

# Newsletter Issue 11



**Newsletter Issue 11**

**26th February 2026**





## Headteacher's News

FoSS

We want to start this week's newsletter with a huge thankyou to FoSS for the recent disco which was hugely enjoyed by all and made around £700 for school funds. Please do continue to support school events and let us know if you would like to run and organise any events and set up a group of likeminded parents to do so.

We cannot wait for the next FoSS event coming up at the end of this term – our 3rd colour run on Wednesday 1 April – not just super fun but another way to raise money for school priorities and to ensure children at Sissinghurst can have so many more things than tight school budgets can buy. We are trying to save up to make some bigger Opal Play purchases for the coming year, so every penny helps and the children will be so grateful as they do love their new Opal play and lunchtimes!

Most recently we are grateful to FoSS for paying for another class annual subscription to FIRST NEWS. Children are loving reading a newspaper, doing the wordsearches, crosswords and quizzes and sharing the interesting stories in their classes.

### Personal Development

We value this at Sissinghurst to ensure children have the chance to let their light shine in many ways. We are very pleased with our offer which includes many clubs and events across each year. To share a few, at the end of last term we all enjoyed a freestyle football day (funded using our Sport Premium Grant) and of course yesterday our choir sang their hearts out at the O2 Young Voices event. Our Running Club and some additional runners have the London Mini marathon to look forward to later in April and Elephant Class are looking forward to welcoming chicks nearer Easter. There is so much going on every week to strengthen and enhance the learning and opportunities at school.

Arbor – the roll out has been successful, thank you all for signing up. We look forward to you being able to keep track of your child's attendance each day and in coming weeks, being able to book all clubs, trips and payments using this one app also. Thank you to Mrs Hodges who has been instrumental in setting this all up behind the scenes and of course to Mrs Branson and Mrs Papagno for helping too.

Have a wonderful weekend when it gets here and we look forward to seeing you all next week for parent evenings.

Sarah Holman



[Click here for dates](#)

## Update from the governors

Dear pupils, parents, carers and staff,

Warm greetings from the governors at Sissinghurst Primary School! Our goal as a Governing Board is to ensure the school has a clear vision and delivers high-quality, effective education while using its financial resources well. In a nutshell, this means making sure the school is a place where every pupil can truly 'let their light shine'. We meet six times a year and also carry out regular monitoring visits to check how well the school is progressing towards its objectives.

Our most recent Full Governing Board meeting took place at the end of January, and included the following topics:

**Attendance:** Despite the inevitable seasonal bugs, attendance has improved this academic year, and there's a wide range of support available to help children engage with school.

**Monitoring visits:** We discussed the reports from governors' recent monitoring visits on inclusion, early years, Christian character, health and safety, and quality of education.

**School policies:** We reviewed a number of policies (eg on exclusions, social media and special educational needs) to make sure they're clear and helpful. You can find these on the school website.

**Christian distinctiveness:** Our Christian vision is central to all we do at Sissinghurst Primary. We're currently due for an inspection to assess how effective we are as a Church school, and spent some time preparing for this.

We want to say a huge thank you to Juan Garzon, who has done a wonderful job serving as Chair of the Governing Board since 2023. Juan has now stepped down to focus on other commitments, and we're delighted that Andrea Griffiths has been appointed as our new Chair.

As Governors, we always love the chance to talk to parents, carers and pupils, and will be attending parents' evenings, open afternoons and Friday Collective Worship sessions whenever possible – please do say hello!

Best wishes,

Zoe Murton on behalf of the Governing Board

## Reading

There are so many benefits to reading including improving our self-esteem, mental health, well-being; being able to be lost in new worlds in our imagination alongside learning facts and understanding other people in the world, cultures, languages and historical events.

Along with the wonderful poetry recitals and activities we have planned for next week's world book day, we hope the work we are doing on reading inspires a little more reading for everyone. We see a huge difference in the confidence and speed in the reading of those that read frequently. Please do try and aim for 20 minutes at least three times a week to make a real difference to your child's progress.

## Parents Evening - Tuesday 10th March and Wednesday 11th March 2026

Bookings open tonight!

Parents evening will be on Tuesday 10th March and Wednesday 11th March 2026 from 3:30pm-6pm. You will be able to book your appointment on the new parent app Arbor, from Thursday 26th February at 6:30pm.

## World Book Day - Thursday, 5th March 2026

**World Book Day – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Dear Parents,

This year, we are celebrating **World Book Day** a little differently, with a focus on the joy of poetry, performance, and spoken language.

Rather than dressing up as book characters, children will be invited to choose a favourite poem to enjoy, share, perform, or respond to in a way that suits them best. This approach allows every child to take part confidently, without the pressure of costumes, while celebrating language in a meaningful, inclusive, and creative way.

**Poetry in Disguise (Non-Uniform Day)**

Instead of dressing up, children may:

- Bring a simple prop linked to their chosen poem (for example: a spoon, leaf, hat, or paper crown), or
- Wear one colour that represents the mood or feeling of their poem.

**Throughout the day, children will:**

- Listen to and explore a wide range of poems
- Share and perform poetry in a supportive environment
- Talk about words, feelings, and favourite lines
- Celebrate poetry through art, performance, and discussion

**You can support your child at home by:**

- Reading poems together
- Talking about which poems they enjoy and why
- Encouraging them to practise reading aloud with expression

World Book Day is about fostering a lifelong love of reading and language, and poetry offers a wonderful opportunity for every child to shine in their own way.

