

With **kindness** in our hearts,  
we find **enjoyment** in our learning and  
seek **challenge** in all that we do.



Rye Road, Sandhurst, Kent TN18 5JE

Tel: 01580 850288

Email: [office@sandhurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@sandhurst.kent.sch.uk)

Website: [www.sandhurst.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sandhurst.kent.sch.uk)

# NEWSLETTER

March 2025

## Whole School Update



Despite the rain, we have managed some 'outside' time at school and we are even beginning to see signs of Spring—the grass has been cut and our vegetable patch is beginning to take shape. Children in Years 1 and 6 have thoroughly enjoyed Forest School sessions in Windmill Woods. PE this term has focused on tennis skills although we have had to use the playground as the grass is still too wet!

Some classes have already enjoyed days out or visitors to school. I was lucky enough to join Years 5 and 6 on their trip to Chambers Fruit farm where a tasty time was had by all and hair and beard nets were very much the fashion!



A highlight of this term was the fantastic Book Week, which was planned to coincide with World Book Day. During this time, we ran a book fair, built story tents, shared stories across the school and enjoyed a fabulous day of dressing up as our favourite



characters. We also had a visit from a local author and was presented with a set of free books. This was all made possible courtesy of Bourne Amenity from Northiam.



In the last few weeks, Year 6 children have been out and about in the village, completing the Bikeability programme and have just enjoyed a three-day residential visit to Bewl Water. Year 5 children joined other local schools at the Easter Rewind event at the Baptist Church. Potter Class have enjoyed the experience of hatching and raising a batch of chicks in their classroom. We finished the term with a fabulous Easter service organised by Holmes Class.

Looking forwards, we have already started plans for sports day and the school fête. Please keep Friday 23rd May free, if you can, for our annual sports day.

I am also delighted to share that, Mrs Player is also about to begin her training as a SENCO. Alongside Mrs Lucas, she will support families and children who need advice with any Additional Educational Needs.

Have a restful Easter holiday – enjoy the sunshine, and we will see you next term, ready for another busy few weeks of fun, activities and assessments.

**Kindness    Enjoyment    Challenge**

## Potter Class Update

What an incredible Term 4 Potter Class has had!

This term, we have learnt where our food comes from and that there are different types of food groups. We visited the local shop to find out about different types of food. We did some cooking and made kebabs with fruit and soup using vegetables.

During Book Week, our focus story was 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and we planted beans which we have watched grow over the last four weeks. We have also planted radish seeds and cress.

We enjoyed a visit from a parent who talked to us about how fruit grows and he gave us lots of fruit plants to grow in the school allotment.

We were very excited to welcome our 'Living Eggs' into the classroom and over two weeks we watched them hatch and grow into fluffy chicks. We were fortunate to hatch all 10 eggs and five will be returning to school when they are big and strong enough. This experience inspired lots of art and craft activities and fostered curiosity in how living things grow and change over time.

Mrs Lucas came in with baby Isla so we could learn more about babies and this linked to our learning about baby animals.

We have made fantastic progress this term with our Early Learning Goals. We have continued to work on our whole school phonics scheme, 'Read, Write Inc', and we have excelled in both our reading and writing. Some of us are even writing short sentences with capital letters and full stops! In maths, we have enjoyed learning how to subitise, recall double

numbers and explore shape and capacity. In Forest School, we have started to learn how to use tools safely and we have really enjoyed exploring and playing in the stream. We have also observed the season change from Winter to Spring and have been looking for signs of Spring in our garden and in the forest.

We wish you all a fabulous Easter holiday - stay safe!



## Nightingale Class Update



Wow! What a wonderful term we have had in Nightingale Class! The children have amazed me with their knowledge of London and, in particular, The Great Fire of London. We have delved deep into the stages of the event and learnt what an impact it had on the city. We used story maps to help support our writing which was fantastic. We also used the same process to write instructions on 'How to make a Tudor house' which we made—and burnt! The re-enactment was a great way to finish off the term.

In maths, we have been working very hard to secure our knowledge of place value up to 50. The children can now confidently talk about the number of 'tens' and 'ones' in two digit numbers. After Easter we will be counting up to 100 so plenty of counting over the holiday would be great!

