



SIS NEWSLETTER

September 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to warmly welcome all children and parents back to school and a new academic year! We hope you have all had a restful summer break, and are feeling refreshed for the new term ahead.

Miss Bennett

Our newsletters throughout the year will continue to provide you with important information on events and learning experiences that take place in school. It is important that these are read as we have found that parents have often missed various pieces of information throughout the year. All further newsletters will be sent out via a MCAS notification.

This newsletter will provide new parents and carers with relevant information on school processes and may be useful for existing parents as a refresher.

SCHOOL DAY

Gates open: 8:30

Teachers collect children from playground: 8:35

Registration: 8:40

School finishes: 3:10



ENTRANCE AND EXIT INTO CLASSROOMS

Robins – Through the side gate that it situated next to the headteacher office window

Reception Rabbits – As Robins

Year 1 Rabbits – Through the main entrance to the school

Otters – The door in the corner of the playground (Fun Club door)

Foxes and Squirrels – Door by the Trim trail

CAR PARK

As we strive to maintain a smooth and efficient drop-off and pick-up process for our wraparound care (Fun Club), we kindly remind you not to park in the staff car park during these times unless you have gained approval from myself for exceptional circumstances.

The staff car park is reserved exclusively for our staff, who need reliable access to their parking spaces to ensure they can perform their duties without interruption. To facilitate a safe and orderly drop off and pick up, we ask that you park either in the Co-op car park or at Gazen Salts. This will help to accommodate the flow of traffic during busy times and ensure the safety of all children and families.

UNIFORM

We offer pre-loved uniform that is available to purchase for £1 an item (unless marked otherwise). If you would like to view the pre-loved clothing, these will be out on our open afternoons and throughout various FOSIS event, but can also be viewed upon request from the school office.

SCHOOL VALUES AND RULES

This term we will continue to reinforce our school rules and values with the children through our assemblies, day to day teaching and certificates. Please help support us by having conversations with your children about how these values and rules may look in your home too.

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe



- Connection
- Curiosity
- Determination
- Honesty



ATTENDANCE

Our updated Trust Attendance Policy can be found on our school website. Our attendance target for this academic year is 100%.

We believe that regular attendance is the key to enabling children to gain the greatest benefit from their education and reach their full potential. Children are expected to attend school every day that the school is open unless they are unwell or there is an exceptional circumstance which has been approved.

Our morning register will be taken at 8:40. If your child is unwell, it is important that you contact us on the first day that they are unwell, before 10:00, by calling the school office on 01304 612228 or 01304 613358.

This is a safeguarding issue requirement so that all parties know that your child is safe and their whereabouts is known. You must inform us every day that your child is off. You must also provide us with a reason for the absence so this can be recorded.

All children that arrive late (after 8:40) must report, with their parent to the school office, where the reason for lateness will be recorded.

Children repeatedly arriving after the register has closed will be marked as late after registration and this will count as an unauthorised absence.

Frequent lateness will be discussed and could be grounds for prosecution or a penalty notice.

When your child's attendance dips below 90%, you will receive a letter from myself, highlighting you that this is perceived as a 'persistent absence'.

MCAS

It is important that every parent downloads and uses the MCAS (My Child at School) app as this is our primary form of communication. You will receive notifications, texts and emails from the school via this app (please note that emails are sent to your personal email account, and text messages go through the app).

Our main preference of delivery is through notifications as this means everything will appear in the app. You will also receive a notification on your phone when communication has been sent, however you must have notifications enabled on your phone.

If you know of any parents that are having trouble with the app, please ask them to speak to the school office where we can offer support with this. Please also check that you have recently updated the app and have checked that your contact details are correct.

MCAS will also be used to book your Parents Evening appointment, pay for trips and booking wraparound care (Fun Club).

CLUBS

We will continue to offer a range of extra-curricular activities to the children this year, both during lunchtimes, as part of the school day, and as after-school activities.

During Term 1 lunchtimes, Year 1 and 2 will have the opportunity to attend the following clubs:

- Step-by-step drawing – Wednesdays – Miss Hancock
- Lego Club – Tuesdays – Mrs King

READING

Please support your child in hearing them read at home every day. This year we will be investing more money into our reading scheme, so that the books that they read in 'Reading Practice' are shared at home with you. This is important in building children's confidence in reading, as well as supporting their comprehension and ability to infer.

BEHAVIOUR

Our first teacher training day took place on Monday with all schools in Aquila Multi-academy trust. The focus was on behaviour and was led by the fantastic Tom Bennett. Tom currently leads the Department for Education's Behaviour Hubs project and therefore has much knowledge and experience in the subject.

Our updated behaviour policy has a couple of tweaks this year, specifically detailing the 'norms and routines' within school. Our whole school approach to behaviour will continue this year, and all members of staff will teach and reinforce the appropriate behaviours for learning throughout the year. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing our 'norms and routines' with your children as these take place as soon as the children enter the school gate:

- Children get off bikes and scooters before entering the school gate. They are placed in the correct, allocated spaces on the playground
- Children are not permitted to use the trim trail before the start of the school because of insurance purposes
- Children wait behind the yellow lines with their parents (incase the door opens on them)
- Parents stay until their child has been welcomed into the class by their teacher
- Reception children (and siblings) do not play with the resources that have been set up for the day in the Reception areas
- Adults (school staff) greet the children at the door at the beginning of the school day (8:35-8:40)

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform can be purchased through Price and Buckland, however we are happy for the children to wear clothing without our school logo.

