

Newsletter Issue 20



Newsletter Issue 20

16th July 2026





Headteacher's News

As another academic year is almost at an end we have been reflecting on our successes and celebrating our achievements. We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your incredible support. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without your co-operation. We are incredibly proud of the work we have all carried out this year to ensure Sissinghurst continues to move from strength to strength.

We want to say a huge 'thank you' for the amount you as families raised throughout this year. This includes the donations we continue to receive next week for the summer disco. In addition FoSS has supported us through the year to help ensure our children have even more opportunity for incredible experiences which we appreciate greatly, especially in their tireless work to raise funds with varied and fun events. Thankyou all.

On 21 July, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children. The last few weeks in particular have been memorable for us and we hope have been very special for them too. They have been fantastic role models throughout the year. We are so proud of their achievements and know that we send them on to their new secondary schools having had some wonderful, memorable learning experiences and ready for the next stage in their education. We value many things here at Sissinghurst, but not all are measurable – sporting, creative, performing and citizenship skills are embedded in our curriculum and celebrated widely, as you will see in this newsletter on Instagram and on our website. We wish all of them good luck in the future.

We would also like to express our thanks and good wishes to Miss Goodsell who has had a great start to her teaching career with us and is now moving on to a new school in Maidstone. We thank her for her hard work and dedication, especially in her subject leadership and contribution to school improvement work. We know she will be a great member of her new team and the children are lucky to have her.

A special mention goes to all staff at Sissinghurst who this year have gone above and beyond to ensure the children have the best experiences they can. Thank you so much to all our staff teams.

We look forward to seeing the children at the start of the next academic year, Wednesday 2 September.

Thank you once again for working with us to ensure our pupils are safe and happy and encouraged to believe they can shine brightly as they work towards their goals and ambitions.

Have a wonderful summer break when we get to it and enjoy some quality family time.

from

Sarah Holman and the team at Sissinghurst



[Click here for dates](#)

Letter from Governors

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Staff,

As we come to the end of another busy school year, the Governing Board would like to share key updates from our July meeting. Guided by our vision, *"Let Your Light Shine,"* governors continue to work closely with school leaders to ensure every child flourishes academically, socially and spiritually.

We reviewed the Headteacher's Report and the updated Strategic Document, which highlight continued strengths across the curriculum. Governors also reflected on our "Circle Model" of governance, which has significantly strengthened our ability to monitor school priorities. We celebrated a successful SIAMS inspection and were pleased to hear how oracy, debate and courageous advocacy are becoming increasingly embedded across the school, giving children meaningful opportunities to speak up, support others and grow in confidence.

Personal development remains a real strength, with pupils enjoying enrichment such as Young Voices, the London Mini Marathon and a range of performances and workshops. Staff training and wellbeing also continue to be priorities, with survey results showing positive morale and confidence in leadership.

Attendance, however, remains an area of concern. Persistent absenteeism continues to affect a small number of pupils, and Ofsted will rightly keep this under close scrutiny due to its impact on learning. We will continue to support our Family Liaison Officer (FLO) to help families improve attendance.

We wish you all a safe and restful summer break and look forward to a positive year ahead where every child can truly shine.

Peter Denyer, on behalf of the Governing Board.

Image Use

Leaders and Governors have discussed the use of images online and have decided that due to generative AI risks at present (using images to create fake new images or video), we will use back and side of heads or distance shots of pupils (eg on field for play or PE) to try to safeguard pupils at our school. You may have seen lots of information about this in the press recently and we do advise you consider this also as a family for your family images online too. Families who do not give permissions for images online will still be protected in the same way as at present, with an emoji / blurring or pupils not included in photographs. There may be times where, for example, an image is taken for publication in the press. The current permissions we have would be used for this purpose and face shots may then be used so do ensure you keep your permissions for images up to date on Arbor.

SIAMS June 2026

We were delighted to receive our SIAMS report and see that we are living up to our foundation as a Church school and enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Our Notable Strengths included:

- The school's Christian vision is clearly understood and embraced by the whole school community. This creates a strong sense of shared ownership. Its impact is evident in the positive culture experienced by both pupils and staff who take pride in contributing their best.
- Worship is carefully planned to be inclusive. Adaptations ensure that pupils, including those with additional needs, can engage fully. Pupils and staff from different faith backgrounds are respected and included.
- A broad and balanced religious education (RE) curriculum enables pupils to engage with a range of major world religions and worldviews. This supports fostering respect and understanding of diversity.
- The Christian vision roots school policy and practice. Pupils' behaviour reflects values such as courage, kindness and forgiveness, creating a harmonious environment where they feel valued and respected.
- An inclusive, well-adapted curriculum coupled with strong support from staff enables pupils to thrive. Through the vision, they shine their lights, develop high aspirations and flourish.