In science, we have been investigating the seasons and observing the different weather as we transitioned from Winter to Spring. We measured the wind using the Beaufort scale and made our own wind socks. We loved measuring the weather every day.



We have, of course, thoroughly enjoyed our time down in Windmill Woods. I love hearing about how the children have challenged themselves to try new activities.

A HUGE thank you for your support with reading at home—we have seen some fantastic progress in reading and phonics so I promise, 10 minutes a day really is worthwhile!

Happy Easter from Mrs Player, Mrs Manser and Mrs Wilding.



## Darwin Class Update

Darwin have been working incredibly hard this term, resulting in some fantastic work and learning.

In maths, Darwin have enjoyed learning the inverse operation of multiplication - division - by using a variety of manipulatives to support their learning.

Darwin Class wrote fantastic descriptions for 'Book Week' based around the book, 'Journey', which actually doesn't have any words! The reason I chose this text was so we could really go to town with our imagination during our writing, and we sure did! We also looked at 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' which the children loved and wrote fantastic diary entries for.

In science, the children enjoyed learning all about plants and flowers, which linked nicely to our art unit of work, 'Flower Head'.

The children's favourite subject was geography - we have now finished all our learning about the coastline. The children really enjoyed a visit from Pam of the RNLI during a workshop where they were able to dress up, learn about the dangers of water and much more!

Thank you for a fantastic year, so far, Darwin! Continue to work hard and aim high with Mrs Underwood!



## Pankhurst Class Update



Pankhurst Class have worked amazingly hard this term, but here are some of the highlights that the children wanted to share.

In our Design Technology lessons, we have studied how cams work and made some automaton toys with a working cam inside. The children had to work hard and persevere in their pairs and small groups to ensure the cam made the toy move.

In Gymnastics this term, we have developed our rolling, balancing and jumping skills. We challenged ourselves to make a sequence of moves that were contrasting or matching.

When investigating magnetism, we managed to make our own compasses using a needle to indicate the direction of North. Do you know what a magnetic field looks like? The children used iron filings to demonstrate the patterns a magnetic field makes.

When studying the Christian period of Lent, we enjoyed discussing the challenge of giving up something that we like or enjoy. To mark the beginning of Lent, we made vegan pancakes, which the children really enjoyed!

I have been so impressed with Pankhurst's enthusiasm for the 'Rumbles, Rocks and Relics' topic, and it has been so relevant learning about Earthquakes when there have actually been some very large ones affecting countries around the world.

What a fabulous term!



## Shakespeare Class Update



Hello from Shakespeare Class!

We have had another great term of working really hard. For the first three weeks, we continued with our English book, 'King of the Cloud Forest', and wrote diary entries as the character, Ashley. We then moved on to writing a newspaper article about a bottle-nosed whale that was stranded in the River Thames in 2006. This tied in with our topic of 'Mountains and Rivers', learning about the rivers in the UK and worldwide. We made our own 3-D models of mountains and rivers, labelling all of the main features, and did a fantastic job of adding amazing detail!

In maths, we have been becoming masters of everything to do with fractions – you name it, we can do it! We also enjoyed moving on to our new topic of decimals.

Along with all the other classes, we really enjoyed Book Week, where we used 'Alice in Wonderland' as a focus and wrote our own Wonderland adventure, imagining ourselves as Alice on an adventure in our own Wonderlands!

In DT, we have learnt all about the work of William Morris and created our own prints based on his designs – they look really impressive. For science, we have been looking at classification and learnt lots about sub-categories of invertebrates and plants.

In PE, we have continued gymnastics and developed our sequencing skills to include balancing and Rolling. We have great control in tennis and are developing a good relay volley.

Shakespeare Class would like to wish you all a Happy Easter!



## Holmes Class Update

What a busy term Holmes class has had! This term we have continued our 'Sow, Grow and Farm' topic and have developed our knowledge of farming around the world. We have carried out case studies looking into citrus fruit growing in California and coffee growing in Peru before exploring food

Holmes class has been working incredibly hard in English lessons where we have been writing balanced arguments on whether all children should be required to attend primary school. We then designed our ideal school and have written letters to Mrs Norman and our local MP to try and persuade them to make changes. Suggestions include shortening the school day, increasing lunchtime activities and having lessons which focus on life skills.

