



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



LUNCHTIME PLAY

You may have seen that we have just purchased some new playground equipment to support positive play experiences. The children can use the set to build, to develop teamwork and turn-taking skills, as well as their communication and language as they develop their ability to verbalise their ideas. Children will be able to build on their core problem-solving skills as they slot the components together.



CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Christmas Production will be on Tuesday 2nd December at St Mary's Arts Centre in Sandwich.
We ask that you arrive to be seated at 1:50pm. The children will be starting promptly at 2:00pm. Due to capacity restrictions, we ask that a maximum of 2 family members attend, please.
Once the production has finished, we will walk the children back to school. You are then able to collect your child which will be slightly earlier than our usual finishing time.
Please be aware that we will be accepting cash donations at St Mary's to cover the cost of venue hire.
(For those who usually attend Football Fun Factory, this club will still be running)

CO-OP LOCAL CAUSE

We are now one month in to going live as one of Sandwich Co-op's local charitable causes. If you hold a Co-op membership card, then you can support us too. Just select Sandwich Infant School as your local cause within the membership section of the Co-op website and 1% of all the money you spend on Co-op branded goods and services will be donated to us for a whole 12 months! Our aim is to buy more resources to support outdoor play and learning opportunities.

TOY DONATIONS

Do you have any unwanted plastic animals or matchbox size vehicles? If so, we would love to have them for the children to play with at breaktime and lunch.
Any contributions gratefully received via the School Office.

SEPTEMBER 2026 YEAR 3 ADMISSIONS

Applications are open until Thursday 15th January for you to apply for a Junior School place for September 2026. Please be aware that although we are a linked school, there is no automatic transition from Sandwich Infant School to Sandwich Junior School so all parents will need to apply for a place via the Kent County Council website.



FLU VACCINATIONS

The Immunisation Service are visiting school on 5th December. Please note that all parents must give consent/decline via the NHS portal at www.kentimmunisations.co.uk and not come directly to the school. Parental consent/decline for the flu vaccine must take place before 4pm on 2nd December 2025.



SEVERE WEATHER

With the weather taking a turn this week, we start to forward plan for potential severe weather with wind and snow. Please make sure your child has a named warm coat, hat, and gloves each day, as well as suitable footwear for wet or icy ground. In the event of extreme weather affecting the school day, we will communicate any updates promptly via MCAS so please ensure that notifications on the app are enabled.



PARENT WORKSHOP

Earlier this month we hosted a parent workshop delivered by Dan Smith (Beau Smith's dad). Although a small uptake, so much was gained. Dan wanted to create a space in which to share lived experiences and strategies.

We are keen to deliver another session, with a view of focusing on Sensory Processing.

We would love to see more parents benefitting from this.
Date TBC.

FOREST SCHOOL

Hedgehogs will be taking part in Forest School from 9th January to 27th February with Mrs Prestleton on Friday afternoons. Keep an eye out on MCAS for further details.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

We know that speech and language enables children to communicate their thoughts and feelings, to understand others, and to form relationships.

If you would like to further support your child at home with their speech and language, this training provides useful strategies that parents and carers can use to support school aged children with speech, language and communication needs. This gives an overview of language development and how you can support this at home; some of these strategies will also be beneficial for older children and young people: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/childrens-therapies-the-pod/speech-and-language-therapy/school-aged-language/>

Please also look on our school website for additional information on supporting Speech and Language and Communication needs.



NSPCC PANTS TALK

Tips and advice to start a Talk PANTS conversation: Talking to children about their body:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule>

We use this resource within school frequently to discuss the importance of keeping our bodies private. Additional opportunities to reinforce this at home would be helpful.

When's the right time to talk PANTS?

Every family is different, and when and where you have these conversations may depend on your child's age, or how grown up they are - it's all about whatever feels natural for you and them.

Some examples of times you can talk PANTS are:

- After school - if they've had a lesson on personal relationships or Talk PANTS at school, ask them what they remember when they get home.
- Bathtime - you could start a conversation when you're running your child's bath, or helping them get dressed.
- Car journeys - this can be a great time to talk, and your child will have plenty of time to ask questions if they need.
- Reading our new PANTS storybook together.
- Singing - sing along to our PANTS song with Pantosaurus!
- Swimming - a great time to say that what's covered by swimwear is private.
- Walking - walking home from school, or a weekend walk to the shops can help you both feel more at ease as you stroll and chat.
- Watching TV - if a TV show features a sensitive storyline, you can encourage them to talk about anything that upsets them.

