

Newsletter Issue 16



Newsletter Issue 16

21st May 2026





Headteacher's News

We have enjoyed a new Headteacher (Edith) for the day on Friday 8 May where she learnt about some of the many important roles the HT has in school. The main one being of course, spending time in classrooms to see what the learning is like for children at Sissinghurst. Edith also led worship to start the day after welcoming children on the gate first thing and did play and lunch duty too. She had a fantastic day and so did I as a pupil in our role reversal! Thankyou to FoSS for organising yet another fun event for children whilst fundraising too – a brilliant idea and another we can look forward to repeating again next year.

We are so grateful to our very small but dedicated FoSS team who run these events.

Coming up – Break the rules day tomorrow – we cannot wait!

Our Year 6 have enjoyed the most amazing PGL residential trip this week and we thank them for being superb ambassadors for our school and who all shone their lights very brightly, were courageous, kind and so independent too. We choose this resort as it is close enough for families to transport children daily if staying overnight would be a barrier to them attending and

because it is so close they spend less time travelling there and the whole time just having fun and enjoying their last trip that they will experience with us and at primary school.

Partnership with Cranbrook

As you know, my role is changing slightly in September to allow me to support Cranbrook Primary School whilst their Headteacher is on maternity leave. What that means for us at Sissinghurst is that you will not see me every day as on Tuesdays and Wednesdays I will be at Cranbrook, so close by if needed, but on these days I am leaving the school in the capable hands of Mrs Desai who will be Acting Head of School on these days, dealing with school matters just as I would if in school.

I will still be at Sissinghurst on Mondays to welcome you all at the start of each week and of course at the end of the week on Thursdays and for Friday Celebration worship and carrying out my normal role for the three days I am at Sissinghurst.

I am looking forward to the new challenges this will bring and opportunities for us to work with another local school so we can share best practice and ideas for each school to continue to grow and improve. Please be assured that when I am at Sissinghurst each week I will be closely checking that all children are happy and successful in their learning and that everyone's light can shine brightly.

Have a lovely half term when it gets here.

Mrs Holman

Staff Changes

Later in June we will say goodbye and goodluck to Mrs Evans as she has secured a role at a local school as a full time HLTA. Mrs Evans has been with us for almost nine years and taken on many roles in that time, working with hundreds of children and many staff and families. We will miss her greatly and wish her the very best of luck in her new school.

At the end of the year we will say goodbye to Miss Goodsell as she moves to a different area in Kent and new school for September. We will wish her well nearer the time but wanted to let you know.

We are finalising staffing for September currently and will send this out to you early in Term 6 so you will know your child's teacher and the teaching staff working with them.

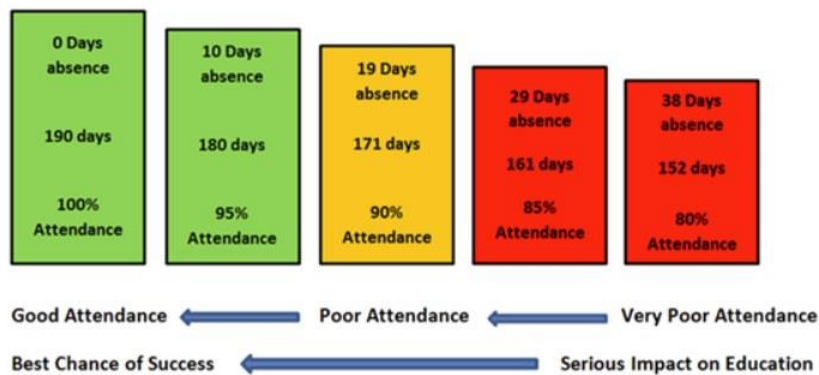
Attendance

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.

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.



[Click here for dates](#)

Letter from Governors

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff,

Hello again from the Governors at Sissinghurst Primary School! 10 of us met in early May – our penultimate meeting before the final meeting in July to review and discuss many aspects of the school and help the Sissinghurst team continue the great work they all do!

We were all very impressed with the results from the recent School Surveys, which were all super positive – thank you to all Sissinghurst pupils, parents and the school team. The information we learned will certainly help us going forward.

Your School Governor team is growing, with the recent addition of Ed Westlake who will be joining as a new Foundation Governor in the very near future.

Lastly, it's great to see school life come alive with the incredible Instagram account ([Instagram@sissinghurstprimary](#)) which clearly showcases the school brilliantly and we encourage parents to take a look and engage if you get a chance! Have a fantastic half term!

Best wishes

Charlie Tweddle

The Governor Team

Instagram



Do follow us on instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sissinghurstprimary/>) to keep up to date on all the exciting activities/ lessons the children are taking part in. Here are a few from the last couple of week:

A bed, place to sit, slide and much more in the Elephant den!





Digging for treasure, football with the staff, sledge (and buggy) racing and a performance with the new pupil for the day!

Superb fun all day long ❤️😊☀️☀️☀️





Rhino Class Trip to Living Land

On Tuesday 6th May, Rhino Class enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to the Living Land Show at Detling Showground. The children had a fantastic day exploring the countryside-themed event and learning more about farming, animals, food production and the environment through a wide range of hands-on activities.