To celebrate 'World Book Day', we worked in groups to write 'choose your own' adventure stories which have turned out to be fabulous. It is safe to say that we have great imaginations in Holmes Class!



During our most recent art lessons, we have been exploring natural and land art. First of all, we created art work using natural materials from the little forest school and school field. This week, we went down to Windmill Woods to explore the natural materials at Forest School. The children all created a 3D piece of art work before having a class scavenger hunt. We were so impressed with the children's imaginations and creativity!

We also led the school Easter service on Thursday morning at the Mission Church where we retold the Easter story. The children spoke and sung fantastically and made Miss Brinsley and I very proud. Well done, Holmes Class!



We look forward to a busy Term 5 with lots of excitement including swimming and Forest School!

**Kindness    Enjoyment    Challenge**

## Churchill Class Update

It would be an understatement to say that it has been an action-packed term. What a busy but brilliant term Churchill Class has had!

We have continued our fabulous Forest School sessions with Mrs Dodson on Thursday afternoons. Each week, our Churchill chefs have been tasked with building and lighting their very own fire to cook a culinary treat for the rest of their group: hot dogs, wraps and noodles! The class has also been cooking up a storm in Design and Technology, making their very own vegetable soup from scratch.

In our English lessons, inspired by Book Week, the children have fully embraced the challenge of writing their own version of "Jack and the Beanstalk," entitled "My Buddy and the Beanstalk," for their Potter buddy. The children took great care to write an enthralling tale for their buddy, and it was heart-warming to see Churchill read their stories to Potters!

Two weeks ago, Year 6 completed their Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 courses. All the cyclists were brilliant, and the instructors were very impressed!

As part of our "Sow, Grow, and Farm" geography topic we visited Chambers Fruit Farm. At the farm, we visited the main packhouse, learnt how fruit arrives on trucks ready to be quality-checked, practised the sugar tests, walked through the cold chamber, saw the machines sealing the punnets, and labelled and weighed our own punnets of blueberries. In the field, we looked at expanses of plants, learnt about the polytunnels, observed the bees, discussed the bugs that eat the plants, planted our very own strawberry plants to bring home, and examined examples of tractors and machinery used.

In the fruitery, we looked at the optical graders and saw the blueberries moving down the line, as well as the automatic case-packer robot. We then visited the boardroom and were taste testers for varieties of raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries! This was a huge hit! It was a really fabulous school trip. Chambers were so generous with their time and produce, ensuring everyone had a bag of goodies and a strawberry plant to take home.

Finally, this fantastically busy yet brilliant term culminated in the highly anticipated Year 6 Bewl Water residential trip. We had three incredible and beautifully sunny days, and the children had so much fun. Canoeing, sailing, archery, rock climbing, challenge courses, axe throwing, and orienteering were all on the activity schedule. The food was delicious and plentiful, and in the evenings, the fun in the park and games room was beyond entertaining!

Thank you so much to all the staff, both at school and on the Bewl Water trip, for all of your hard work in enabling us to provide Year 6 with the opportunity to go to Bewl! A huge thank you especially to Mrs Lawrence for all her hard work on our residential trip. Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter.





## Attendance

### Attendance Update

Attendance for this term stands at 95.9%. However, 13 children currently have attendance below 90%, meaning they have missed at least 10 days of school so far this year.

To encourage improvement, we will be holding another *Attendance Bounce* session after the Easter holiday for all children who have missed no more than one day of school during Term 4.

Children can also earn a *Bounce Session* by receiving a Gold Star for showing kindness in school or achieving something special outside of school. This could include passing an exam, earning a certificate, or even demonstrating kindness at home.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



*Reminder: School starts at 8:50 am. Phonics lessons start at 9:00 am sharp.*

*Please try to get your children to school on time, so that they don't miss out.*

*Staff need their time after school to mark and plan for the next day, so please try to collect your children on time too.*

***There will be a charge of £4 for any child who is put into Wrap Around Club if they are not collected before 3:30 pm.***

## Bikability

Well done to Year 6 on taking part in Bikeability training this term.



## Donation of books



Earlier this term, we were lucky to have a visit from the author Jenny Bailey to talk about her books on wildlife. Each book is written with a local animal in mind and is full of suggestions, fun facts and puzzles as to how we can help protect them from danger or extinction.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Bourne Amenity for their kind purchase and donation of these books so that our school children can enjoy them.

