

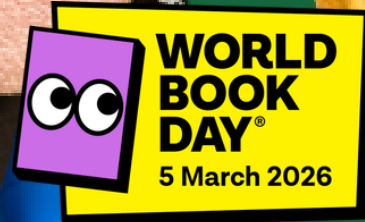
SUNNY BANK

NEWSLETTER

OPAL LAUNCH!

PLUS

- LATEST NEWS
- ATTENDANCE MATTERS
- AND MUCH MORE!





**The Island
Learning Trust**



**ADMISSIONS STILL OPEN
FOR 2026**

It is not too late to visit one of our 3 schools - **call today to arrange a tour!**



**MINSTER
PRIMARY**

**01795
872138**



**SUNNY BANK
PRIMARY**

**01795
473891**



**HALFWAY
HOUSES**

**01795
662875**



www.tiltrust.org

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE



As we reach the halfway point of our school year, I want to begin by highlighting just how important good attendance is for every child's learning and wellbeing. Our attendance team of Mrs Johnson, Miss Newbury and Mrs Wood, are always available to offer help, advice and friendly support to any families who may need it. Please do get in touch with them if you feel we can work together to improve your child's attendance.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support throughout this term. It has been a busy and lively few months and your encouragement and involvement make such a positive difference to the life of Sunny Bank.

Our OPAL play project has had a wonderful start and it has been lovely to see the children embracing new ways to play and explore. We know there is still a long way to go, and the daily rain we seem to have had certainly hasn't helped - it has put a bit of a dampener on things - but we are looking forward to brighter days and even more exciting activities for the children to enjoy soon.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our open afternoon on internet safety. We hope it gave you a helpful insight into the kinds of things we teach the children in school to help keep them safe online.



We also enjoyed a very successful Numeracy Week, full of enthusiasm, problem-solving and mathematical fun. Looking ahead, we are already excited for next term's events, including Reading Week, Science Week and Bikeability for our Year 6 pupils.

In our school library, Mr Butler has been busy selecting some wonderful new books, including dyslexia-friendly reads, to help inspire a love of reading across the school. We would really appreciate your support in encouraging the children to take care of these books at home. They are a valuable resource for all our pupils, and we want them to be enjoyed and respected by everyone.

We are also looking forward to welcoming more families into school as we begin our morning family reading sessions. More information will be coming your way soon and we can't wait to see many of you joining us.

A reminder that there will be changes to after-school club next term. Please refer to the separate letter for full details, as the new arrangements will begin on the very first day back.

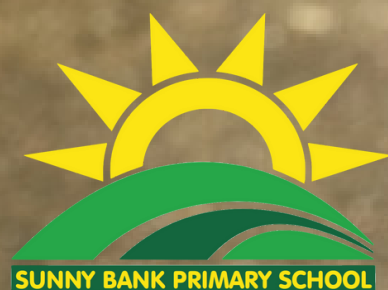
Finally, I would just like to let you know about some staff changes at Sunny Bank. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Filmer and Mrs Lynch to our team of Teaching Assistants and Mr Philo, who joins us as a Cover Supervisor. At the same time, we will be saying a very sad goodbye to Miss Jenkins, who will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has secured a new role working in a pastoral capacity in a secondary school and while we will miss her greatly, we are incredibly proud of her achievement. I am sure you will join us in sending her our warmest wishes as she begins this new venture.

As we head into the half-term break, we are all hoping for some better, brighter weather next term. Until then, I wish you a wonderful, happy and healthy half term with your families.

Best wishes

Nicole Hyett







SUNNY BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL



Attendance Matters

B e t h e b e s t y o u c a n b e

Dear Families

At Sunny Bank, we want every child to thrive - academically, socially and emotionally. One of the most important factors in helping children succeed is good school attendance. When children attend school every day, they build strong routines, feel secure in their learning and remain connected with their friends and teachers.

