been focusing on our school values and what they mean to us. So far this term we have really been focusing on ways in which we can 'shine' and how we can help others if they are upset or having a difficult time. We have talked about compassion, going out of our way to support or help others and the importance of a smile that makes someone else feel better about themselves.

We have also been relating our values of kindness and forgiveness to our school and thinking about the values we uphold in Britain. We continually thank our children for kind acts to others and for showing forgiveness when things do not go to plan. We are grateful to have freedom of choice and to live in a country where we have rules and laws to keep everyone safe. We are also considering the importance of showing tolerance and celebrating the uniqueness and differences between humans.

We have enjoyed visitors from other schools to see what we are learning at Sissinghurst and parents also wanting tours to consider our school for their children. All these visitors really

complement our children for their compassion, thoughtfulness and superb attitudes to learning, stressing a sense of purpose and calm when they walk round.

#### School Uniform

We have spoken to all of the children about the importance of looking smart. Your support is very much appreciated and we would ask that all parents ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately, in our uniform, with black or navy school shoes, without nail varnish (or fake nails / extensions / gels) and with only plain stud earrings and watches for jewellery (no bracelets, rings or necklaces please). Please could we also ask that children do not come to school with large bows in their hair or temporary tattoos as this is not part of the school uniform. Click here for a reminder of our expectations <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=19>

Thank you so much for your valued support. Our school is a vibrant place to be and your children are a real credit to you all. We don't always get everything right all the time but we can assure you that we will always work tirelessly to secure the very best for all children.

Have a lovely weekend when it gets here

Sarah Holman

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[Click here for dates](#)

### **Opal Play - Non-Uniform Day - 23/01/26**

Tomorrow - Friday 23 January 2026 we will hold a non-uniform day for donations to Opal Play - yes another one!. You have hopefully seen on our X feed the wonderful photos we post across the week of your children accessing high quality opportunities to play together. Play and lunchtimes have really transformed over the last year and ensure all children are fully engaged in purposeful play. Children love so many parts of what is on offer – they after all get a say in what there is as it is important that they have a say in what they play with! We thank you in advance for your donations so we can further enhance our offer and continue to offer excellent playtimes for all our children. We can't wait to see all the lovely things you bring in for this.

Here is a list of the items that we would love to have for OPAL:

- old pots and pans
- spoons, whisks, ladles, spatulas,
- containers
- sieves and strainers
- funnels
- scales
- old kettles
- old microwaves

- syringes for water
- natural loose parts such as pebbles, shells, stones, leaves, conkers, acorns
- big plastic crates (shopping/ bread/ milk crates) which are strong and durable
- large paint brushes and rollers
- large role play houses
- lego / duplo
- furniture such as chairs, tables, cabinets, coffee tables, picnic tables, book cases.
- blankets/ rugs/ large pieces of material / tarpaulin / nets
- pegs/ clips
- ropes
- scooters and buggies
- babies

We also 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.

Please remember to provide your child with a pair of wellies and waterproofs, all year round. Your children are welcome to take these home at any point in the year, so that they can have a good clean, but they must be returned right away as we could be using them any day of the year. The children have been loving being out in all weathers. Please look at our Sissinghurst VA page on X to see what we've been getting up to on our wet weather days.

## **Monday, 26 January 9.00-9.45am - Do you know what your child is doing online?**

Informative and informal workshop for parents in the hall after drop off – please do join us we will talk about gaming, AI and more – your eyes will be opened and you will have the chance too to ask any questions.

## 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 for the lockdown yesterday. The whole school was silent and 'hid' in the classrooms until the end of the drill. 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, so children understand but are not frightened. We have our next evacuation drill planned for later this term.

## School Office - delivery of forgotten items

Please try to remember items each day. We have many forgotten items dropped by parents most days for the office staff to deliver to your child after the start of the school day. Children should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own things as part of growing up and as a preparation for their next school. Please note that if non-essential items are left with office staff during the day, we cannot guarantee that these will be delivered. This will depend on pressure of work in the office on the day. Clearly we will ensure that essential items, such as lunch boxes, are delivered to the child. Our thanks to all parents who support office staff in this matter – your help is much appreciated.

## New Technology Resources

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful FOSS for their generous purchase of 10 new VU+ data loggers and 16 Crumble kits for our school. These exciting resources will support learning across science, maths and computing lessons in all years.