We wanted to share just a few important phrases from the report which we sent to you earlier this week.

Our vision, using “Jesus’ words ‘Let your light shine’ radiates through every aspect of life”

Children have the “firm foundations to achieve their best. The vision reflects a deeply held belief that every individual is valued and gifted. It creates a warm and nurturing culture, grounded in gratitude, authenticity and the confidence to ‘shine’. Consequently, pupils and adults experience a genuine sense of belonging.”

“The school is an effective beacon of light.”

“Relationships are built on mutual respect, fostering belonging and strengthening a cohesive, supportive environment across the school. Behaviour is managed through a restorative approach. This encourages pupils to reflect on their actions and make positive choices. Kindness is actively promoted and understood by pupils as important.”

Strength in collective worship, our curriculum offer and the teaching and leadership of RE were all praised by the inspector.

Every member of our school community should be proud of our offer at Sissinghurst and how our lights are shining brightly!



Wedding

We are delighted to share that Miss Wells is getting married in the holidays. She will return to us in September as Mrs Jeffrey. We hope that her special day is magical and that she and Mr Jeffrey have a wonderful day and holiday as they start their married life together.

We hope they enjoyed the experience and gained an insight into this exciting Olympic sport. Leaflets were sent home with the children should your child be interested in joining the wrestling club.

Many Thanks

Mrs Kidd





Great British Summer Savings

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

As part of this campaign, they have launched an **attraction finder** website which allows families to type in their postcode and find participating venues near them to make the most of summer savings. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

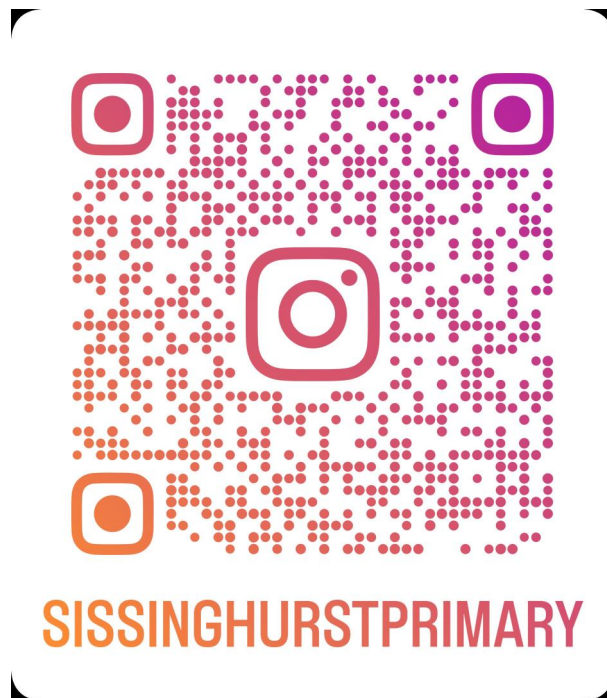


Morrison's Cafe

“Between 29th June and 6th September 2026, families can access free Kellogg's breakfasts in all Morrisons Cafes. This is available to both children and adults, who can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana.

In addition to the Kellogg's Breakfast offer, Morrisons 'Kids Eat Free' offer will continue to run in all its Cafés, allowing families to enjoy a free meal and drink for one child aged 16 or under when they purchase an adult main meal costing over £5 from The Breakfasts and The Classics menu.”

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 Opal play this week:





Opal - Summer Holiday Activity Bingo

Children are invited to have a go at completing some of these activities in the summer holiday to continue to explore their opal play at home. If they would like to send in photos of any they have a go at we can share these in September.



Summer Holiday Activity Bingo



Build a den big enough to sit inside.	Climb a tree safely and find the best lookout point.	Find a stick and discover 5 different ways to play with it (magic wand, fishing rod, horse, microphone... what else?).	Collect natural treasures to create a picture, sculpture, mandala or something else.	Build a tiny bug hotel using sticks, leaves, bark and other natural resources.	Build the tallest tower you can using anything you can find.
Open a mud café or bakery and create a menu of muddy treats.	Design an obstacle course and challenge someone to complete it.	Invent a brand-new game and teach it to someone else.	Create a fairy village, dinosaur world or miniature town using loose parts.	Create a treasure hunt for someone at home.	Create a water challenge using buckets, cups or bottles.
Draw the biggest picture you can with whatever you can find!	Build something that moves in the wind.	Create a balancing trail using logs, kerbs or stepping stones.	Build something amazing using loose parts (boxes, pegs, tubes, cushions or recycling).	Pretend you're a pirate, explorer, superhero or animal and act out an adventure.	Make up a game using only things you can find outside.
Create a target game using stones, pine cones or rolled-up socks.	Make music using natural objects or things from around your home.	Turn a cardboard box into something new.	Take your favourite toy outside and build it an adventure playground.	Teach a family member your favourite playground game.	Play outside for one whole hour without using a screen.

