

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

Website: www.sandhurst.kent.sch.uk

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Whole School Update

Well, after what felt like an endless rain and grey skies type of winter, we are all pleased that things have finally started to feel a little more normal! The sunshine and warm weather has been so lovely, and we have all been soaking it up whenever we can.

Over the past few weeks, Year 6 have been extremely busy completing SATs assessments—both Mrs Saunders and I were so impressed with their dedication and hard work. The support from the rest of the staff and children made it a real Team Sandhurst effort! With that out of the way, the children have been making the most of the fresh air and getting back onto the field. It has been such a joy to see their happy faces as they enjoy playing on the field and practising on the running track.



We've also had a few special highlights: Year 3 had a great time at the *Living Land Exhibition*, learning all about life on the land. Both Holmes and Shakespeare Classes have had some sunny Forest School sessions and Shakespeare Class had a brilliant day out at Bedgebury Forest. Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Great Dixter and have been diving into their "Magnificent Monarchs" topic, topped off with an entertaining themed class assembly. Y6 enjoyed a celebration morning in Windmill Woods and spent an afternoon in the surrounding fields having photographs taken for their leavers' book. Finally, the whole school celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with some village members.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, we wrapped up the term with a glorious Sports Day and family picnic. It was the perfect end to a busy and brilliant term.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make this term such a success – from our incredible staff to our ever-supportive parents, governors and PTFA. We really couldn't do it without you!

Looking ahead to next term, we've got lots to be excited about including the annual sponsored Welly Walk on 4th July and our Summer Fair on 11th July.

Have a lovely, restful half term – enjoy the long Bank Holiday weekend, and we'll see you all back on **Monday 2nd June!**



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Potter Class Update



This term Potter Class's theme was 'Animals'. We started the term by going on a virtual African safari in Namibia. We saw lots of African animals and learnt some facts about them... Did you know that no two Zebras have the same pattern of stripes?

We then re-told the story of 'Dear Zoo' and used the knowledge we had learned about different animals to change the story. Our books are going to be published and shared with our Year 6 buddies next term.

Next, we learnt about animals in our own country and shared pictures of our pets with the class which inspired a vet's role play area and pet shop. In the vets we explored caring for animals and taking on different roles through our play.



In Forest School, we explored habitats to look for and learn about minibeasts. Our interest in minibeasts led us using tools to make spider webs and cutting disks with a bow saw to make our own wooden mini beasts. We also looked at the artist, Henry Matisse, and his famous snail collage which inspired our own collages, pictures and chalk drawings.

In maths, we have explored double numbers, number bonds to 10 and composition of numbers 6-10 through songs, activities and through our play experiences.

Finally, we also took part in our first school sports day. We enjoyed taking part in three different races but loved performing our KS1 group dance the most!



Nightingale Class Update

This term seems to have flown by in our busy classroom! We have been immersed in our learning in all areas and the children have amazed me, again, at how engaged they are with their learning topics.

We have loved learning about Victorian school days and I think some of the children were shocked by the daily rituals that occurred in the classroom! We had a little role play lesson and a few of them were a little taken aback by a Victorian Mrs Player!

In maths, we have been very busy learning about fractions—halves and quarters—and using lots of resources to support our learning.

In science, we have been busy learning about plants and how they change over the seasons. The children have really impressed me with how much they know and how much they have learnt. We have really enjoyed being able to do this learning practically and helping Mr Digby with planting in the school garden. We are thrilled with the amount of fruit and vegetables that we have managed to plant!

We had been learning about Sikh families and their naming ceremonies. It has been lovely to learn about different cultures and celebrations.

After half term, the children will have the Phonics Screening Check, which is a statutory assessment that I will carry out to assess all children's phonics knowledge. Please do keep reading and if you have RWI resources, keep practising over the holidays. A little every day makes a huge difference.

Thank you from Mrs Player, Mrs Manser and Mrs Wilding



Darwin Class Update

This term we have started our new topic 'Magnificent Monarchs'.

The children have really enjoyed learning about Queen Victoria, her husband Prince Albert and their nine children in the book, 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine'. They all felt very lucky that they were not children born in the Victorian Era when they learnt that children were sent to work in factories and down in the mines!

In our history lessons, the children have learnt how to order significant kings and queens onto a timeline and have even learnt the names of the royal houses that each monarch belonged to. By far, their favourite monarch has been King Henry VIII! We have had lots of fun learning about his six wives through acting and singing.

