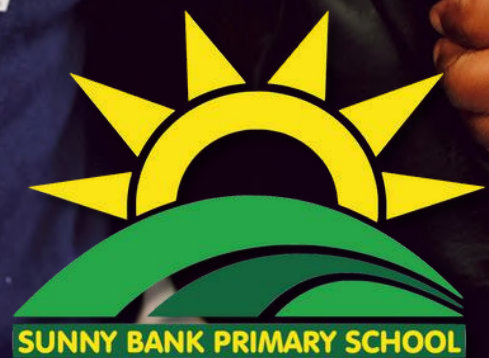


# Newsletter

Term 3



SUNNY BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

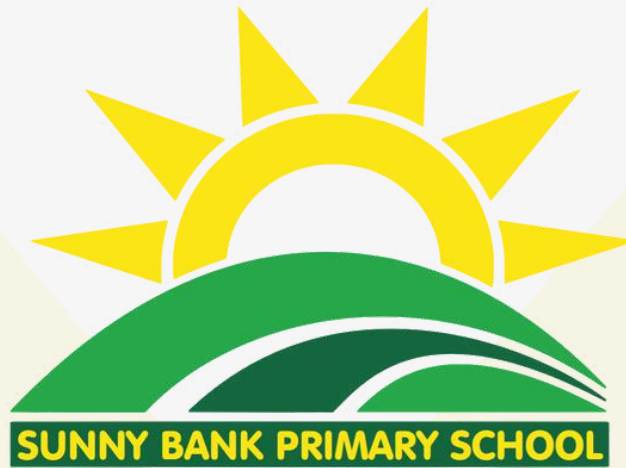
# WE ARE A GOOD SCHOOL

Pupils enjoy the broad and balanced curriculum on offer. The school enriches the curriculum with a wide range of visits and visitors.

The curriculum itself has been well structured from early years to Year 6 to sequence learning towards pupils having the knowledge and skills they need for the next stage of their education. The needs of pupils with SEND are carefully identified and any barriers to learning are addressed so that they can also learn well across the full curriculum.

**Ofsted Report September 2024**





## FROM MRS JOHNSON



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy term packed with exciting experiences for our children. Year 5 and 6 have enjoyed their swimming lessons, building their confidence in the water.

We had a special visit from real-life owls, which inspired Cedar Class to write some fantastic reports. Our Young Voices choir had an unforgettable time performing at the O2 and our football team continues to make us proud in their matches against other schools.

It was wonderful to see so many parents join us for our Maths Open Afternoon. Children and families enjoyed taking part in a range of mathematical challenges, problem-solving activities and interactive tasks. It was a great opportunity for children to demonstrate their skills and for parents to gain an insight into the strategies we use in school. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Our Valentine's Disco was another fantastic event, filled with music, dancing, food and plenty of smiles. The children had a brilliant time and it was lovely to see them enjoying the celebration with their friends. A huge thank you to the PTA and staff who worked hard to make the event such a success. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Attendance continues to be a key focus for us this year. Our whole-school attendance is currently at 93.1%, which is an improvement on this time last year – thank you for your efforts in supporting good attendance. However, we know that missing school has a significant impact on children’s learning and outcomes. Even a few days off can result in missed learning, gaps in understanding and reduced confidence. Regular attendance ensures that children build on their knowledge, develop strong learning habits and have the best possible chance of achieving their full potential. We want every child to thrive and good attendance plays a crucial role in this.

To encourage excellent attendance, we are launching an exciting competition next term. Every child who achieves 100% attendance will be entered into a prize draw and a winner from each class will be selected. These winners will receive a £40 Asda voucher for the parents and an Easter egg for them!



We also have plenty of exciting learning opportunities for our children next term including; bikeability, school trips, a jam packed Book week and Science week!

I wish all our families a wonderful and restful half-term. Thank you, for your continued support as partners in our children's education. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday, 24th February.

Best wishes,

E Johnson  
Acting Head of School



LATEST NEWS

# WORLD BOOK WEEK



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Pyjama day 4th March
- Bedtime read 4th March
- Deadline for competition entries 5th March
- Dress up day 6th March

We are extremely excited that **Book Week** is approaching. This will run the week beginning 3rd March with a **Pyjama Day** and **Bedtime Read** on 4th March and a **Dress Up Day** on 6th March.

As part of our Book Week celebrations, we will be running a decorate a paper plate competition, where every child will be given a paper plate to take home and decorate in the theme of a book.

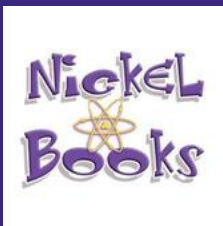
The deadline for entries will be Wednesday 5th March, and the winners will be announced on **World Book Day** (Thursday 6th March). There will be 4 winners across the school. One winner in Early Years, one winner in year 1 and 2, one winner in year 3 and 4 and finally one winner in year 5 and 6.

Please ensure your child writes their name and class on the back of the paper plate. We are really looking forwards to seeing all the children's amazing creations.



