

Newsletter Issue 14



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23rd April 2026





Headteacher's News

Welcome back after the glorious Easter break. We hope you had a lovely holiday with your families and a well-earned rest.

We are looking forward to so many things for the summer terms. A few classes still have trips and their class assembly to look forward to as part of their learning enhancements, Y6 have their residential visit later in May, we have Sports Day, the summer disco and much more. Busy but exciting terms ahead. Please do look at our school diary date page <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Calendar+Dates&pid=91> on our website to keep up with things going on in school and of course follow our NEW Instagram page and X (we post very similar on each profile) to keep up to date with school life fully and spot your little (or big!) one in their school days.

Follow us on Instagram and / or X

X (we have over 200 followers currently) @sissinghurstVA <https://x.com/sissinghurstVA>

Insta (we have over 100 followers currently)

@sissinghurstprimary <https://www.instagram.com/sissinghurstprimary/>

Governors – We are very grateful to have such supportive and involved Governors. You may have seen some of our Governors at events last term, including at gate drop off and pick up times, worships, church services, parent evenings and the open afternoon. Governors (when on duty) will always wear their white governor lanyard so you can spot them and have a chat to them about school life so they can consider parent and community views in their leadership role.

Have a lovely weekend when it gets here.

Sarah Holman

Attendance

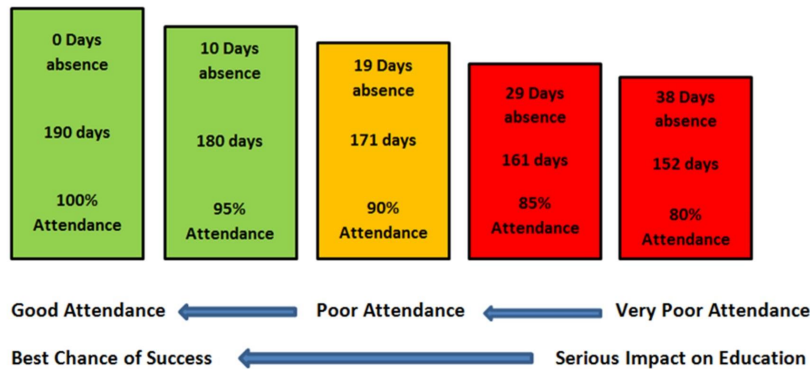
A huge thank you to those families who ensure their child(ren) have great attendance. At 95% we are currently just above the national average overall. We are through the winter bug season so this should get better and better. We do have a small number of families that our FLO Mrs Ridgway is working with and Mrs Desai to improve attendance as it is critical for good learning and the positive educational experience that all children deserve. Children where absence falls below 90% are considered 'persistently absent' and on average this means they are missing one day of schooling per week. Clearly this is not ideal and is something we are working on improving so children have the very best chances at school.

Good attendance means...

Being in school at least 95% of the time (180-190 days a year)

There are **365 days** in a year and **190 days** in a school year.

This leaves 175 days for holidays, shopping, birthday treats and non-urgent medical appointments.



BMX Day

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the BMX day yesterday. What a fabulous start to the term it was. Please see pictures below. Also don't forget to follow us on Twitter/X to see the photos and videos we post weekly.









Scholastic/Travelling Book Fair 23/04/26 - 29/04/26

The Bookfair will be outside reception or in the hall after school from today until Wednesday, 29th April from 3:10pm - 3:30pm - all welcome - 3 for 2 on all books, pay by cash or use your phone to scan the QR code and pay.

Reminders for next week

Tuesday, 28th April: class photos

Friday, 1st May: Non-uniform day with donations to Opal play. Please either bring in an item/s or donate towards our Amazon wishlist. It would be helpful if your child could bring in items such as:

- o Plastic plates
- o Metal or plastic bowls
- o Spoons
- o Knives and forks
- o Dolls
- o Small world items (larger than a polly pocket size)
- o Seeds/ Herbs/ Plants
- o Soil
- o Picnic mats
- o Chairs

- o Tables
- o Buckets and spades
- o Rakes
- o Brooms
- o Cleaning resources e.g. buckets, towels, sponges
- o Watering cans
- o Cushions
- o Nets e.g. for badminton/ tennis

If you are able to, we would also appreciate donations towards our OPAL playtimes via our Amazon wish list. If you click on the link below, it will take you to the wish list where you can purchase items that will be sent directly to the school.

Amazon Wish List:

<https://amzn.eu/0hzoK3qR>

Thank you for helping us to keep making our OPAL playtimes amazing for the children.

FOSS

Colour Run

The Colour Run raised just under £1,000. Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to this. This is an amazing achievement.

Head Teacher for the Day

The next event to look forward to is on Friday, 8th May where you will be able to buy a ticket to win a chance to be Head Teacher for the day.



