

TERM 5

SUNNY BANK

N E W S L E T T E R

*Once
upon
a time...*

JB



HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE



Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

It has been wonderful to enjoy some drier days recently and this change in the weather has made a real difference to the school day. The children have particularly enjoyed being able to get outside more regularly and make the most of their time in the fresh air. Our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) sessions at lunchtime have been full of energy, creativity and excitement, with children exploring, building and engaging in imaginative play together.

We are continuing to develop our outdoor provision and would really appreciate your support. We are still hoping that families may be able to donate any unused bedding, such as old sheets, duvets or blankets. These materials are perfect for helping the children to create den-building zones on the field, encouraging teamwork, problem-solving and imaginative play. If you are able to help, please send items into school with your child or drop them off at the office.

I would also like to say how incredibly proud we are of our Year 6 children, who have now completed their KS2 SATs. We were delighted to have 100% attendance across the week and the children approached each test with maturity and determination. They worked extremely hard to showcase all that they have achieved during their time at Sunny Bank. We are equally grateful to the rest of the school community for their patience and understanding during SATs week.



Looking ahead, we have several important national checks taking place after the half term break. Year 4 pupils will complete the Multiplication Tables Check and children in Year 1 and Year 2 will take part in the Phonics Screening Check. We kindly ask for your continued support at home over the holiday, helping your child to practise and revise so that they feel confident and prepared. Y4 children can practise on TTRS and Y1 and 2 children who are sitting the Phonics Check will bring home a pack to help them revise.

A reminder that our expectations regarding school uniform and PE kit remain the same. I recently sent a letter outlining these expectations and we will be continuing to enforce these standards until the end of the academic year. Thank you for your support with this.

We are excited about all the events coming up next term. These include Year 6 leavers' trip week, Sports Week and Art Week, as well as our much-loved family picnic on the final day of term. Further details for each of these events will be shared nearer the time.

Finally, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Mitchell, who has supported our children and community for nine years. She has made the decision to leave education to pursue a new career and she will be greatly missed by staff, children and families alike. We thank her for her dedication and care and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

We hope that all of our families have a wonderful and restful half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school, refreshed and ready to learn, on Monday 1st June.

Kind regards

Nicole Hyett





SUNNY BANK TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE!



EXCITING NEW DESIGN TO LAUNCH ON MONDAY 1ST JUNE

About Us

We are delighted to share some exciting news with you - we are officially launching our brand-new website!

Our new website has been designed with families in mind. It is easy to navigate using the menu and provides a wealth of useful information about all aspects of school life.

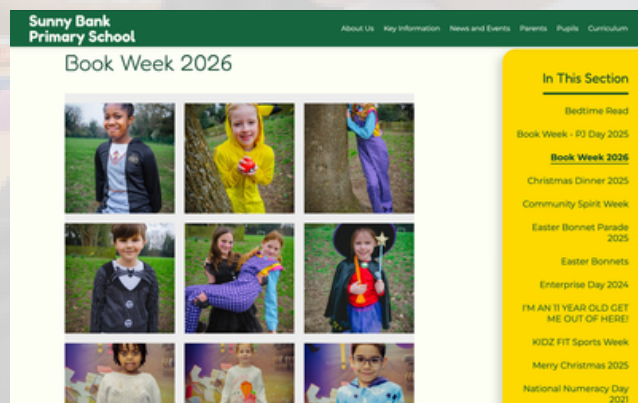
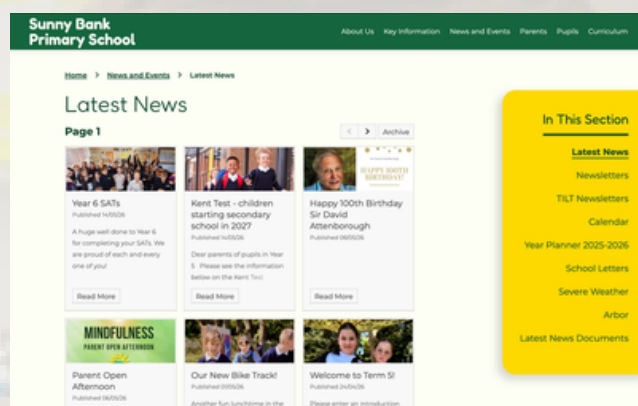
Whether you are looking for key updates, policy information, or an insight into what your children are experiencing each day, everything is now much more accessible.

We are sure you will enjoy exploring the website and discovering all it has to offer.

We also encourage you to follow the links to our social media channels - please do like and share our news to help celebrate all the fantastic things happening at Sunny Bank.

We will be adding more pages and updates in the near future and hope you enjoy using the new website.

www.sunnybank.kent.sch.uk





SUNNY BANK NEWS

YEAR 6 SHOW DEDICATION TO SATS EXAMS

During SATs week, our Year 6 pupils showed incredible determination, resilience, and focus.

They approached each test with a positive attitude and worked extremely hard, giving their very best effort throughout the week.





We are so proud of the way they supported one another, stayed calm under pressure, and demonstrated everything they have learned. They truly rose to the challenge, and we couldn't be prouder of them all.





MARLEY THE MAGICIAN BRINGS MAGIC TO ELM CLASS



This term Elm class have been reading Leon and the Place Between in their Literacy lessons. This book is all about a little boy who loves magic and gets chosen to take part in a magic show. To help the children understand the excitement that Leon felt we arranged for Marley the Magician to visit us in school, so we could attend our very own magic show. The children were each given a ticket to attend and even got to taste some yummy popcorn while enjoying and taking part in the show!



CHILDREN CONTINUE TO ENJOY IMAGINATIVE PLAY

This term we introduced a bike and scooter track into our OPAL play, which the children have absolutely loved. We have also seen the children enjoying imaginative play in our loose parts zone by building seesaws out of tyres and wood.

We still have lots more to come with a new zen den under construction which gives the children an area to relax during play, read a book or just catch up with friends.

OPAL has continued to be successful during term 5 and we have seen a significant reduction in lunch time incidents.





On **Wednesday 10th June** we invite you to come and see what OPAL is all about and enjoy some play time with your children. We will be opening our OPAL zones from 3:30 - 4:30 for you to stay and play after collecting your child.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

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



June 1 Mon 2026	Term 6
June 1 Mon 2026	Year 4 times tables test opens
June 1 Mon 2026	Pride week
June 4 Thu 2026	Pride festival
June 8 Mon 2026	Phonics screening week
June 18 Thu 2026	Fathers Day shop

www.sunnybank.kent.sch.uk



**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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2023.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some TV shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

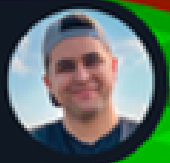
Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



The National College



**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

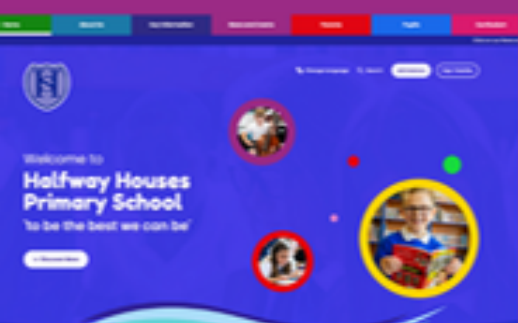
CLASS DOJO

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