We love to read

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**



Get ready for an exciting week filled with thrilling activities, including:

**World Book Day** - Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters! Each child will also receive a £1 book token to use towards purchasing one of the exclusive World Book Day titles from our visiting bookshop, **Nickel Books!**

**The Masked Reader** - Children will enjoy listening to a story read by several staff members, but things aren't quite as they appear; their identities and voices will be disguised. Can the children figure out who is reading each section?



**Bedtime Stories** - We warmly invite parents to join us in the hall after school for a delightful story-sharing session with their children in a cosy atmosphere! This event will take place on our **Pyjama Dress Up Day** after school!



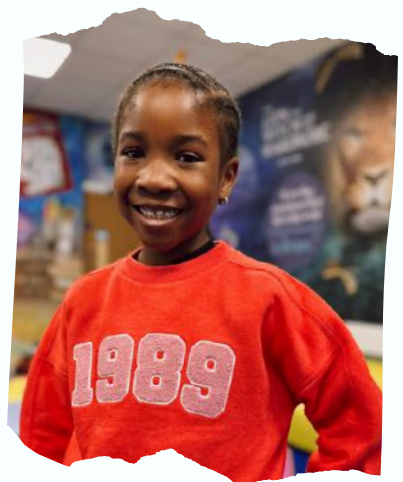
**Make sure to stay updated by checking our website and social media pages for the latest news leading up to this exciting week!**



# News in Brief

## Numeracy Week

Children at Sunny Bank had a great week celebrating all things numbers. The children spent time exploring concepts they could teach their parents at our open afternoon, took part in a times table bee and dressed up to celebrate numbers.



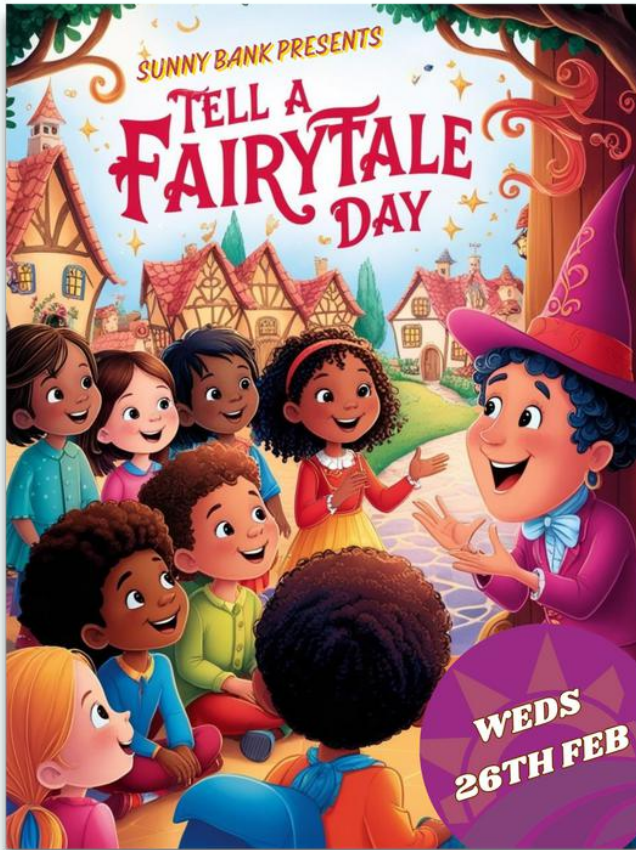
## Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in the Cashpot for Schools while shopping and utilising the **Asda Rewards** app. Your contributions have helped raise £289.51 for Sunny Bank.



NUMERACY  
DRESS UP DAY





## Fairytales

Sunny Bank will be celebrating **Tell a Fairytale Day** on Wednesday 26th February.

On this day, each class will be exploring a fairytale within their class.

## Parent Open Afternoon

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended our Numbers **Parent Open Afternoon**.

Your participation and engagement made the event a success!





## Owls Visit

Years 1,2,3 and 4 had the opportunity to meet some feathered friends when **The UK Owl and Raptor Centre** came to visit Sunny Bank Primary School. The children were given lots of facts about the birds, as they flew freely around the school hall. The children were amazed at how low the owls flew, skimming their heads. Year 2 used this learning experience to write some amazing non-chronological reports.



## Competition Winners

Huge congratulations to our amazing winners of the '**Reading in Unusual Places**' competition! Your creativity shone through in every photo!

We're thrilled to announce each winner received a copy of the new David Walliams book, 'Super Sleuth'!



## **Valentine Winner**

**Congratulations to Sienna, our raffle prize winner!**

# WE ARE SHORTLISTED!



TAKING PLACE AFTER THE NATIONAL MAT  
CONFERENCE 2025...

# WE ARE SHORTLISTED!



TAKING PLACE AFTER THE NATIONAL MAT  
CONFERENCE 2025...

We are thrilled to announce that we are finalists in the [National MAT Awards](#) for a second year running!

Our CEO, Debbie Rousell has been shortlisted in the 'CEO of the Year' category at the National MAT Awards 2025! She has been selected alongside other CEOs from multi-academy trusts across the UK.

The award will recognise a CEO who ensures and demonstrates outstanding best practice within a multi-academy trust.