Opal Award Photo





ReadWrite

Reading together ☆
♥ inspires reading forever



Does your child...

- ? Need encouragement to read?
- ? Struggle to understand the text?
- ? Need support with comprehension and vocabulary?
- ? Want to improve their writing techniques?
- ? Or just need a little extra help to reach their full potential?

WHY CHOOSE READWRITE?

- 📖 Focus on **fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and writing**
- 👥 Small, friendly groups
- ❤️ Supportive, pressure-free sessions
- ★ Personal encouragement for every child
- 🌱 A positive environment where children can grow in confidence
- 🎓 **In line with school curriculums** and approved by an experienced reading recovery teacher

WHAT WE DO IN CLASS

- 📖 Shared reading and storytelling
- 🗣️ Develop reading fluency
- 📖 Build vocabulary and comprehension
- ✍️ Transform writing techniques through exploration of curated texts
- 📊 Set individual reading and writing targets
- 🏆 Celebrate progress and success

SESSIONS

👥 **Children aged 8–11**

🕒 4.30 – 5.30 pm	Year 4/5
🕒 5.30 – 6.30 pm	Year 5/6

👤 Group allocation tailored to your child

📅 Starting in Sissinghurst Village Hall in September 2026

Book a place

If your child could benefit from a little extra support, ReadWrite could be the perfect fit.

Places are limited, so get in touch today to find out more. ♥

✉️ Email: karengillatt1@btinternet.com

☎️ Tel: 07984 466368

f Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61592116102424>

Drama Workshops with
East Sutton Community Youth Theatre

The

Sissinghurst Drama Class

Will be held in the

Main Hall

On

Fridays from 7.45 a.m. to 8.50 a.m.

AUTUMN TERM starts on Friday 11th Sept. 2026
School Years 2 to 6.

Drama with Mike Dyer-Ball.

Mike is a Professional actor, who trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, appearing at many repertory Theatres, including the Marlowe, the Vaudeville Theatre, West End, and in TV drama, such as Casualty. Formed ESCYT in 1993.

Productions, Scenes, Drama Exercises ["Suspension of Disbelief"] such as *Outdoor Survival*, *Hotel Fabuloso*, *Haunted House*, and a host of other activities. Confidence building/Imaginative/FUN!

COST for Eleven weeks, only £60.00.

☺️ It is loads of fun ☺️ Why not give it a try?

Please don't miss this golden opportunity!

Brochure and Enquiries, please 'phone/email:

Mike Dyer-Ball: www.escyt.co.uk

On 01622 844321 / 07885 790 781/mike@escyt.co.uk



RAF
MANSTON
HISTORY
MUSEUM



Spot the LEGO for £1.50
with prize at the end!





Valid from 20th of July to
7th of September 2026

Summer savings

Children's Lunch Box
and museum entry only
£5



Why not go and visit our
donation funded
neighbouring museum?

BOOK HERE



at the Museum
10am - 4pm

7 days a week
Lunch Box at NAAFI Cafe served until 3pm
Ages 5 - 15
All other attendees must pay admission.
At least 1 adult per 4 children
Other competitions and activities
available. Please speak to shop staff.
See website for details.

info@rafmanston.co.uk www.rafmanston.co.uk





TONBRIDGE
1801
CRICKET CLUB

Vs



PCA
Legends

CELEBRATING
225 YEARS OF TONBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB

FRIDAY 24 JULY 2026

TONBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB, WELLAND ROAD, TONBRIDGE, TN10 3TD

T20 CRICKET | FREE ENTRY
INTERNATIONAL CRICKET LEGENDS
BAR | FOOD | ENTERTAINMENT

MONTY PANESAR



MARK RAMPRAKASH



SAMIT PATEL



AND MANY MORE!



SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS
OR VISIT
TCC225.EVENTBRITE.COM

SUPPORTING



St Peter & St Paul, Headcorn

Sunday afternoon



cream teas
and tower tours

*subject to conditions on the day

Sunday 26th July
2:30pm-4:30pm
in the church






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)