## Easter Service

Thank you to Holmes Class for their fantastic Easter service at the Mission Church this week. Congratulations to Henri too for winning the Paws in Pews poster competition. Reverend David and Lyn reminded us about the service in May at St Nicholas Church. All pets are welcome!



## Nightingale Assembly

Well done Nightingale Class! Thank you for your fantastic assembly on London.



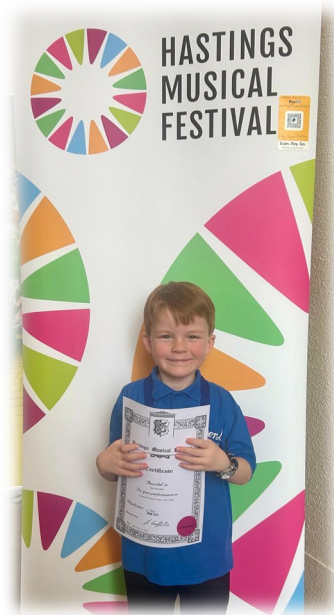
# Book Week



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## VIP Bouncers

Saul took part in the Hasting Musical Festival at the White Rock Theatre in the speech class. He performed a poem, “If you should meet a crocodile...” and performed really well, achieving a “Commended” score of 84 for his efforts. Well done, Saul.



Congratulations to Olivia on another successful roller skating competition. She came fourth in both her solo events over the weekend in Great Yarmouth!



Well done to Ruben who walked 26 miles in 26 days and raised an amazing £322 for Young Epilepsy. He would like to thank everyone who donated. You totally smashed it, Ruben!



Well done to Frankie!  
He achieved his first certificate at swimming last weekend!



## VIP Bouncers



Well done to Bobby! He got player of the match last weekend. He is also the proud holder of a 'Golden Boot' for the most goals scored last season!

Another achievement for James this term was achieving his '2nd mon' red belt at his judo grading last week!



Well done to Daisy for passing her tap dancing exam with a Distinction.



Jonah won player of the match at Cranbrook Rugby Club!



Euan has passed his Grade 1 flute exam. He passed with a Merit grading.

What a talented group of children we have in school!

Local Events

Dulwich *Cranbrook*

**JUNIOR TRIATHLON**

In association with 

**Sunday  
29th June  
from 10am**

**TO ENTER VISIT [britishtriathlon.org](http://britishtriathlon.org) Find an event**

**TESE**  
*Junior Race  
Series Event  
2025*

**NOVICE & EXPERIENCED**  
*all abilities welcomed!*

*pool swim* *bike on grass* *trail run*

**FESTIVAL OF TRI**  
*pop up shops*

**AGES 8-16**  
*race categories for*

**FOOD STALLS**  
*live music*

kindly supported by

 **Cradick**  
RETAIL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

**Thomson Snell & Passmore**

- **NOVICE**
- **TRISTARS**
- **YOUTH**

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Local Events



**Order Your School Uniform Online**

**BRIGADE**

**Parents Direct Delivery**

**WORKING TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE**

**SUPPLYING SCHOOLS Since 1990**

**IMPORTANT SUMMER HOLIDAY ORDER INFORMATION**  
Place your order before **18th July** for delivery before the start of term

[www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com)

Register today to avoid missing out on Brigade promotions or important notifications by scanning this QR code



Local Events

# OPEN COCKPIT WEEKEND 2025

| 12TH AND 13TH APRIL | 10AM TO 4PM |  
RAF MANSTON HISTORY MUSEUM CT12 5DF



Fire Engine Rides



Tank Rides



Cobweb Car Show

Sunday Only



Climb in the Cockpits



Museum Entry



USUAL MUSEUM ADMISSION PRICES APPLY | RIDE ADMISSION SEPARATE

[info@rafmanston.co.uk](mailto:info@rafmanston.co.uk)

[www.rafmanston.co.uk](http://www.rafmanston.co.uk)

What Three Words - remarried.mornings.pave

Refreshments available

**NO NEED TO BOOK**

Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, mechanical breakdowns and shortage of volunteers and/or exhibitors.

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge



Local Events

**EASTER TRAIL**  
...at the Museum

5th April - 21st April  
10am - 4pm

Find the Easter pictures  
around the museum &  
win a prize!