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/sandwichinfant>

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black or grey trousers Black or grey skirt
- Red gingham summer dress Black or grey pinafore dress
- Black school shoes*
- White polo shirt

* Trainers and boots should not be worn. We ask that the children are able to manage their shoes independently, so lace up shoes are not suitable.

All clothes must be clearly marked with your child's name. Jewellery is not permitted although stud earrings can be worn if these can be removed by the child on P.E. days.

We offer pre-loved uniform that is available to purchase for £1 an item (unless marked otherwise). If you would like to view the pre-loved clothing, these will be out on our open afternoons and throughout various FOSIS event, but can also be viewed upon request from the school office.

P.E



PE kits should be worn to school on your child's PE days. It is important that they attend school wearing the correct kit (red T-shirt with black/ blue shorts or trousers). You will be asked to provide the correct colour kit if your child attends wearing something different.

Robins – Thursdays and Fridays
Rabbits – Tuesdays and Thursdays
Otters – Tuesdays and Thursdays
Squirrels – Mondays and Wednesdays
Foxes – Mondays and Wednesdays

EARRINGS MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE SCHOOL ON PE DAYS

CONTACTING TEACHERS

It is not always possible for the adults in the class to check the contact books every day. If there is a message that you would like your child's class teacher to know, please email them directly:

Mrs Shaw (Foxes) – julie.shaw@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Mrs King (Squirrels) – alison.king@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Russell (Rabbits) – joanne.russell@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Godden (Rabbits) – emily.godden@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Miss Hancock (Otters) – jade.hancock@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk
Miss Jackson (Robins) – hannah.jackson@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk

Please check your child's book bag daily.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please use the school website to access key information about the school. You will find subject specific progression grids on here so you can see what your child is learning each term, but also diary dates, newsletters, details of the school day, and so much more. This can be accessed at <https://www.sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk>

X (TWITTER)

To share the great learning that takes place within our school with our parents, we frequently post on 'X'. Please follow us at: <https://twitter.com/InfantSandwich>



FOSIS

FOSIS (Friends of Sandwich Infant School) is our schools PTFA. Having a team of parents supporting the school through fundraising is a valuable source of income that enables us to purchase equipment and experiences for the children that our budget does not allow.

If you have any spare time to support us with the organisation or running of events throughout the year, please email Fosisfundraising@sandwich-infant.kent.sch.uk or let the school office know.

NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome and introduce you to two new members of staff this academic year. Miss Cross and Miss Wells both join our team in Reception as teaching assistants. They both have a lot to offer to the children so we are excited to welcome them to our team.



ASDA CASHPOT

We have some exciting news to share with you.

Parentkind – a charity that supports school PTAs – have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our school, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage!

It's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools (make sure you have the latest version of the app installed)
2. Choose our Primary School –searching postcode CT13 9HT
3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop.

Asda does the rest and all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

We are aiming to spend our donations on contributions to new picnic benches for the garden. Remember, anyone can sign up – so start spreading the news and raising funds for our school. This initiative is on top of the existing Asda Rewards benefits you get as a shopper – so you won't lose out on any of your own earnings or Cashpot, so everyone is a winner! For more details, visit asda.com/cashpotforschools

FOREST SCHOOL

We are excited to start our Forest school provision from term 2. This will be led by Mrs Prestleton. Please keep an eye out for further details nearer the start of your child's sessions.

Term 2 – Foxes (Mrs Shaw)

Term 3 – Squirrels (Mrs King)

Term 4 – Otters (Miss Hancock)

Term 5 – Robins (Miss Jackson)

Term 6 – Rabbits (Mrs Russell and Mrs Godden)



PENCIL CASES

We have noticed that many of our children in Year 1 have come into school with pencil cases. The school does provide all equipment that the children will need to use for each lesson so these do not need to be purchased.

We understand that the children like to have their own pencil cases, especially if their friends have one, but please ensure that these are small enough to fit into their trays.

SNACK

We encourage the children to try the fruit that is available each day, however if you know that your child will not eat this, then you are welcome to send a small, healthy snack in with them. This can include other fruit, crackers or breadsticks – No crisps, chocolate, biscuits or sugary snacks.



TERM 1 DIARY DATES



Monday 16th September	2:30 Year R welcome meeting
Tuesday 17th September	2:30 Year 1 welcome meeting
Wednesday 18th September	2:30 Year 2 welcome meeting
Friday 20th September	IRock assembly for children
Mon 23rd sept	2:30 Phonic meeting for Reception parents
Monday 7th October	Am – Kittle photography
	Pm – Reception height and weight screening
Tuesday 22nd October	Harvest Festival 2:00 (TBC)
	Happy school bag collection
Friday 25th October	Last day of Term 1