

Newsletter Issue 17



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4th June 2026





Headteacher's News

We hope you have all had a lovely holiday and enjoyed the summery weather – it makes such a difference compared to the storms we are getting now!

Last term, we enjoyed visits from many prospective parents, local Headteachers, our School Improvement Adviser and teachers for our vacancy too. All visitors see the school with fresh eyes and are so complimentary about your children and the amazing learning they are doing. Visitors often comment on our delightful grounds too and it is worth thanking the whole staff team (and children of course) for making our school such a super place to be.

Uniform

Please ensure your children look smart right up to the end of the year and remember children should not come to school with jewellery or wearing nail varnish. Long hair should be tied back. We understand if they have outgrown shoes you may not wish to buy new black or navy ones until September, but please ensure children wear plain black, navy or grey footwear. Thankyou for your cooperation and understanding.

Sports Day – Wednesday, 24th June (reserve Tuesday, 30th June)

This will be in the same format as in previous years where we invite families to come to school from 12 o'clock for a family picnic on the playgrounds before the events start as soon after 1pm as we can be ready! Please bring your picnics, blankets and seating with you. We will open the gate for you to set up from 11.45am. Please note the equipment for the races will be set out on the field so this area should be avoided for lunchtime. The playground and ball court area are available for you to choose your picnic place. Children will be brought out in classes for their lunch to join you from 12 o'clock and will be asked to go back to class for a quick toilet break and register at 1pm before we begin the sports day at around 1.15pm. At the end of sports day children will be able to leave with you if we finish before 3pm but note, for safeguarding purposes you will need to sign them out with their class teacher before you leave the site. We will aim to let you know by 10 am on the day if the field is too wet for races and we need to use the reserve date.

Have a lovely weekend when it gets here

Sarah Holman



[Click here for dates](#)

Reporting Your Child's Absence

There are several ways to report your child absence :

- Click the following link on our website, [Sissinghurst \(VA\) Church of England Primary School - Report Absence Online Form](#)
- Via Arbor app, click **Quick Actions - Attendance** - press the green **Log Absence button**
- Email the school office on office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk
- Phone the school on 01580 713895 - please note the school office is very busy first thing in the morning so the above options are the easiest way to report your child absence.

OPAL Risk-Benefit Approach

At Sissinghurst, we adopt a risk-benefit approach when it comes to OPAL playtimes. This strategy balances the physical and developmental benefits of challenging play against the potential for harm. We utilise the RAPID framework to structure this approach in our school:

- **R (Risk-Benefit Assessment):** Written, active records identify potential hazards (like tree climbing, using heavy loose parts, or mud sliding) while explicitly outlining the developmental benefits (such as agility, resilience, and creativity) and control measures.
- **A (Assemblies):** Regular school assemblies where staff and children discuss and negotiate acceptable play risks, rules and boundaries together and celebrate play.
- **P (Policy):** A formalised play policy that is officially ratified by school governors or leadership team.
- **I (Inspections):** Regular, ongoing inspections of the play environment and equipment to ensure they are safe for use.
- **D (Dynamic Management):** Supervisors remain vigilant, ranging across the outdoor area and actively evaluating situations as they happen. Instead of prohibiting play, adults may negotiate with children to make their play marginally safer if a risk becomes too high. As part of our Play Charter, children are encouraged to assess and manage risks themselves, to help them to develop their independence, resilience and problem-solving skills, with staff mainly providing guidance or intervention in serious cases of harm.

Our OPAL Charter

We have the right to play and enjoy OPAL.

We have the responsibility to make sure everyone enjoys playtime by making sure:

- ✓ we make our own choices about what we play
- ✓ we share resources fairly and kindly
- ✓ we respect and take care of our school environment and equipment
- ✓ we include everyone in our play
- ✓ we listen to and value the ideas of others
- ✓ we help and support other people if they need us to
- ✓ we play safely by thinking about and managing risks so that we can keep everyone safe
- ✓ we try to solve problems ourselves in a kind and understanding manner before seeking help from an adult
- ✓ we have fun!



