



# Newsletter



SUNNY BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL



**SUNNY BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE



We have had a fantastic end to Term 2 - our Christmas Term. Our children did an amazing job bringing Christmas to Sunny Bank with their Carol performances and our Christmas Fayre this year was just an amazing community event. A big shout out to our PTA this year, giving up their own time, organising, sorting, making, decorating, meeting and pulling off the best Christmas Fayre for a long time. The children had such a great time. Thank you to all staff too for giving up their time preparing and running the fayre.

**A big thank you to all the local businesses who donated prizes to our raffle. A really great big thank you to parents, as always, for supporting the school, donating clothes, prizes for the Tombola, our secret presents room and for attending. We raised a total sum, after costs, of £1920 for our minibus fund. A truly great community, supporting a truly great school for our children.**

We have had a slight drop in attendance this term standing at 92% for the term. Still achieving 93% for the year so far. If we work together, I know that we will move closer to our 96% target and give our children the education that they deserve.

Our children were treated to our staff Christmas video, in assembly on the last day of term. This can be found on our Facebook page or by scanning this QR code. if you haven't seen this. Great fun filming and a good laugh watching, hopefully!



I am so impressed with the number and quality of home learning projects that have been brought in this term. Really great effort from everyone well done.

Our Accelerated Reader word counts this term are strong. We are a reading school, it is a gateway skill and our children really do have a love of reading and make us all proud everyday. This really has been a term of Being the Best We Can Be, for the whole school community.

In terms 3 and 4 we have so much more to look forward to. More reading, a new topic for our home learning projects, National reading week, Science week, Year 6 swimming, Easter Fayre, lots of trips and exciting curriculum for our children and hopefully 96%+ attendance.

Please help our children to maintain their daily reading over the Christmas break, their Numbots and TT Rockstars daily.

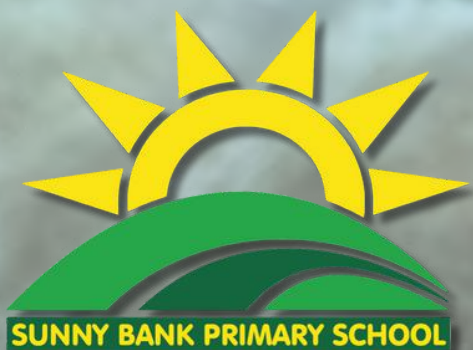
I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I hope you have lots of fun and family time over the Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you all back in January for another amazing term.

Thank you, as always, for everything that you do to support the school as partners in our children's education.

Have a Merry Christmas Everyone.

**Mr Allen**





SUNNY BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLOSES 6TH JANUARY 2025



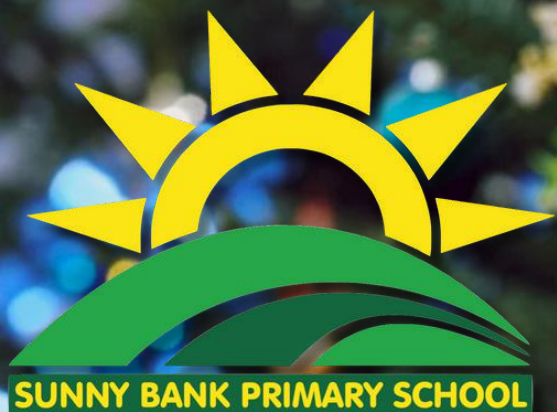
READING IN  
**UNUSUAL  
PLACES**

**THE CHALLENGE**

IS TO FIND THE MOST UNUSUAL PLACE YOU CAN THINK OF TO READ A BOOK.

**ANYWHERE - THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!**

**POST YOUR PICTURES ON CLASS DOJO OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**



# Latest News

**Picture Special**



## Performances





**Panto**





**Christmas  
Fayre**









**Passport to  
Learning  
Projects**





**Colouring  
Competition  
Winners**



**Christmas**



**Dinner**







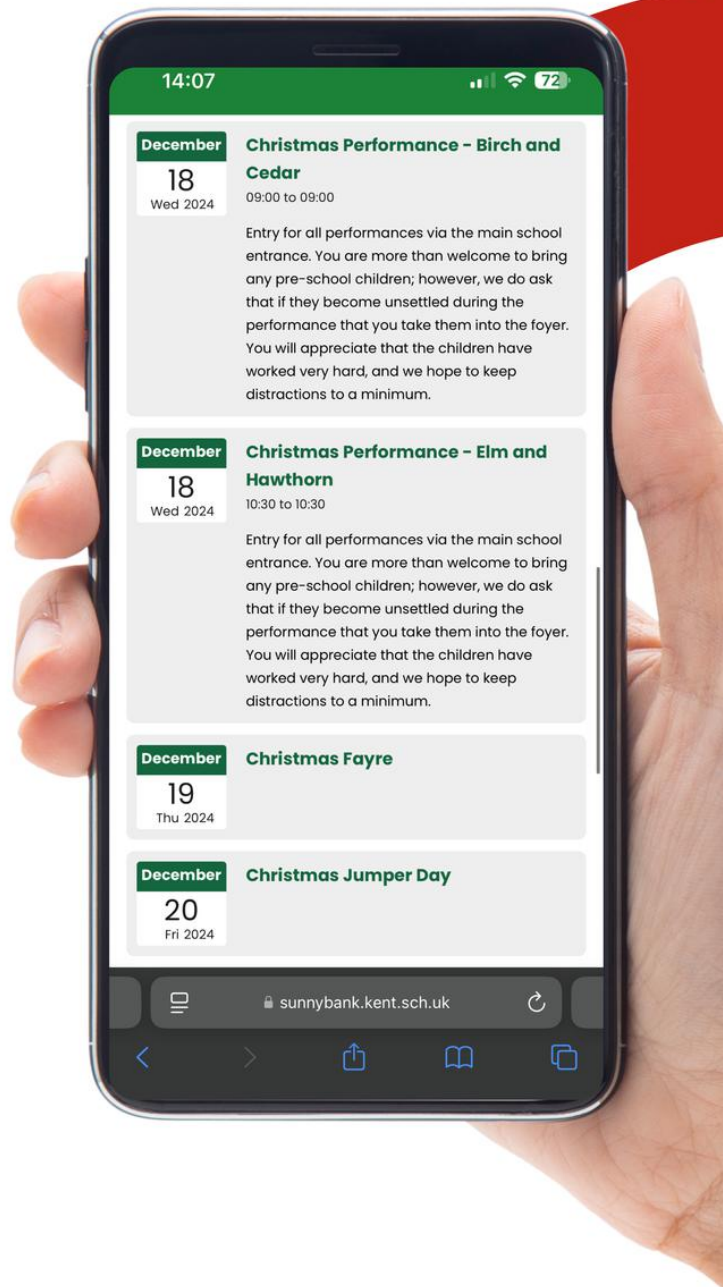
**For more  
pictures scan  
the QR code**



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# 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



**January**

**Term 3**

**6**

Mon 2025

**January**

**Parents Evening**

**15**

Wed 2025

**January**

**Parents Evening**

**16**

Thu 2025

**January**

**Handwriting Day**

**23**

Thu 2025

**February**

**Numeracy Week**

**3**

Mon 2025

**February**

**National Numeracy Day and Timestables Bee**

**7**

Fri 2025

**Subscribe  
to our  
Calendar**

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



See you in  
2025



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



# #WakeUpWednesday

The National College®