Only £1.50

Normal museum  
admission applies


**NO NEED TO BOOK!**  
[info@rafmanston.co.uk](mailto:info@rafmanston.co.uk)

  
Charity Number:  
1179882

## Local News




# Oral Health in Early Years



Kent Community Health  
NHS Foundation Trust

March 2025

## Did you know children aged four to six should have no more than 19 grams of sugar a day?



**Find the sugar with our sugar smart app**

Could you promote the **FREE** sugar free app with your parents and carers. Maybe create your own social media post and direct them to the healthier family's campaign on [Healthier Families - Home - NHS](#)

Which foods/drinks to **watch out for** and tips how to reduce sugar at home

[Reducing sugar - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS](#)


### Added sugar:

When we talk about added sugar, we mean sugar that has been added to food and drink to sweeten it.

This could be added by the manufacturer, by you if you're cooking at home, or by the chef or cook if you're eating out.

It's not just the white sugar you might think of on a teaspoon either: it includes fruit juice, honey, syrups and nectars too.

You do not need to worry about sugar in:  
Plain milk, plain yoghurt, whole fruit and whole vegetables. This is not added sugar but remember to keep dried sticky fruit to mealtimes to protect teeth!



Check out the online sugar calculator it all adds up! [Sugar calculator - Food facts - Healthier Families - NHS](#)

### Check out our Webpage below for even more tips and resources!

[www.kentcht.nhs.uk/happyteeth](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/happyteeth)


We will be holding **FREE** live Q&A sessions online with our team of dental professionals on 3.4.2025 & 10.6.2025

Contact us via email for more information!

Plus, a **FREE** training session with CPD on 15.4.2025

Click the link below to join:

[Join the meeting now](#)



## Diary Dates so far 2024-25

4th Apr	End of Term
7th - 18th Apr	Easter Holidays
22nd Apr	Term 5 Begins
23rd Apr	Year 2 to Great Dixter
1st May	Year 3 Trip to Living Land Detling
2nd June	Swimming starts for Year 5
10th June	Year R Vision Tests
	New Entrants parents evening
12th June	New EYFS transition visit
17th June	New EYFS transition visit
24th June	Year 5 and Year 6 Greek Day
7th July	Rock Steady concert 2:30pm
8th July	Teddy Bear's picnic new EYFS
10th July	Year 6 performance
11th July	Year 6 Leavers' Service at the Mission Church
15th July	Year 6 Leavers' Dinner
18th July	End of Term and Year 6 Leavers' assembly



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## Term Dates 2024-25

### Sandhurst Primary School Term Dates 2024/25

#### Term 1

**INSET** **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**  
Starts Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Ends Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
**Holiday** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

#### Term 2

Starts Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Ends Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
**INSET** **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**Holiday** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

#### Term 3

Starts Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Ends Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
**Holiday** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

#### Term 4

Starts Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
Ends Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
**Holiday** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April– Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

#### Term 5

Starts Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025  
**Bank Holiday** **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
Ends Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025  
**Holiday** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

#### Term 6

Starts Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025  
Ends Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
**INSET** **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

#### **INSET DAYS**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025



## Term Dates 2025-26

### Sandhurst Primary School

#### Term Dates 2025/2026

<b>TERM 1 (AUTUMN)</b>	
Monday 1st September	Staff training day - School Closed
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Staff training day – School Closed
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Term 1 Starts
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Term 1 Finishes
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term Holiday
<b>TERM 2 (AUTUMN)</b>	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Term 2 Starts
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Term 2 Finishes
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Staff training day – School Closed
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Christmas Holiday
<b>TERM 3 (SPRING)</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Term 3 Starts
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Term 3 Finishes
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term Holiday
<b>TERM 4 (SPRING)</b>	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Term 4 Starts
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Term 4 Finishes
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holidays
<b>TERM 5 (SUMMER)</b>	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Term 5 Starts
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day - School Closed
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Term 5 Finishes
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Half term holiday
<b>TERM 6 (SUMMER)</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Term 6 Starts
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Term 6 Finishes
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Staff training day - School Closed
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Staff training day – School Closed

School term dates and holidays are set mostly in line with Kent County Council, however, please bear in mind that the school sets staff training days independently and these may be subject to change.