Throughout the day, the pupils took part in interactive workshops and demonstrations that brought rural life to life in a fun and engaging way. One of the highlights for many children was meeting a variety of farm animals, including sheep, goats, pigs, calves and beautiful working shire horses. The children showed great enthusiasm and asked thoughtful questions about how the animals are cared for and why farming is so important.

Rhino Class also enjoyed learning about where our food comes from. They explored different farming machinery and discovered how crops are grown and cared for. The children were fascinated by the traditional countryside skills on display and loved watching the sheep shearing demonstration and learning about the history of the different breeds of sheep in this country.

Another popular activity was the environmental and discovery zone, where pupils learned about sustainability, recycling and how we can all help protect wildlife and natural habitats. Children also got to taste a range of locally grown produce including milk, strawberries, smoothies and crisps. There was even a chocolate stand that had ground raw cacao beans which linked well with our learning about the Maya from last term. The children represented the school brilliantly throughout the day, demonstrating excellent listening skills, curiosity and respectful behaviour towards the staff and volunteers.

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to connect their classroom learning with real-life experiences. It was lovely to see their confidence grow as they explored new activities and worked together with their classmates.

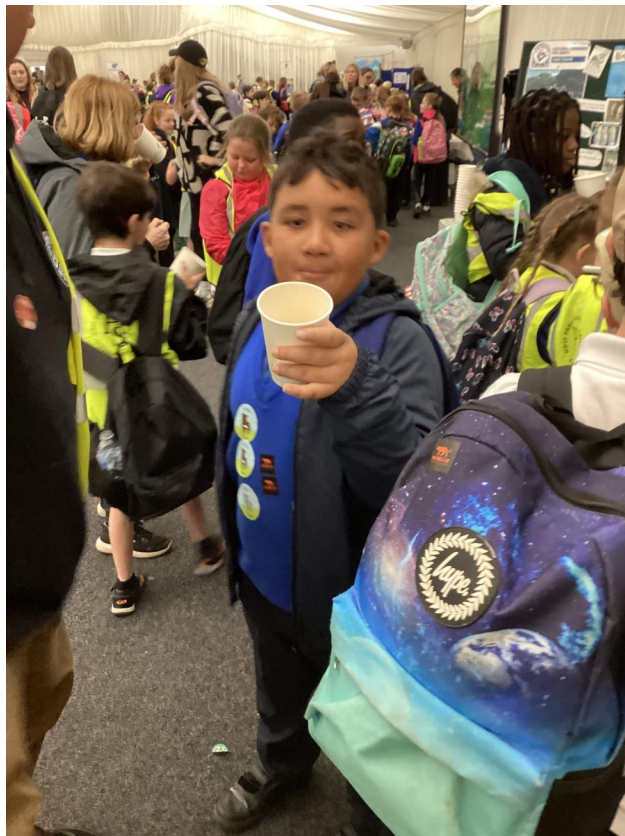
We are incredibly proud of Rhino Class for their positive attitude and excellent behaviour during the visit. A big thank you goes to parent helpers who supported the trip and helped make the day such a memorable experience for everyone involved.

Mrs Pain











Giraffe Class trip to Sissinghurst Castle

Year 1 had a wonderful time during our class trip to Sissinghurst grounds. We had an action packed day, initially starting in the vegetable garden where the children had to look for answers to our quiz. Some of the challenges involved measuring the longest and widest leaves, identifying how many rows of carrots and then we moved on to building dragon dens. The children showed great team work throughout the day and we were very proud of them. We also completed a scavenger hunt, looked at how animals camouflage and found a baby dragon that we are looking after in our class and we have named her Bella.

Mrs Woods





Cricket Enrichment Event - Linton Park

What a fantastic day!

Sissinghurst took part in a Cricket Enrichment Event, at Linton Park Cricket Club, on Friday 15th May.

Our year 3/4 team who took part were; Stanley S, Theo C, Magnus N, Madeline G, Hugo G, Carter K and Rafe C.

They attended in the morning, which involved a carousel of skills: batting, bowling and fielding. This was a great opportunity for children who hadn't played before to experience and gain more confidence of cricket.

They then went on to play 3 games, winning 2!

Our year 5/6 team who took part were; Albert C, Benedict S, Arthur N, Lucinda C, Arthur B, Alex B, Charlotte P and Charlie R.

They attended in the afternoon with the same format. They also did extremely well, scoring many fours in batting!

There was so much professional bowling over arm, quick fielding and batting, hitting the ball so far.

Some children wish to play more cricket. We will be setting up cricket in our opal play.

Thank you to parents for your support getting our team there and back and staying to watch.

Well done teams!

Mrs Saxby



Wrap Around Clubs

Please find our updated Extended Services Policy from May 2026 on the website,
<https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Extended+Services+and+Clubs&pid=14>

This details the new charges for breakfast and after school club - effective from September 2026. Please note that this policy will be strictly adhered to after May half term, including the three working days notice to cancel a wraparound club session.