Children may even recite/perform a poem in a different language – the choice is yours!

**Poetry Performance Challenge (Term 4)**

As part of our wider poetry celebration, children will also be set an exciting **Poetry Performance Challenge**.

Children will be invited to learn a poem off by heart and perform it to their class. A selection of suggested poems for each year group will be shared by their class teacher, but children are also very welcome to choose a favourite poem of their own.

## Dishwasher Needed!!

If anyone has a dishwasher in good working order that they no longer use we would be very grateful for it. It would need to be delivered too. Many thanks

## Reminder: Flower Show - Saturday, 21st March

Own clothes day - Friday, 20th March and the presentation assembly with Mitzi will be on Monday, 23rd March.

Entry details to follow next week

Please note Friday, 21st March is also comic relief day. If you wish to donate to this also please do so via the link below:

<https://donation.comicrelief.com/>

## FoSS Colour Run - Wednesday, 1st April

Dear Parents, It will soon be time for the FOSS Colour Run.

We will welcome in springtime with a dash of colour with our third colour run. This event can run whatever the weather and gets everyone involved.

Full details to follow soon but save the day!!

## Interhouse PE Competition

We are excited to announce that this term, all pupils will be taking part in an **Interhouse PE Competition**. This term's competition will be a special **Dodgeball** event! The children will compete in their house teams during their normal PE slot. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to demonstrate teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship, while also earning valuable points for their house.



### House Points Available:

- **1st Place** – 50 House Points
- **2nd Place** – 25 House Points
- **3rd Place** – 10 House Points
- **4th Place** – Better luck next time!

The winning house will be announced in assembly on **Friday 20th March**. We are looking forward to a fun, energetic and competitive event for all pupils!

Many Thanks

Mrs Kidd

## Guitar Lessons in School

*Andrew Parry Music are really pleased to let you know that their Guitar teacher Jack (who comes to the school on a Tuesday) has a couple of 20 minute slots available. It is really unusual for these to become available and has only been possible as Jack has extended his day at the school. Lessons are £12 each and take place during the school day - if you are interested, please contact Kelly on [andrewparrymusic@gmail.com](mailto:andrewparrymusic@gmail.com) for more information*

# Children's Health & Wellbeing Team



The Children's health and wellbeing team is made up of a children and young person's mental health practitioner, two children's health and wellbeing navigators, and a trainee children's wellbeing practitioner. They support children, young people and their families/carers with long term health conditions, particularly neurodevelopmental conditions or mental health concerns (with and without diagnosis).

## **Children's Health & Wellbeing Navigators**

- Support with long-term health needs
- Establishing where the child/young person and their family are in the system and provide support for ongoing needs
- Offer advice, support and guidance through referral process by working alongside relevant agencies
- Support in the interim of referrals through connecting with community assets
- Connect with practice safeguarding leads where there are safeguarding concerns
- Inform and encourage the child/young person and their family to continue to access the CHWN service throughout their journey rather than making GP appointments, where there is a non-clinical concern

## **Children & Young Person's Mental Health/Wellbeing Practitioner**

- Accessing appropriate services and support within the local community. Sometimes this may include onward referral or signposting to other mental health services ('CAMHS'), voluntary services, charities, and support groups
- Providing short-term therapeutic interventions for mild to moderate mental health needs
- Supporting children, young people and families with working towards goals which are important to them
- Liaising with other agencies involved, for example schools, to ensure a joined-up approach when supporting the child

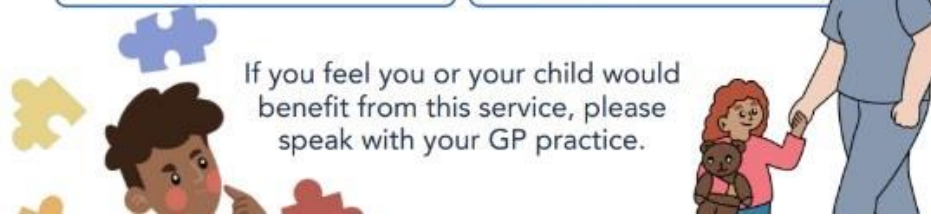
## **How to be referred to our Children's Health & Wellbeing Team:**

If you feel you would benefit from the support of this team, please let your GP practice know. They will be able to refer you.



Our children health & wellbeing team is made up of health and wellbeing navigators and mental health practitioners. They support children/young people, and their families, with long term health conditions, neurodevelopmental conditions and mental health problems in many different ways!

<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING NAVIGATORS CAN:</b>	<b>MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS CAN:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide support to children/young people and their families</li><li>• Coordinate care across services</li><li>• Support the child/young person and their family while waiting for referrals</li><li>• Make onward referrals to specialist services</li><li>• Provide information and guidance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support with accessing appropriate services and support within the community</li><li>• Provide short term therapeutic intervention for mild/moderate mental health concerns</li><li>• Support with working towards important goals</li><li>• Coordinate care across services</li></ul>



## HAF Vouchers - Pupil Premium children

HolidayActivities is a new booking system designed to take the hassle out of using your HAF vouchers to find and book local activities in your area.

Follow the step by step guide via the link below to get started:

<https://help.holidayactivities.com/hc/en-gb/articles/33548569534237-Parent-Guide>

## 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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