Attendance matters because every day in school builds your child's confidence, learning and wellbeing. Children who attend 95-100% of the time in primary school are far more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths than those attending 90-95%. Beyond learning, regular attendance supports emotional wellbeing: research shows that children with lower attendance often feel more anxious, less happy and more disconnected because they worry about what they've missed academically and socially. Strong attendance helps children maintain friendships, feel secure in routines and stay confident in their learning. These early habits matter long-term-by secondary school, pupils with 95-100% attendance are nearly twice as likely to achieve good GCSEs in English and Maths compared with those attending 90-95%.

What We Do at Sunny Bank

To support and encourage positive attendance, we offer a range of celebrations and systems throughout the year:

- **Weekly attendance celebrations** for classes that reach our whole-school targets.
- **Class rewards** to help children feel proud of their collective achievements.
- **Attendance Champions** who work closely with individual children who may need a little extra support with routines and readiness.
- **A dedicated Family Liaison Officer (FLO)** who works in partnership with families, offering guidance, support and early intervention when attendance becomes a challenge.

We are proud of the strong relationships we build with our families and are committed to working together to ensure every child has the best possible chance to succeed.

Expectations and Support

We expect parents to bring their children to school **every day**, unless there is a genuine medical reason or unavoidable circumstance. To help us maintain high standards of attendance across the school:

- Parents will receive a letter if their child's attendance drops **below 95%**.
- If attendance continues to fall, the school will contact parents to discuss how we can support improvements.
- Meetings will be scheduled to further offer support and actions will be agreed by the school and parents
- Our aim is always to work collaboratively with families and put the right support in place early.

However, if attendance does not improve and continues to have a significant impact on a child's education or wellbeing, the school may need to move to a **more formal approach**, in line with local authority guidance.

Working Together

We believe that when school and families work together, children flourish. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly and on time. If you ever need advice, support or would like to talk about your child's attendance, please contact us -we are here to help.

Warm regards,

Emma Johnson
Deputy Head of School



01795 473891



sboffice@tiltrust.org



SUNNY BANK NEWS EXTRA

OPAL PLAYTIMES LAUNCHED

Our Opal Playtimes launched this term and has been incredibly successful so far despite the terrible weather.

The children have done us extremely proud by adhering to our play charter whilst enjoying all the new playground activities.



It has been lovely to see the children enjoying their lunchtimes with many reporting back that launch day was 'the best playtime ever' and we have also seen a reduction in lunchtime behaviour incidents.

The sandpit and mud kitchen have been the most popular areas so far, with the children not being afraid to get their hands dirty.

A big thank you to Mountain Warehouse who supplied us with wellies and raincoats, so the children can get well and truly stuck in the mud.

We look forward to some exciting areas being launched next term.







YOUNG VOICES

Sunny Bank School proudly took part in Young Voices at the O2, joining thousands of young singers for an unforgettable musical celebration.

Our pupils shone with energy, teamwork and joy, performing as part of a huge choir on a spectacular stage.

The experience boosted confidence, built friendships and created memories we'll treasure forever.



SUNNY BANK AT THE MOVIES

Recent movie nights for KS1 and KS2 had high attendance and positive feedback. The PTA is planning future events and has allocated funds for class boxes containing games and art supplies for wet playtime, as well as equipment for Breakfast Club and After School Club resources.



NUMERACY WEEK WAS FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT AND LEARNING ACROSS THE SCHOOL!

Children took part in fantastic team-building and problem-solving challenges led by the Problem Solving Company, before designing and creating their own maths games to share with friends.

Classes explored real-life maths by working with money and applying their skills to everyday scenarios.

We also had great fun dressing up for NSPCC Number Day, learning a maths song, and some friendly competition as pupils battled it out on Times Tables Rock Stars. It was a brilliant celebration of all things mathematical!





A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE SUNNY BANK PTA

The Sunny Bank PTA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the generous support that has made it possible for us to acquire a large PTA shed.

Special Thanks to Our Supporters:

- Martin Lewis of NCPI Solutions for his generous donation towards the shed's cost.
- Lee Loughheed of L Loughheed Building Contractors, who also contributed a generous donation.
- Mark at Alsford Timber for providing the shed at a discounted rate and for supporting this initiative.
- Little Potters, a local business, for their donation of two vouchers for the Christmas raffle.

We truly appreciate all the recent support from everyone involved with the Sunny Bank PTA.