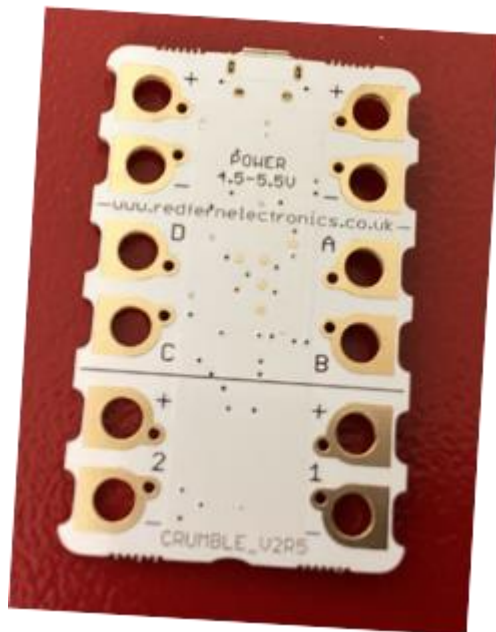
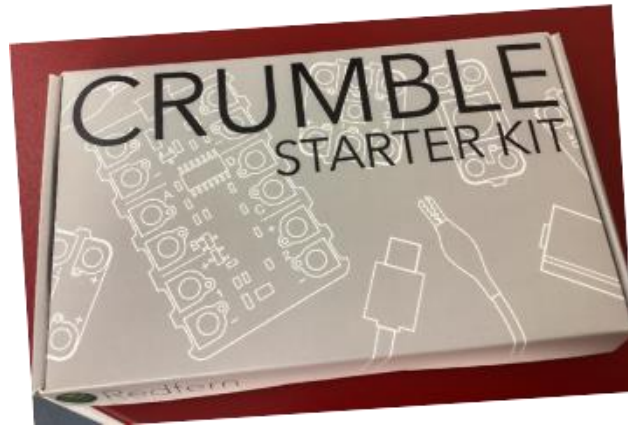
The VU+ data loggers allow pupils to collect and record real-life data such as temperature, light and sound. Children can then analyse the results, spot patterns and draw conclusions, helping to bring learning to life in a practical and engaging way. Rhinos class will be using the data loggers in their next computing topic. These data loggers can be used right from Lions class up to Leopards in a range of ways and having our own school sets increases the flexibility we can have in using them to support learning.

The Crumble kits introduce pupils to coding and physical computing. Using a simple programming interface, children can control lights, buzzers and motors, design their own projects and solve problems creatively. Eagles class will be using the Crumble kits in their upcoming computing lessons.

FOSS have also contributed towards our upcoming Internet Safety Workshops which will be happening on Tuesday 3rd February kicking off our learning around Safer Internet Day which falls on Tuesday 10th February. This year's theme is 'Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' Open View Education will be providing engaging assemblies and workshops through drama. You can find some top tips for parents and carers here: [Top Tips for parents and carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

We are incredibly grateful for FOSS' continued support and for helping us provide hands-on, inspiring learning experiences for our pupils.





## FOSS Events

We enjoyed a wonderful evening last week at Movie Night, I am not sure anyone saw the whole film due to such fun with their friends, but a wonderful time was had by all. Thankyou to FoSS for organising for the children to have an enjoyable time and of course to raise much needed funds for school.

We have reflected on arrangements for such events as there were a huge number of late applications for the event which the office could not process on the day in time for FoSS to purchase food and drink items also.

Going forwards, FoSS will ensure the deadline for booking a place on any event is clear and will be adhered to to avoid upset on the day as some parents told us they thought they would be able to book up to and on the day even after the 'event full' memo was sent out.

Also, a reminder to all families that all bookings must be through office, not with friends or FoSS members directly as this is not passed on to the school booking system and this caused upset for a few families too who were then too late to book properly and their children could not attend.

We do apologise for any upset caused from the running of this event for affected families, which remember is planned, organised and run by volunteer parents just like yourselves. We will ensure we are clearer on closing times / dates for booking all events, normally around a week before to allow good time for registers to be processed and picking up arrangements, food allergies, etc to be noted as these things cannot be done at the last minute as I am sure you can appreciate.

## FOSS Disco - Non-Uniform Day - 6/2/26

It's the Sissinghurst February 2026 Disco!