[Click here for dates](#)

Feedback

We welcome feedback. Please use the form here <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/form/?pid=86&form=16> if you ever have any suggestions for us to consider.

Message from Arbor - School Lunches

The latest that school lunches must be ordered is 7.45am on the day the lunch is required.

It is your responsibility to book your child's lunch or notify us that they have a packed lunch on Arbor.

If your child does not have a school lunch ordered or a packed lunch and we are only notified by them at lunchtime - we will try and call you to ask you to bring in a packed lunch. If we are unable to contact you - we will do our best to provide a small lunch using our extended services food supply. Note, there will be a charge for this.

Thank you

Parking

A local resident has been in touch regarding inconsiderate and unsafe parking. They have asked us to ask parents to please be considerate when parking your car for school pick up and drop off and do not block the driveways of local residents. They are also taking this up with the relevant local agencies.







Tunbridge Wells Family Hubs Timetable

20 April - 22 May 2026

Our Family Hubs:

Sherwood
03000 418059
Friars Way
Tunbridge Wells
TN2 3UA
TFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk

Tunbridge Wells
03000 418059
39A Grove Hill
Tunbridge Wells
TN1 1SD
TFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk

Cranbrook Library and Family Hub
03000 418059
Carriers Road
Cranbrook
TN17 3JT
TFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Monday | Cranbrook Understanding your Child 9:30am-11:30am 10 week course | Tunbridge Wells Baby Group 10:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in | Tunbridge Wells Time To Shine ages 12+ 4:00pm-5:30pm weekly | Sherwood Online Safety ages 7-11 4:00pm-5:00pm 6 week course | Tunbridge Wells Compass ages 12+ 4:00pm-5:30pm |
| Tuesday | Tunbridge Wells Young Parents Stay & Play 11:00am-12:30pm weekly drop-in | Sherwood Little Talkers 9:30am-10:30am 6 week course | Tunbridge Wells Baby Massage 2:00pm-3:00pm 5 week course | Sherwood The Communication Tree 1:00pm-2:00pm 4 week course | Tunbridge Wells DCSM Location Engagement Bus drop-in ages 11-19 3:30pm-4:45pm NOT last Wed of the month |
| Wednesday | Sherwood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in | Woodlands Health Centre, Faddock Wood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in | Cranbrook Stay & Play with Little Bookworms 9:15am-10:15am weekly drop-in | Sherwood Parent IAG for parents of children aged 11+ 6:30pm-7:30pm weekly | |
| Thursday | Sherwood Baby Massage 9:30am-10:30am 5 week course | Cranbrook Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support 9:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in | Sherwood Baby Group 10:30am-11:30am weekly drop-in | Tunbridge Wells Infant Feeding Drop-In Support Group 12:45pm-2:45pm | YMCA Compass ages 12+ 12:00-1:00pm weekly |
| Friday | Cranbrook Baby Group 9:15am-10:15am weekly drop-in | Sherwood Stay & Play with Little Bookworms 9:30am-11:00am weekly drop-in | | | |
| Monthly | Olive Academy Tunbridge Wells Speak Out ages 11-19 last Wednesday of each month | Sherwood Talking Walk-in 9:30am-11:30am 3rd Monday of each month | | | |

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council



Information

DROP-IN WEEKLY GROUPS

BABY GROUP
No Booking Required
A welcoming space to bond with your baby and meet other parents. Includes songs and sensory play. For babies who are pre-walking.

YOUNG PARENTS STAY & PLAY
No Booking Required
For young parents (U21 or U25 if SEND) A relaxed session for families with play, singing, stories and messy fun for children aged 0-5.

STAY & PLAY WITH LITTLE BOOKWORMS
No Booking Required
A relaxed session for families with play, singing, stories and messy fun for children aged 0-5.

DCSM LOCATIONS ENGAGEMENT BUS
No Booking Required
NOT last Wednesday of the month. Come along and meet the team, have a chat and enjoy an engaging activity. Advice and support always available. For young people aged 11-19

BOOKING REQUIRED FOR THESE SESSIONS AND COURSES

TIME TO SHINE SEND
Booking Required
Mondays for ages 12+ at Tunbridge Wells
Small, supportive groups for children with SEND to build confidence and social skills through fun activities.

PARENT IAG (INFORMATION & GUIDANCE)
Booking Required
Raising a teenager is challenging. Arrange a conversation with a Family Hub worker for one-to-one support and advice. For parents/carers of young people aged 11+

SPEAK OUT MONTHLY GROUP
Booking Required
Youth-led projects where young people design and deliver community initiatives and build leadership skills. For young people aged 11-19

COMPASS
Booking Required
A 12 session course helping children 12+ manage emotions and develop skills to cope with life's challenges.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
Booking Required
Starting: 20 April at Cranbrook Library and Family Hub
A 10 week course for parents/carers of children from 6 months-19 years who would like to know more about sensitive and effective parenting.