ATTENDANCE BAKE OFF

Some of our children enjoyed a fun cake-making activity as part of celebrating the great attendance efforts we've seen across the school this term.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their continued hard work, resilience, and commitment to learning.



**note: some children could not be photographed due to permissions*



SAFER INTERNET

To celebrate Internet Safety Day, we held an assembly to educate children about online safety, followed by engaging activities throughout the day.

For more resources and guidance, visit our website for helpful materials to assist families in staying safe online.



STORYTELLER VISIT

As part of Book Week next term, storyteller Ed Finch will visit. He has spoken at various events, including schools nationwide and the Wellington Festival of Education. An experienced teacher and headteacher, he was recognised by Times Educational Supplement as one of the most influential educators of 2017. Ed enjoys conducting whole school storytelling days.





We love to read



Book WEEK

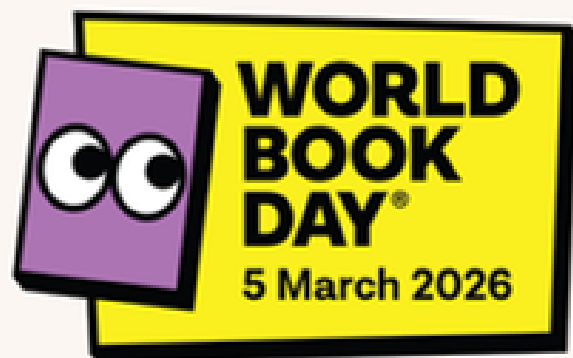
Starts Monday 2nd March 2026



PJ Day
World Book Day
Nickel Books
Storyteller visit
Big Reader
The Masked Reader

and much more!





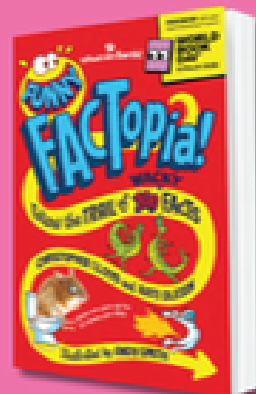
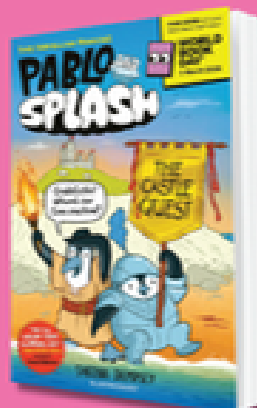
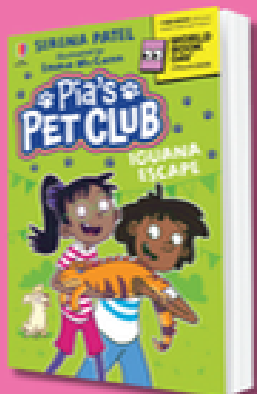
Use your World Book Day® charity £1/€1.50 book token to get one of these brilliant reads for free between 12th February and 15th March 2026. Ask your school or local bookshop for more details. Find your participating retailer: worldbookday.com/participating-retailers



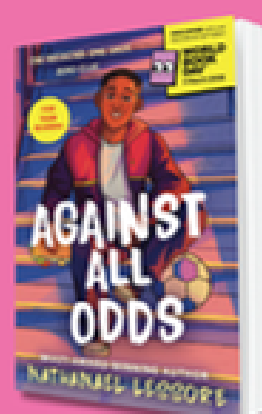
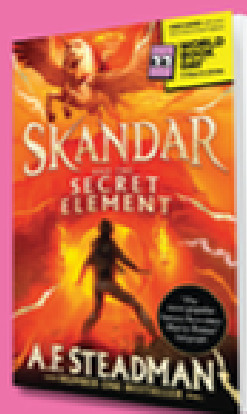
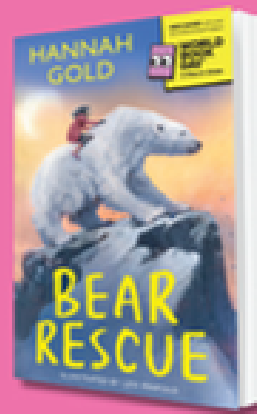
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**SIT WITH YOUR
CHILD IN CLASS
AND READ A
STORYTIME
ADVENTURE
TOGETHER!**