COMMUNICATION

Whilst parent WhatsApp groups and other social media are a useful tool to share information and make new contacts, we do not consider them helpful to share negativity. Should you have any concerns regarding your child at school you should make an appointment with your child's teacher in the first instance.

We are also seeing an increasing number of parents turning up at school and expecting to see a member of staff immediately. Please be reminded that any appointments with staff must be by prearranged invitation.



PARKING

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers to please park considerately during morning drop-off. For everyone's safety, we ask that you avoid stopping directly outside the school, blocking driveways, or parking in a way that restricts visibility for children and families crossing the road. Taking a few extra moments to park safely helps keep our whole school community secure and ensures a calmer start to the day for all. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



FOSIS CHRISTMAS FAIR

FOSIS will be hosting a Christmas Fair on Friday 12th December this will include a variety of festive fun games and stalls including the much-loved Chocolate Tombola. There will be a non uniform day on Friday 5th December in exchange for chocolate donations. Once again, the Christmas Fair will take part during the day and tickets to take part must be purchased in advance to a maximum value of £5 per child. Details to follow via MCAS.



PANTOMIME

We are delighted to welcoming back the fabulous M&S Productions who will be performing Beauty and the Beast to the whole school on Wednesday 21st January. Unfortunately, we have had to increase the price this year to cover the increased cost of the performance. We are asking for a contribution of £8.61 per child with a subsidy for those in receipt of Pupil Premium payable via MCAS as of today.

We ask that all donations are in by 20th January please.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

We are looking forward to Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 17th December and thank you to everyone for booking your child's meal. We would also encourage the children to wear a Christmas jumper to school that day to add to the festive spirit. The suggested donation for wearing Christmas Jumpers is £1 per child payable via MCAS.

If you don't have a Christmas jumper, please let us know in advance as Mrs Nelson can usually rustle up spares if needed.

SINGING

Once again our Year 1 and 2 children have been invited to sing at the following Christmas lunch events for some of our older residents in Sandwich: Pfizer retirees, Age Concern and Coffee Pot.

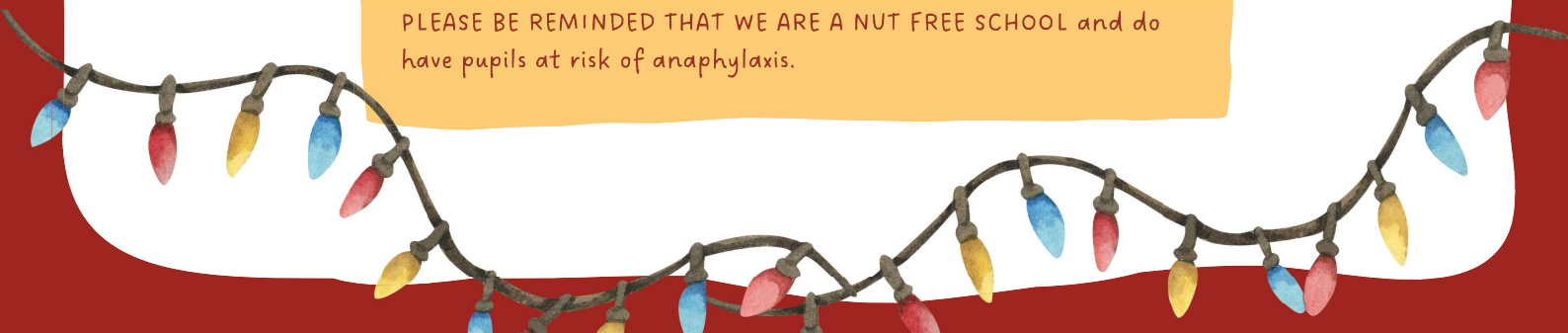


CHRISTMAS PARTIES

We are having class Christmas parties on Friday 19th December and children are welcome to come to school in their party clothes if they would like to.

We will also be having a visit from Father Christmas! Nearer the time your child/children will come home with a paper slip asking if they could bring in a specific food contribution for their party.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL and do have pupils at risk of anaphylaxis.



ATTENDANCE

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 every day that the school is open unless they are unwell or there is an exceptional circumstance that has been approved by the Headteacher in advance.

Morning register is taken at 8:40am. If your child is unwell, it is important that you contact us on the first day of illness, before 9:30am. This is a safeguarding requirement so that all parties know that your child is safe and that their whereabouts are known.