THE COMMUNICATION TREE
Booking Required
Starting: 22 April at Sherwood
A 4-week course to understand how communication develops. For children aged 2 years plus, including fun activities to boost your child's communication skills.

LITTLE TALKERS
Booking Required
Starting: 21 April at Sherwood
A playful 6-week course for 2-5 year olds to build speech, language and attention skills.

BABY MASSAGE
Booking Required
Starting: 21 Apr at Tunbridge Wells 23 Apr at Sherwood
A 5-week course to learn soothing massage techniques to help your baby relax, sleep better and ease colic. Great for bonding. For babies 0-6 months.

ON-LINE SAFETY
Booking Required
Starting: 21 Apr at Sherwood
6 fun interactive sessions for young people aged 11-19 years covering key online safety support.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
Register your interest
A Workshop to help parents reduce conflict and build positive family relationships.

Where booking is required please email: TFamilyHub@kent.gov.uk

Please Note: Signing in will not be available until 10 minutes before the session starts.

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub


Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council



SESSIONS RUN BY OUR PARTNER AGENCIES


| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Child Health Clinic & Infant Feeding Support</p> <p>Weekly drop-in Sessions A drop in clinic for you to come along, have your baby weighed and speak to a member of the Health Visiting Team. Infant feeding information, advice and support is also available. Please arrive 15 minutes before the end of the clinic.</p> | <p>Talking Walk-in</p> <p>3rd Monday of each month A play-based drop-in session where you can speak to a speech and language therapist. If you are concerned about your pre-school child's speech, language or communication skills. Session age: pre-school children</p> | <p>Twins & Multiple Birth Group</p> <p>2nd and 4th Monday of each month 9.30-11.30am at Sinerwood Run by TN Twins. A Stay & Play session for families with twins or multiple births. email: info@TNtwins.uk Session age: 0-5 years</p> | <p>Family Carers Support Group</p> <p>1st Wednesday of each month 10.00-12.00pm at Tunbridge Wells Family Hub For carers with 'Special Guardianship Orders' or informal fostering arrangements. Run jointly by Kinship Carers and KCC Special Guardian & Therapeutic Fostering Support Team. For more information call: 03000 418059</p> |
| <p>Health Visitor/ Family Support Worker</p> <p>Your Health Visitor/Family Support Worker and other professionals are able to make referrals for you to attend other appropriate courses held within our Family Hubs and on-line, please contact us for more information.</p> | <p>Kent Adult Education</p> <p>We work closely with Kent Adult Education who have a great selection of courses available, these are promoted on our social media platforms.</p> | | |

Free for 2
Some 2 year olds can get up to 15 hours of free childcare per week!



For more information and how to apply

Healthy Start Vitamins
Some 2 year olds can get up to 15 hours of free childcare per week!





Complete this form to order vitamins to your door.


Useful Contact Numbers:
Health Visitor
0300 7900 243
Midwife
01892 638 458

Please Note:
For Health and Safety reasons there are room capacity limits in place.

For more information about opening times give your local Hub a call 03000 418059

@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs 

@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs 

@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs11to19 

www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub
Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

Get Set 4 PE

We know how important it is for children to stay active, and being active as a family can make it even more enjoyable! Each newsletter I will be sharing one or two simple activity ideas that you can try together at home. These activities are designed to be quick, fun and suitable for all ages – a great way to build healthy habits, develop physical skills and spend quality time together.

We would love to hear/see how you get on!

Mrs Kidd

Capture the Socks



What you need: a basket, four pairs of rolled up socks and two players

How to play:

- Place the socks randomly in the playing area.
- One player (the attacker) begins at the basket.
- The defender begins three big steps away.
- The attacker has six attempts to collect a pair of socks and place them into the basket.
- The defender can tag the attacker once they leave the basket and if caught the attacker must return to the basket and start again.



How many socks did you get in the basket?

www.getset4education.co.uk

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Catch Tennis



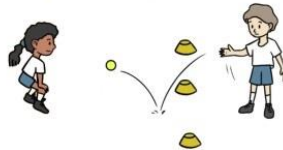
What you need: two players, three markers and a ball

How to play:

- Create a net through the middle using your markers.
- Stand on either side of the net.
- Take turns to throw underarm over the net.
- Try to catch the ball before it bounces twice.

To win a point:

- Partner throws the ball and it bounces on their side of the net first.
- Partner does not catch the ball before it bounces twice.



www.getset4education.co.uk

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Kent Police Child Centred Policing Team Newsletter



Spring Edition

This edition of our newsletter will cover some of the work that the Child Centred policing teams have been doing as well as highlight upcoming projects.

