

SANDWICH INFANT SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to all our families, and a very special welcome to those who are joining Sandwich Infant School for the first time. We hope that you have all had a wonderful and restful summer holiday and enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends. We are looking forward to hearing all about the children's adventures and experiences.

We are excited to begin another year of learning together. As in previous years, our monthly newsletters will keep you informed of key dates, events, reminders and celebrations from across the school. However, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Bennett

Allergies

With new government legislation, we would like to remind parents that if your child has a diagnosed allergy where there is a risk of anaphylaxis, school must have **two** in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens or equivalent) available at all times. We also require an up-to-date **care plan provided by your child's doctor** or specialist so that staff can respond appropriately in an emergency. Please check expiry dates regularly and provide replacement medication and updated care plans as needed. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

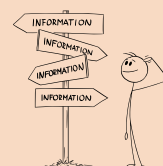
We would also like to remind you that we are a **nut-free school**.



Year group meetings

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to our upcoming 'Welcome to the Year Group' meetings. These short sessions will provide an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn more about the year ahead, including the daily timetable, key areas of learning and the exciting opportunities planned for the children. Staff will also explain how teaching is carefully adapted to meet the needs of all learners, ensuring every child is supported, challenged and able to thrive. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing how we will work together to make this a successful year for your child.

Monday 7th September – 2:30pm for Year 1.
Tuesday 8th September – 2:30pm for Year 2.



Phonic workshops

Parents of our Year 1 and 2 children are invited to attend a meeting to share the importance of phonics and to explain in greater detail, what this teaching will look like throughout the year.

This will take place on Tuesday 15th September at 1:30 pm.

We will also be providing a workshop to our new Reception parents. This will take place on Tuesday 15th September at 2:15 pm.

PE days

PE will take place on the following days:

Starfish - TBC for Term 2

Jellyfish - TBC for Term 2

Penguins - Monday and Wednesday

Seals - Monday and Tuesday

Whales - Wednesday and Friday

Children will need to come to school already dressed in their PE kits.

Attendance

At Sandwich Infant School, we have very high expectations for attendance because we know how important every day of learning is, particularly in the Early Years and Key Stage 1. These are the foundation years in which children learn the essential skills that support all future learning. When children miss school, they miss vital teaching, experiences and opportunities to build on previous learning. Unfortunately, there is no time within an already full curriculum to re-teach everything that has been missed, and research shows that children who fall behind at an early age can find it much harder to catch up later on.

We are aware that there has been considerable discussion in the media and on social media regarding school attendance and holidays. However, our position remains unchanged: **holidays during term time will not be authorised** except in truly exceptional circumstances. We ask all parents to support us by ensuring children attend school every day, on time, whenever they are well enough to do so. Every day really does count.

Last year, our school attendance was **95%**, which was above the national average of **93.7%**. We would like to thank families for their support in ensuring children attend school regularly. Attendance remains a national priority, and we will continue to work together to maintain and improve attendance. We are not only judged by the Department for Education, but Ofsted also.

We will be sending out a copy of the updated attendance policy to all parents. This outlines important information but also highlights the processes that we follow as a school.

Holiday requests

Last year, we received 35 requests for term-time holidays. In a school of our size, this equates to around 35% of our pupils being taken out of school during the academic year. Whilst each request may seem like only a few days, collectively this represents a significant amount of lost learning. Every lesson builds on previous knowledge and skills, particularly in the early years, where children are developing the foundations for reading, writing, mathematics and communication. When children miss school, they miss key teaching, practical experiences and opportunities to practise new learning alongside their peers. Teachers cannot pause the curriculum or re-teach entire sequences of lessons for individual absences, which means children can quickly develop gaps in their understanding.



School office hours

There will be a slight change to the opening hours of the school office:

- Monday - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Tuesday - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Wednesday - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Thursday - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Friday - 8:30 am - 3:30 pm



PE and earrings

For health and safety reasons, children should **not wear earrings** on days when they have PE. Earrings can pose a risk of injury to the wearer or other children during physical activity. We ask that earrings are removed before school on PE days wherever possible.

In exceptional circumstances, if earrings cannot be removed, parents may request and sign a consent form acknowledging that they understand the risks involved and accept responsibility for any injury or damage that may occur as a result of their child wearing earrings during PE. Please note that this arrangement should only be used in very limited circumstances.

Bottle tops



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our bottle top collection so far. We are continuing to collect plastic bottle tops for the Rotary Club's initiative to help fund the global effort to eradicate polio.

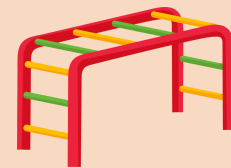
We would be grateful if families could save clean plastic bottle tops from drinks bottles, milk bottles and other household containers and send them into school. Every bottle top collected helps Rotary raise funds towards their vital work, bringing us one step closer to a world free from polio.

Please keep sending your bottle tops in and encourage family and friends to save them too. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause and helping our children make a difference to communities around the world. 🌍💜

Trim Trail

We would like to remind all parents and carers that children must not use the trim trails before or after school. These areas are unsupervised outside of school hours and should not be used under any circumstances.

We have noticed that some children are continuing to access the equipment at drop-off and collection times. We ask parents and carers to actively supervise their children and ensure that they do not climb on or play on the trim trails. This is an important health and safety requirement and we thank you for your support in adhering to it.



Behaviour routines

A new academic year brings an opportunity to remind existing families and introduce our new Reception children and parents to our school routines and expectations. These routines help ensure the school day begins safely, calmly and positively for everyone. While we regularly revisit and reinforce these expectations throughout the year, your support at home is greatly appreciated and helps all children become successful learners.

Arrival into School

To help everyone have a safe and smooth start to the day, please remember:

- Children should dismount from bikes and scooters before entering the school gate and place them in the designated storage areas.
- The trim trail should not be used before school starts, as it is not supervised at this time.
- Children should wait with their parents behind the yellow lines to allow classroom doors to be opened safely.
- Parents should remain with their child until they have been welcomed into class by their teacher.
- Reception children (and their siblings) should not play with the resources that have been set up for the day's learning in the Reception outdoor areas.
- Reception parents are asked to leave via the side gate near Fun Club, using the designated pathways where possible.
- Staff will be available to greet children at their classroom doors from 8:35am.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us establish positive routines and a successful start to each school day.

Forest School

Whales will be the first class to have Forest School on a Friday afternoon.

The dates are as follows:

Friday 6th November, Friday 13th November, Friday 20th November, Friday 27th November, Friday 4th December and Friday 11th December

Diary Dates



Tuesday 1st September	SDD
Wednesday 2nd September	SDD
Thursday 3rd September	• Years 1 and 2 back to school • Reception 1:1 Parent meetings
Friday 4th September	Reception 1:1 Parent meetings
Monday 7th September	• Reception 1:1 Parent meetings • ‘Welcome to Year 1’ parent meeting
Tuesday 8th September	• Reception am/ pm sessions • ‘Welcome to Year 2’ parent meeting
Wednesday 9th September	Reception am/ pm sessions
Thursday 10th September	Reception Morning and lunch
Friday 11th September	Reception Morning and lunch
Monday 14th September	Reception in Full time
Tuesday 15th September	• 1:30 pm Year 1 and 2 parent phonic meeting • 2:15 Reception parent phonic meeting
Saturday 19th September	Open morning for 2027-2028 intake
Thursday 1st October	Flu vaccinations

A full list of dates for the academic year will follow shortly.