Penalty Notices:

Penalty Notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised leave in a 10 week period. This includes arriving at school after registration has closed at 9:00am. Penalty Notices (first offence) - Fines can be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days or irregular attendance. The amount is set at £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. The amount is reduced to £80 per parent if the amount is paid within 21 days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

In the event that a second Penalty Notice is issued within 3 years for term time leave or irregular attendance, the fine will be £160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. Please be aware that the school does not receive any financial benefit from issuing Penalty Notices.

WHOLE SCHOOL MEALS

The government has recently updated its healthy food guidance for schools, and as a result, you may have noticed that Whole School Meals have been making some small changes to their lunchtime menu. These adjustments are designed to ensure that all meals meet the latest nutritional standards and support children's health and wellbeing.

We kindly ask parents and carers to take a moment to review the menu and check that their child is happy with the options available to them each day. The current menu will run until the start of the Easter holidays.

The menu is always available to see on our website.

		Menu - October 2025 - March 2026											
		Week One				Week Two				Week Three			
		2025.10.27, 28, 29, 30, 31	2025.11.01, 02, 03, 04	2025.11.05, 06, 07	2025.11.08, 09, 10, 11	2025.11.12, 13, 14, 15, 16	2025.11.17, 18, 19, 20, 21	2025.11.22, 23, 24, 25, 26	2025.11.27, 28, 29, 30	2025.12.01, 02, 03, 04	2025.12.05, 06, 07, 08	2025.12.09, 10, 11, 12	2025.12.13, 14, 15, 16
Monday	Option 1	Vegetable Frittle Bake				Braised Beef Shiny				Braised Beef			
	served with	Garlic Bread Mixed Vegetables				Pasta Pesto & Sweetcorn				Garlic Dough Buns Mixed Vegetables			
	Dessert	Yoghurt & Fresh Compote Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Yoghurt & Fresh Compote Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Yoghurt & Fresh Compote Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit			
Tuesday	Option 1	Beef Tacos (Vegetarian Option)				Chicken Tacos Sweet Potato & Spanish Oni				Mexican Beef Tortilla Bake Cokeo Tacos			
	served with	Vegetable Rice Carrots & Green Beans				Savory Rice Broccoli & Mixed Vegetables				Pasta Carrots & Pesto			
	Dessert	Caramel Cake Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Chocolate Cake Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Isle Cocoa Bun Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit			
Wednesday	Option 1	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy Vegetables & Chopped Parsley				Roast Pork & Gravy Vegetables & Chopped Parsley				Roast Chicken & Gravy Chopped Parsley & Gravy			
	served with	Puff Pastry Cabbages & Sweetcorn				Roasts, Preserves Sausage & Pesto				Marinated Potatoes Sweetcorn & Baked Beans			
	Dessert	Shortbread Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Strawberry Rhubarb Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				One Cocoa Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit			
Thursday	Option 1	Pork Meatballs Mushroom Meatballs				Beef Bolognese Vegetable Bolognese				Corried Cullen Porridge Vegetable Frittata			
	served with	Pasta Broccoli & Carrots				Pasta Carrots & Sweetcorn				Rainbow Rice Cauliflower & Pesto			
	Dessert	Lemon Cake Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Chocolate Buns Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit				Milkshake Fresh Jolly or Fresh Fruit			
Friday	Option 1	Fish Fingers "Cheese Fries"				Fish Bites Vegetable Nuggets				Fish Fingers "Cheese Fries"			
	served with	Skin on Fish or Pate Baked Beans & Sweetcorn				Skin on Fish or Pate Baked Beans & Pesto				Skin on Fish or Pate Baked Beans & Sweetcorn			
	Dessert	Cokeo Cheese				Cokeo Cheese				Cokeo Cheese			
 Suitable for Vegetarians  Suitable for Vegans & Vegetarians  Contains Fish		All menus are subject to availability All menus with * can be made Vegan Friendly www.whorltonswest.co.uk											



December



**FOSIS NON-UNIFORM DAY IN EXCHANGE FOR CHOCOLATE
FLU IMMUNISATION
SINGING AT PFIZER CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



SINGING FOR AGE CONCERN



**SINGING AT COFFEE POT
FOSIS CHRISTMAS FAIR**



FOSIS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BEING CALLED



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND CHRISTMAS JUMPERS



**CHRISTMAS PARTIES & FATHER CHRISTMAS
LAST DAY OF TERM**

January



START OF TERM 3



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PANTO