Parking

Dear parents

As you are aware there have been quite a few concerns with the car park of late with cars being hit by other cars and not reported, cars being scratched, people driving too fast to name a few. This has meant that some of our pupils wanted to write to you to share their concerns, hoping this will make a difference and those who need to, listen and act.

Please do take a moment to read their letter to you, kindly written by two children in Y5, using suggestions and comments from all Eagle Class.

Kind regards

Sarah Holman

Dear parents, guardians and adults,

We are going to talk to you about your parking actions. As a school we need to make sure that children and adults in our community are kept safe. We would also like you to do the same.

We have noticed that when you park you forget to line up close to the curb. This means your car is sticking out which could cause an accident. Some people have been driving too fast. Imagine if you ran someone over!? How would you feel?

Some people have reported that lots of cars park next to the zebra crossing so when children are crossing the road they cannot see what's coming the other way. You have got to be careful of where you are parking and when you park, just in case. We would like you to minimize the amount of parking directly **on** crossing. How could you make a change to this problem?

When you are walking up to the gate to drop children off you usually leave your engine idling. Some of you also keep your engines idling when you are in your car and looking at your phone. What if your car rolls away and hurts someone? The only ideal time to turn on the car is when you are just about to leave.

Air pollution is a problem we are trying to stop in our school community. By leaving your car idling means that the air is getting more polluted. Which means it might get tricky to breathe. This will cause our school trees to get infected and they might fall over and hurt someone. And we wouldn't want that would we?

We could use a lot of your help to stop all these hazards in the car park.

Yours sincerely,
Year 5

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

Footwork Frenzy



What you need: 6 socks

How to play:

- Place the socks in a straight line with a gap just bigger than the size of your foot in between each sock.
- Begin at one end of the socks and complete the below three times to complete challenge.
 1. Run through the gaps, placing one foot in each. Go as quickly as you can.
 2. Jump two footed in each gap? Then backwards.
 3. Jump feet wide, then feet together in the gaps.
 4. Hopscotch. 1 foot, two feet, 1 foot, 2 feet etc
 5. Rotate to turn sideways on each jump in the gaps.



www.getset4education.co.uk

© Copyright Get Set 4 Education Ltd.

Fancy Feet



What you need:

Piece of rope or soft belt, pillows

How to play:

- Lay out a line of rope or soft belt and a line of pillows.
- Watch the 'Bench Work' skills video on our Youtube channel and copy the fancy footwork patterns.
- Start slowly and always in control.
- Use your arms to balance.
- Can you make up your own fancy feet challenge?

Rules: you must stay upright and in control at all times.

Top tip: keep your head steady!



www.getset4education.co.uk

© Copyright Get Set 4 Education Ltd.



PROPOSED NEW, LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL:

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED ONE MORE TIME!

Dear Parents

Thanks to you and other local parents adding your voice to the Support Weald Schooling campaign, we now have Kent County Council on board to support us in submitting a proposal to the Department for Education to restore a non-selective secondary school in the Weald. **THANK YOU!**

We would like to ask for your help one more time as we must show wider community support, not just parental support, for the proposed new school.

We have always campaigned on the platform of the school being essential for the community: children, families and the heartbeat and future of our communities.

Please complete this very short survey. Your contribution will go towards demonstrating the local demand for an inclusive, non-selective secondary school for the young people of the Weald.

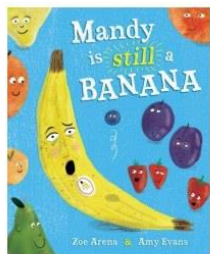
The survey is available here: <http://tiny.cc/SWSCommunitySurvey>

We really do need as many people as possible to submit their views to demonstrate how important this school is to all within the community.

Please stand with us by completing as a parent, family member, business owner/worker, member of a locally based organisation or simply as a person who cares about the welfare of others and our communities.

Thank you so much.

Support Weald Schooling



Meet author Zoe Arena

Zoe will be visiting Cranbrook library to read her new book *Mandy is Still a Banana*

Friday 29 May 10am

Perfect for Half-term

Free activity – booking advised

All children must be accompanied by a parent/carer



Images copyright Zoe Arena/Amy Evans





SUPPORTING ADHD IN THE HOME

Practical support for families.

Take part in this engaging and supportive course, designed to deepen your understanding and patience while exploring practical strategies to create a nurturing home environment for children with ADHD.

Where:

Ivy Court Surgery

Date:

Thursday 4th June 2026

Time:

10-11.30am

To book a place please contact:

Kmich.arsocial.team@nhs.net



For more information
scan the QR code

kentadulteducation.co.uk

FREE, Fun & Informal



MEN'S WELLBEING GROUP



ALL AGES WELCOME!

Sissinghurst Village Hall, Saturday 30th May (9-11am)

- Regular meet ups and suggested events and activities together
- Support for men's mental and physical health
- All we ask is a small donation to help fund the food, drinks and towards the next meet



SCAN FOR INFO

Sign up by emailing hello@wellbeingintheweald.co.uk

www.wellbeingintheweald.co.uk   [wellbeingintheweald](https://www.instagram.com/wellbeingintheweald)

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.

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)