We love to read



TURN THE PAGE WEDNESDAYS 8:30-8:50AM EVERY WEEK

SUNNY BANK SCIENCE

**PLUS A LIVE
ONLINE
SCIENCE
EXPERIMENT!**

**MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
SCIENCE BOFFINS ASSEMBLY
AND WORKSHOPS FOR YRS 3-6**

**DON'T
MISS
OUT!**

**THURSDAY 12TH MARCH
SUNNY BANK SCIENCE FAIR**

**FRIDAY 13TH MARCH
TILT SCIENCE FAIR**

**science
BOFFINS**

Subscribe to our **Online Calendar**

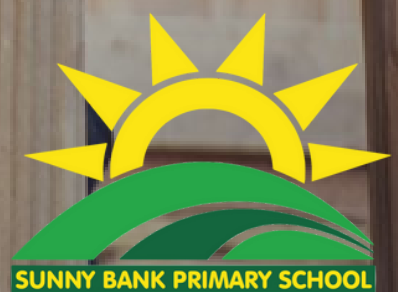
And have our dates
and events
automatically appear
on your phone!



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

Press 'subscribe to this calendar'





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SUNNY BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

February

23

Mon 2026

Term 4

February

26

Thu 2026

Tell a fairy tale day

March

2

Mon 2026

Book Week

March

4

Wed 2026

Storyteller visit

March

5

Thu 2026

Pyjama day

March

6

Fri 2026

Character dress up day

March

9

Mon 2026

STEM week

March

10

Tue 2026

PTA Mothers Day shop

www.sunnybank.kent.sch.uk



**The Island
Learning Trust**



ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTERS

Advertising is a powerful communication tool used to inform, persuade, and influence potential customers. It plays a critical role in shaping consumer behavior and building awareness for products, services, or ideas. In today's fast-paced world, effective advertising goes beyond just exposure - it creates emotional connections and drives action

We design visually captivating newsletters for schools and our trust, which have become quite popular among parents, children, staff and visitors alike. Now, we're offering local businesses the chance to advertise in these newsletters at an affordable rate, allowing them to reach a broad audience



SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

- Sunny Bank Primary School
- Halfway Houses Primary School
- Minster in Sheppey Primary School



TRUST PARENT NEWSLETTER

News Highlighting All Three of Our Schools and Trust



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Instagram

SCHOOL WEBSITES

For each school and the trust

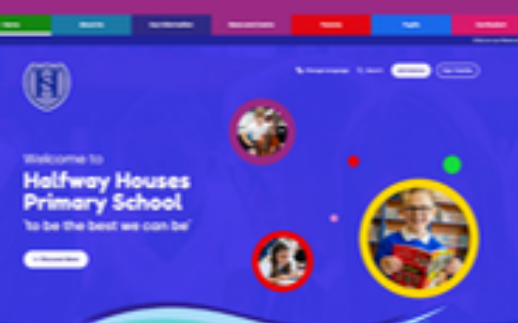
CLASS DOJO

Communication tool for all parents

EMAIL

An email is sent to parents with a direct link

HOW WE PROMOTE OUR NEWSLETTERS



A WIDE AUDIENCE

WEBSITES FOR THE SCHOOLS AND TRUST

in a typical 4-week period, our websites have received a total of 7,312 visits

SOCIAL MEDIA FACEBOOK

in a typical 4-week period, our Facebook pages have garnered a total of 86,000 views

CLASS DOJO FOR PARENTS

All parents at our schools are engaged and actively participate in viewing the School Story



The Island Learning Trust

**FOR
MORE
INFORMATION
AND
PRICING**



**The Island
Learning Trust**

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finance@TILTrust.org

**This is a preview edition of our complete advertising brochure.
The full version can be obtained upon request.*

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS



Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING



Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.

3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS



Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "That sounds really exciting," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS



Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE



Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, valuing cultural experiences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.

6 BELONGING BUDDIES



Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS



Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES



Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS



Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.

10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'



Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure it out together," or "We all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

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