Howard Fisher, Chair of the Trust Board, commented "We are absolutely thrilled to share the exciting news that our esteemed CEO, Debbie Rousell, has been shortlisted as a finalist for this highly prestigious award. This recognition is a testament to her exceptional leadership, dedication, and the incredible impact she has made within our Trust and wider communities. We couldn't be prouder of her achievements, and we look forward to celebrating this well-deserved news!"

Debbie has been CEO since the Trust was formed in 2016. All schools within the Trust are good and our Key Stage 2 results continue to improve with all three schools performing above National.

A huge congratulations to Debbie for this prestigious shortlisting. The National MAT Awards are organised by The Multi-Academy Trust Association (MATA). The award winners will be announced on 6 March 2025.



**The Island  
Learning Trust**

# CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK WEEK 2025



- **Bedtime Read**
- **Pyjama Day**
- **The Masked Reader**
- **Visiting Bookshop**
- **£1 Book Voucher**
- **Dress Up Day**

**AND MORE!**



Join us for a magical literary journey  
starting on **Monday 3rd March!**

Celebrating with

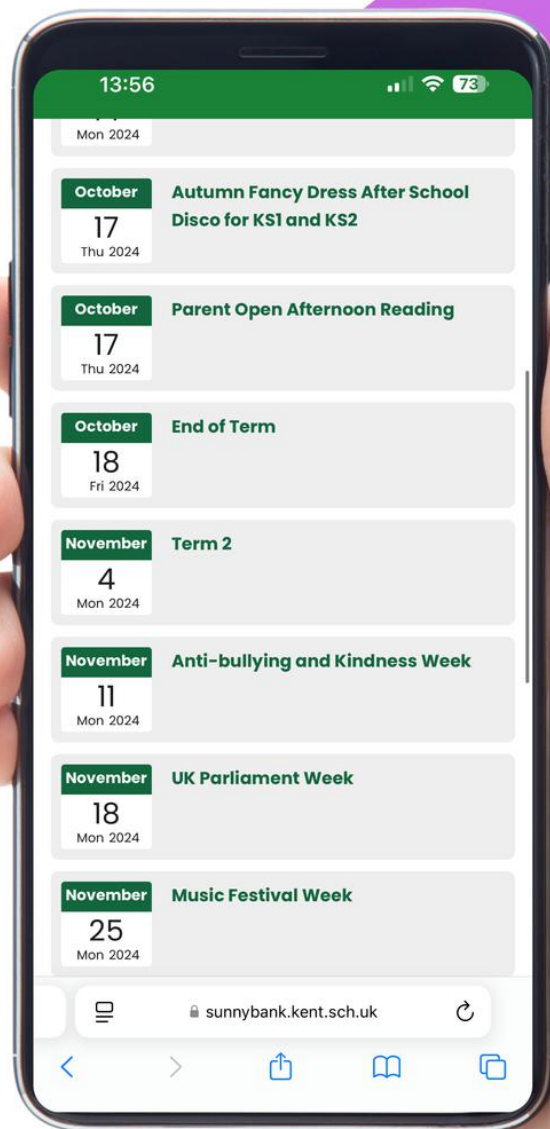
WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**



Subscribe to our

# Online Calendar

And have our events  
automatically appear  
on your phone!



<https://www.sunnybank.kent.sch.uk/diary/list/>

Press 'subscribe to this calendar'

# DIARY DATES

Full calendar can be viewed on our website



**February**

**End of Term**

**14**

Fri 2025

**February**

**Term 4**

**24**

Mon 2025

**February**

**Tell a Fairy Tale Day**

**26**

Wed 2025

**March**

**Book Week**

**3**

Mon 2025

**March**

**Book Week Pyjama Day and Bedtime Read**

**4**

Tue 2025

**March**

**World Book Day + dressing up**

**6**

Thu 2025

**Subscribe  
to our  
Calendar**

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



# SPLASH SAFETY

at your pad



## TOP TIPS for Bath Time

### 1. Stay together

Young children should always be within arm's reach

### 2. Toadily awesome preparation

Get everything you need ready to go before filling the bath (hop overleaf to our handy checklist!)

### 3. Avoid distractions

Leave your phone outside the bathroom - it can't be that ribbiting!

### 4. Check that the water has drained

Toys can easily block the plughole leaving water unexpectedly in the tub after use

### 5. Keep your Pad tidy!

When not in use, keep the plug and toys out of reach and shut the bathroom door to limit children's access without a grown-up

**Don't let your froglets hop into harm!**

For more helpful advice and tips for staying splash safe at your pad, visit our website [www.rlss.org.uk/splash-safety](http://www.rlss.org.uk/splash-safety) or scan here.



# BATH TIME CHECKLIST



Before your froglets hop into the bathroom, make sure you've checked off this list, so that there's no need to leave their side!

- Bubble bath
- Bodywash & shampoo
- Bath toys
- Rinsing jug
- Wash cloth
- Towel
- Baby lotion
- Hairbrush
- Nappy
- Sleepsuit or PJs



Pin me up in your pad!

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

## "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

## SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

## YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

## FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

## PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

## FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

### ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

### TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

### BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](https://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.



# #WakeUpWednesday

The National College