We've tackled fractions in maths and the children have really impressed me with their understanding of mathematical words such as 'numerator' and 'unit fractions.' We even moved onto ordering fractions by size!

A huge thank you to Darwin Class for all of their effort and enthusiasm this term. I am looking forward to more of the same in Term 6!



Pankhurst Class Update



We all had a fabulous time at 'Living Land ' earlier in the term and we are hugely grateful that Tractorfest were able to fund this wonderful outing!

The children had the following to say:

'The best bit was the sheep show because I have never seen a sheep getting sheared.' - Ollie

'I liked the milkshake which was made with milk from the cows at Plurenden Manor.' - Joseph

'I really liked the army stall. I got to try on the helmet and heavy back pack. I really want to be in the army when I grow up.' - Rory

'I was so pleased to see my sister from Homewood school farm with all the cute guinea pigs.' - Emily

'The best bit was taste testing because the food was so good, especially the bread like the Romans made on a fire pit.' - Charlie

In our DT lessons this term, we have designed and made our own Roman tiles. The children did so well concentrating on copying their designs.

We are studying plant nutrition and reproduction in science this term. The children have already learnt so much new vocabulary—can you find the carpel in a flower?

In computing, we have been exploring simulations and it is amazing to see how the children have developed their problem-solving skills during these lessons.

Finally, I wanted to mention a valuable unit of work we have been working through in maths—money. We made sure that the children had coins and notes to learn how to work out change along with adding and subtracting different amounts. This is such important 'real life' knowledge!

Have a great half term break everyone!



Shakespeare Class Update



Well, Shakespeare Class has had another very busy term of learning!

This term has found us learning all about Ancient Sumer in our topic lessons, and we enjoyed continuing with the 'ancient' theme in English. We were great poets when we wrote and performed our free verse poems about Ancient Sumerian temples. We began reading our book, 'Secrets of a Sun King', which is set in Ancient Egypt and is about a girl called Lil who has to get a canopic jar back to Egypt to set her grandad free from a curse. We've used this text to write a newspaper report about a gruesome discovery. We will be continuing with this book after half term, and we can't wait to find out what happens!

The Sumerians have been a focus in our history lessons and we've learnt a lot about ancient inventions that still help us today.

In science, our topic has been electricity and we have had fun learning about how electricity is produced and how it reaches our homes. We've been using practical resources to make electrical circuits and light a lightbulb.

We also really enjoyed learning about Eid-ul-Adha. We've linked our art to our RE lessons and learnt how geometric shapes were used in Islamic art. We then created our own repeating patterns.

We finished the term with our trip to Bedgebury and we had a fantastic time learning about making maps using landmarks. We also made journey sticks which helped us learn a lot about the trees there—one tree was 175 years old! We finished our day on the play trail and, in total, we walked nearly 5 miles!

Shakespeare Class wishes you all a happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you in Term 6!



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Holmes Class Update

Wow—Term 5 has gone by in a flash but it has been a great one! Holmes Class has started Forest school this term and have been having a great time with Miss Abel in Windmill Woods. They have cooked toast and popcorn; built dens; played on the mud slide; made woodland crafts; and, of course, had all sorts of fun!

This term we have had our first swimming lesson at Claremont and it has quickly become most of Holmes Class's favourite activity in the week! We can't wait for Term 6 and the rest of our swimming lessons. Mr Digby and I were so impressed with how brave and resilient the children were.

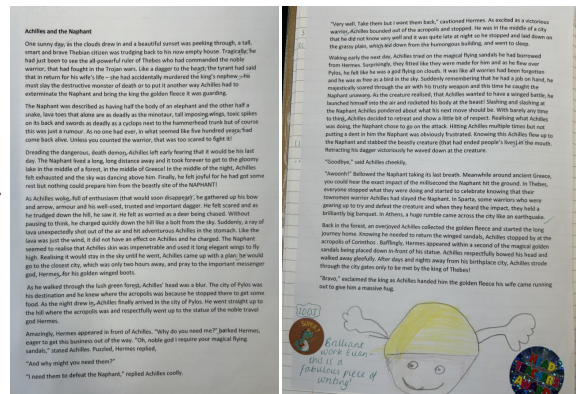


Science this term has been packed with experiments and investigations. We have been learning about properties of materials and have tested a range of materials to see whether they are electrically conductive, waterproof, a thermal conductor, or able to absorb water, etc. The children have worked so hard to ensure they are carrying out fair tests and making careful observations. Afterwards, the children have produced graphs and detailed evaluations to explain their results.