Chick Fundraising Day, Friday 12th June

This year, Year 2 are delighted to be supporting The Retreat Animal Rescue in High Halden (Charity Number 1105654).

The charity kindly gave our cockerels a forever home after they left our school, ensuring they were safe, well cared for, and able to thrive. We would love to give something back and support the amazing work they do for all animals in need.

To help raise money, we are inviting all children to wear something yellow into school on the day for a £1 donation. **Please make your donation via the School Shop in Arbor.**

Children are also welcome to bring some pocket money to take part in our chick-themed fundraising stalls, including:

- Guess the Number
- Chick Photo Booth
- Egg and Spoon Obstacle Course

- Staff Challenge

Every penny raised will go directly to The Retreat Animal Rescue and help them continue their fantastic work caring for animals and finding them loving homes.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful cause!

Kind Regards

Mrs Kidd

CHICK FUNDRAISING EVENT

All money raised will go to **The Retreat Animal Rescue in High Halden** (Charity Number 1105654)

Thank you for supporting this amazing local charity! ❤️

GUESS THE NUMBER £1

Fill a jar with yellow pom-poms/feathers. Children pay to guess how many are inside.

Closest guess wins a small prize in assembly!

CHICK PHOTO BOOTH 50p

Farmyard backdrop with chick masks, straw hats, and farmer props. Photos taken on iPad!

EGG AND SPOON OBSTACLE COURSE 50p

USE PLASTIC EGGS OR BALLS.

Fastest times recorded throughout the day wins a prize in assembly!

STAFF CHALLENGE £1

Children pay to vote for a funny challenge for staff!

WEAR A CHICKEN HAT ALL DAY!

DO THE CHICKEN DANCE IN ASSEMBLY!

YOU VOTE, THEY DO IT!

Come along, get involved and help us raise money for The Retreat Animal Rescue! ❤️

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 couple from this week so far:

Working together in Giraffes to take turns, follow rules for simple games and create patterns







Leopards are spending lots of time each day to rehearse ready for their end of term production!
The songs sound superb already and here is a sneaky peak at a rehearsal!



FOSS Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported our recent events. We have raised the following:

Headteacher for the Day: £134.50

Break The Rules Day: £363.00

Ice Lolly Sales: £148.50

Tunbridge Wells Family Hub Term 6 Timetable



Tunbridge Wells Family Hubs Timetable

1 June - 17 July 2026

Our Family Hubs:

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

Tunbridge Wells
03000 418059
39A Grove Hill
Tunbridge Wells
TN11 1SD
TWfamilyhub@kent.gov.uk

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

All of our groups and services are free to attend.

Day	Activity	Time	Notes
Monday	Tunbridge Wells Baby Group	10:30am-11:30am	weekly drop-in
Tuesday	Tunbridge Wells The Communication Tree	9:15am-10:15am	4 week course
Tuesday	Tunbridge Wells Young Parents Stay & Play	11:00am-12:30pm	weekly drop-in
Tuesday	Tunbridge Wells Compass	4:00pm-5:30pm	ages 12+ Referral Only
Wednesday	Sherwood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support	9:30am-11:30am	weekly drop-in
Wednesday	Woodlands Health Centre, Paddeck Wood Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support	9:30am-11:30am	weekly drop-in
Wednesday	Cranbrook Stay & Play with Little Bookworms	9:15am-10:15am	weekly drop-in
Wednesday	Tunbridge Wells DCSM Locations Engagement Bus drop-in	ages 11-19 3:30pm-4:45pm	NOT last Wed of the month
Wednesday	Virtual Session Parent IAG for parents of children aged 11+	6:30pm-7:30pm	weekly Referral Only
Thursday	Sherwood Baby Massage	9:30am-10:30am	5 week course
Thursday	Cranbrook Healthy Child Clinic and infant feeding support	9:30am-11:30am	weekly drop-in
Thursday	Sherwood Baby Group	10:30am-11:30am	weekly drop-in
Thursday	Tunbridge Wells Infant Feeding Drop-In Support Group	12.45pm-2.45pm	
Thursday	YMCA Compass	ages 12+ 12:00-1:00pm	weekly Referral Only
Friday	Cranbrook Baby Group	9:15am-10:15am	weekly drop-in
Friday	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 Referral Only
Monthly	Sherwood Talking Walk-in	9:30am-11:30am	3rd Monday of each month Drop-In Session