Friday 6th February 2026 5pm-6:10pm

Tuck shop

Pocket money stalls (gifts ranging from 50p to £3)

As usual you must pay for tickets in advance on parent pay (£3) and fill out the consent form below online to book a place. All booking must be made by Friday 30th January 2026. Only children with consent forms can be admitted into the disco.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSealuEFspAAryqRTa5ANrwqWlNojo5-JyzGd6l95G7uNaA0bg/viewform?usp=header>

NO PAYMENT WILL BE TAKEN AFTER THIS DATE AND YOUR CHILD(REN) WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND.



Caterlink are carrying out their annual pupil survey to assist them in improving their catering service to their customers and they would value the opportunity to survey the pupils at our school.

**Survey closes on 27th March 2026**

Primary Pupil Survey Link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3RTFTV>



Kent Adult Education @KentAdultEd

Date: 27th January 2026

Join our free online Family Learning course.

Understand the causes of anxiety in children

Learn practical strategies to reduce stress

Build a supportive home environment

[ow.ly/T5m450Y0KcY](https://ow.ly/T5m450Y0KcY)



# LOOKING FOR FREE PARENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT?



This service is for adults (18+) only.

**12 FREE SESSIONS AVAILABLE**



## WHERE

Regus, Pluto House  
Tunbridge Wells

## WHEN

Thursdays, between 10am-4pm

## WITH

A Counsellor in Training who has been approved by their education provider and holds an Enhanced DBS Check

**THIS SERVICE IS NOT FOR ANYONE WHO HAS ANY OF THE BELOW EXPERIENCES OR WISHES FOR COUNSELLING.**

- Whose needs would be better met by a specialist service i.e. eating disorders
- Who are experiencing thoughts of self-harm or thoughts of suicide
- Who are receiving psychological therapy from another service or therapist at the same time as being seen in our service
- Who are experiencing current and active addictions, eating disorders or PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- Who have a history or current symptoms of psychosis, hallucinations, and delusion
- Have a diagnosis of bipolar affective disorder / borderline or antisocial personality disorder
- Who are seeking couples counselling
- Who are currently training in counselling and/or psychotherapy
- Have experienced historic or current abuse

**SIGN UP FOR FREE PARENT COUNSELLING:**

<https://spurgeons.org/how-we-help/family-life/counselling/free-counselling-sessions-for-adults/>



**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Once your request has been received, we will be in contact to arrange an assessment call.

Spurgeons

# EVERYONE DESERVES SUPPORT.

Sign up for free parent counselling support with Spurgeons

**WHERE**  
Regus, Pluto House, Tunbridge Wells

**WHEN**  
Thursdays, between 10am-4pm

**WITH**  
A Counsellor in Training who has been approved by their education provider

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE



# BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM



DATES: 14TH TO 22ND FEBRUARY 2026 (HALF TERM)  
LOCATED: RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM  
TIMES: 10 AM – 4PM DAILY (3.30PM LAST ENTRY)



OPTIONAL  
PRE-BOOKING  
AVAILABLE

BOOK HERE



ARE YOU A LEGO ENTHUSIAST? IF SO THEN POP ON DOWN AND ENJOY THE FUN WITH LIKE-MINDED LEGO LOVERS AT OUR ULTIMATE FAMILY FRIENDLY EXHIBITION WEEK! (NORMAL MUSEUM ENTRANCE FEES APPLY) NO NEED TO BOOK!

LEGO FIGURE HUNT  
SEARCH AROUND THE MUSEUM, FIND THE HIDDEN LEGO FIGURES & WIN A PRIZE... ONLY £1.50

PLEASE CONTACT US ON:  
INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK OR  
WWW.RAFMANSTON.CO.UK FOR  
MORE INFORMATION!

INTERESTED IN DISPLAYING YOUR LEGO MOC?  
EMAIL INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK FOR DETAILS

\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WEATHER CONDITIONS, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS AND SHORTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS AND/OR EXHIBITORS.

RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM

BRICKS AT THE MUSEUM

# LEGO RAFFLE

Enter for a chance to win a Lego set valued at £300

LEGO STAR WARS  
9-14  
2021

**£5pt**  
PAYMENT TO BE MADE IN STORE OR ONLINE

**RAFFLE DRAWN 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY @ 3PM**

SCAN QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL :  
[INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@RAFMANSTON.CO.UK)

RAFFLE SUBJECT TO A RESERVE, IF £300 IS NOT MADE IN TICKET SALES THE RAFFLE WILL NOT BE DRAWN

## 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)