History and English this term have been a brilliant journey of exploring our new overarching topic of 'Groundbreaking Greeks'. In English, we have been learning about Greek myths and the children have worked incredibly hard to write their own over the past two weeks. Miss Brinsley and I have been blown away with the descriptive language used and how the myths really create an image in the reader's head.



To end the term, we had a class trip to the park as a reward for filling up the class 'Star Jar'. Every time the whole class is spotted for excellent behaviour and going above and beyond, they get a star. As a result of filling the jar up, the children asked for some time at the park and we had a brilliant morning!



Churchill Class Update



It has been another extremely busy term for Churchill Class. Year 6 worked exceptionally hard throughout the term in preparation for their SATs. During SATs week, every day started with a fantastic breakfast provided for all Year 6 children, courtesy of Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Wilding, and Mr Digby.

To celebrate the completion of their SATs and to express our gratitude for all their hard work, we enjoyed a wonderful morning in Windmill Woods. The children had great fun playing games and indulging in an abundance of snacks – including delicious doughnuts! Furthermore, on Friday afternoon, after removing any traces of mud and doughnuts following our adventures in the woods, we walked over to the windmill to participate in the annual photo shoot (courtesy of our resident photographer, Mrs Norman) for our memory book; the blue sky, beautiful buttercups and iconic windmill, as always, made for a stunning backdrop!



In this last week, attention has turned to the highly anticipated Year 6 production which, this year, is "Aladdin Trouble". The children are currently familiarising themselves with the script and songs, ready to audition for their chosen parts at the start of the next term.

Again, a huge thank you to Year 6 and the entire staff team for their support with the SATs this term. We can't wait for Term 6 to begin and for our preparations for the celebrations of our Class of 2025 to commence!



Attendance

Attendance Update

Attendance for this term stands at 95.8%. 15 children currently have attendance below 90%, meaning they have missed at least 10 days of school so far this year. There are also a lot of holidays booked, which means that some children will miss valuable school time and, sadly, our attendance percentage will decrease.

To encourage improvement, we will be holding another *Attendance Bounce* session after the half term holiday for all children who have missed no more than one day of school during Term 5.

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.

Darwin Class Assembly

Well done to Darwin Class for performing a wonderful assembly on British Monarchs. We loved the fun facts and enjoyed the acting and singing, too.



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Sports Day



Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

VIP Bouncers



Congratulations to the High Halden Hornets Under 9s on their cup win—well done to Leo, Reuben, Harry and Jack for the parts they played in it. Mr Digby was rather happy too!

James received the Unsung Hero Award at the Cranbrook rugby Club U9s award ceremony for the end of the season.



Well done to Violet who qualified for the Hickstead Sunshine Tour on her pony Sharky,

Lola gained a Pony Club award for leading and handling!



Henri received his swimming certificate for completing his Stage 5 this term.



Lola and Nico each won a swimming certificate this term.



Local Events

BOOM ACTIVE 5 yrs to 11 yrs (y 6)
28th July - 22nd August

SUMMER CAMPS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY £5 OFF

Open daily 8.30am-4pm

Code; Tsummer25 Or Hsummer25
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William Parker
Parkstone Road
Hastings TN34 2NT

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Local Events



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

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Local Events



THE HAWKHURST 10K & 5K RUN

SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2025

9.30 AM START

Enter now at
www.nice-work.org.uk
or scan the QR code
Fun and friendly event
Free childrens race (9.00am start)



Local organisations
working in
partnership.

Proud to bring
this run to
Hawkhurst.

Charity No: 1180085

Kindness Enjoyment Challenge

Diary Dates so far 2024-25

2nd June	Swimming starts again 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
3rd July	Year 1 and EYFS Bedgebury trip
4th July	Summer Fair 2-4pm
7th July	Rock Steady concert 2:30pm
8th July	Teddy Bears' picnic new EYFS
10th July	Year 6 performance
11th July	Year 6 Leavers' Service at the Mission Church
11th July	Whole school welly walk
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 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024**
Starts Wednesday 4th September 2024
Ends Friday 25th October 2024
Holiday Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November 2024

Term 2

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

Term 3

Starts Monday 6th January 2025
Ends Friday 14th February 2025
Holiday Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2025

Term 4

Starts Monday 24th February 2025
Ends Friday 4th April 2025
Holiday Monday 7th April– Monday 21st April 2025

Term 5

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

Term 6

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

INSET DAYS

2nd and 3rd September 2024
20th December 2024
21st and 22nd July 2025

Term Dates 2025-26**Sandhurst Primary School****Term Dates 2025/2026**

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