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	Booking Required for these sessions and courses
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.	TIME TO SHINE SEND Booking Required Monday for ages 11+ at Tunbridge Wells Small, supportive groups for children with SEND to build confidence and social skills through fun activities.
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.	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+.
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.	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.
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.	COMPASS Booking Required A 12 session course helping children 12+ manage emotions and develop skills to cope with life's challenges.
	BABY MASSAGE Booking Required Starting 31 June 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.
	THE COMMUNICATION TREE Booking Required Starting 2 June at Tunbridge Wells 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.
	STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS Register your interest A Workshop to help parents reduce conflict and build positive family relationships.
	LITTLE TALKERS Booking Required A playful 6 week course for 2-5 year olds to build speech, language and attention skills.

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

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

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Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

SESSIONS RUN BY OUR PARTNER AGENCIES

Child Health Clinic & Infant Feeding Support 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.	Talking Walk-in 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	Twins & Multiple Birth Group 2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month 9.30-11.30am at Sherwood Run by The Twins. A Stay & Play session for families with twins or multiple births. Email: info@thetwins.co.uk Session age: 0-9 years	Family Carers Support Group 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
Health Visitor/ Family Support Worker Your Health Visitor/Family Support Worker and other professionals are able to make referrals for you to attend other appropriate services held within our Family Hubs and on-line, please contact us for more information.	Kent Adult Education We work closely with Kent Adult Education who have a great selection of courses available, these are promoted on our social media platforms.		

[@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs](https://www.facebook.com/TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs)

[@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs](https://www.instagram.com/TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs)

[@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs110131](https://www.tiktok.com/@TunbridgeWellsFamilyHubs110131)

Healthy Start Vitamins Are you eligible for Healthy Start Vitamins? Fill in this form to receive your vitamins free of charge.	Free for 2 Some 2 year olds can get up to 18 hours of free childcare per week. For more information and how to apply.	Useful Contact Numbers: Health Visitor 0300 7900 243 Midwife 01892 638 458	Please Note: For Health and Carey reasons there may room capacity limits in place.	For more information about opening times give your local Hub a call 03000 418059
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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

Home Rounders



What you need: a ball, five markers, 2 + players

How to play:

- Create your rounders pitch with the markers. One bowling marker placed in the middle.
- Take turns to be the fielder/bowler and the batter.
- Bowler underarm bowls to the batter.
- Batter strikes the ball with the palm of their hand and runs around the bases.

Batter scores:

- One rounder for getting to the 4th marker.
- Half a rounder for getting to the second marker.

Batter must stop running if the bowler has the ball and is standing at the bowling cone.

Batter is out if:

- The fielder catches the batted ball before it touches the ground.
- The fielder stumps the marker that the batter is running towards.



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Defending Battle



What you need: 2 players, a ball, 4 markers

How to play:

- Set up a square.
- The attacker dribbles and tries to stop the ball on one of the markers to score a point.
- After scoring, the defender takes three steps away from the attacker.
- The attacker can't score on the same marker they started from.
- If the defender wins the ball they become the attacker.



Top tips:

- Attacker: turn your back to the defender and put your non-dribbling hand out to protect the ball.
- Defender: block spaces and only collect the ball when it's free.

Easier: Attackers are allowed to double dribble (use both hands at the same time or dribble, hold with two hands, dribble again).

Harder: Make the area larger.

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June 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	1 June 10am
School Anxiety	1 June 7pm
Facing Defiance	2 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	2 June 7pm
Anxiety Explained	8 June 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 June 7pm
Introduction to OCD	9 June 10am
What is ACT?	9 June 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 June 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	15 June 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	16 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	16 June 7pm
Improving Family Communication	22 June 10am
Autism-Improving Communication	22 June 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	23 June 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	23 June 7pm
ADHD and Homework	25 June 7-8pm

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

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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)