As always if you have a general enquiry, please contact childcentredpolicing@kent.police.uk



News

Safer Knife Replacement Scheme (SKRS)

The VRU is offering a **free scheme** to replace pointed kitchen knives with safer alternatives in homes across Kent and Medway. The aim is to reduce the risk of serious injury where kitchen knives are a factor.

Officers can offer the scheme when:

- A young person is linked to weapon-related offending
- There are concerns around gangs, drug activity, or high-risk domestic abuse

How it works:

Agree disposal with the family → scan the QR code → place old knives in the secure tube → provide the replacement safety knives. No training required.



This voluntary scheme **supports existing safeguarding measures** and helps make homes safer.

Several schools have taken in their home economic classes have made the change to the safer knives.

For packs or more information:

vru.programme.delivery@kent.police.uk

Financially Motivated Extortion ("Sextortion") – Key Information for Schools

Kent Police are seeing a rise in financially motivated extortion targeting young people online. Most victims are boys aged around 14, with suspects commonly operating from overseas locations. Offenders typically contact victims on platforms like TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, persuade them to share an intimate image, and then threaten to release it unless money is paid.





Who to contact across the county

Dartford and Gravesham

PS Nikki Lee Nikki.Lee@kent.police.uk and PS Siobhan Rowe Siobhan.Rowe@kent.police.uk

Medway

DS Raj Dusanjh Raj.Dusanjh@kent.police.uk

Swale

PS Carli Deacon Carli.Deacon@kent.police.uk

Maidstone

PS Andrew Stringer Andrew.Stringer@kent.police.uk

Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks

PS Ian Loader Ian.Loader@kent.police.uk

Ashford

PS Katie Reed Katie.Reed@kent.police.uk

Canterbury

PS John Woodward John.Woodward@kent.police.uk

Dover

PS Gavin Rolfe Gavin.Rolfe@kent.police.uk

Thanet

PS Sheena Maclean-Bell Sheena.Maclean-Bell@kent.police.uk

Folkestone and Hythe

PS Adam Plant Adam.Plant@kent.police.uk





A Reminder for All Students: Staying Safe Online and Social Media Trends

We would like to remind students of the importance of not taking part in viral social media trends that may involve risky or illegal behaviour. Unfortunately, several young people across Kent have recently become involved in such trends, resulting in Police intervention.

Becoming involved in activities that lead to a criminal offence can have serious and lasting consequences, including the possibility of a criminal conviction that could impact a young person's future opportunities. This can include something as simple as reposting content which may inadvertently mean they have committed a criminal offence themselves.

We all share a responsibility to keep one another safe. Please encourage students to speak up if they witness or feel pressured to take part in inappropriate behavior—only where it is safe to do so. They should always talk to a trusted adult and report any concerns to their school safeguarding team, the Police, or anonymously via Fearless at crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless.

Thank you for helping us support the safety and wellbeing of all young people.





Schools are encouraged to raise awareness and direct students to trusted resources. [The children Society](#) provides accessible guidance for families, and [Pol-Ed Kent](#) offers free educational materials for all schools, funded by Kent Police and the VRU.

For support or to access Pol-Ed resources, please visit the Pol-Ed Kent platform or contact the relevant policing team - childcentredpolicing@kent.police.uk

Recent Projects

Staying Safe this summer – Knives, Catapults and E-scooters

Across Kent, officers continue to see young people placing themselves at risk through the misuse of catapults, e-scooters and knives.

Catapults are classed as offensive weapons, and carrying one without a reasonable excuse can lead to serious penalties—including imprisonment—and misuse can result in even harsher consequences. Privately owned e-scooters also remain illegal to use on roads, pavements or cycle lanes, with riders facing fines, points on their licence and potential seizure of the scooter.

Schools and officers are also reminded of the key actions required when a child is found with a knife. This includes completing an immediate risk assessment, submitting a Youth Justice Notification within 24 hours, and considering outcomes such as Youth Conditional Cautions or Deferred Outcomes unless exceptional circumstances apply.

Together, these measures help reduce harm, promote safer choices, and protect young people across our communities.

Catapults – Know the law

Catapults can be classed as offensive weapons.

If you carry one in public without a reasonable excuse, you could face up to 10 years in prison.

If you use it to threaten or injure someone, or damage property, the penalties could be even higher.

Is it worth it?

Remember – A criminal record can change your life.

- You may not be offered a college or university place.
- Getting a job will be more difficult.
- It can even prevent you from travelling to some countries.

E-scooters – are you breaking the law?

It is illegal to use an e-scooter on a pavement or cycle lane.

It is illegal to use an e-scooter on a road unless you have a valid licence, are insured and wearing a seat belt.

It is illegal to use an e-scooter on a road if you are under 16 years old.

It is illegal to use an e-scooter on a road if you are carrying a passenger.





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)