

Sutton Valence Primary School

Encouraging respect, inspiring resilience and building positive relationships...



Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed any time you fortunately had with loved ones.

I am delighted to be writing to you as the Interim Headteacher of our wonderful school. I feel incredibly privileged to join such a caring and committed school community and I am very much looking forward to working closely with our children, families, and staff. It is important that I also take the time to thank Mrs Vieira for her dedication and leadership during her time as Acting Headteacher. I am pleased that she will be continuing her work as Acting Deputy Headteacher, where her experience and commitment will remain a great strength to both the school and myself.

As we begin this new term together, my focus is on building strong relationships, maintaining the high standards already in place, and continuing to ensure that our school remains a safe, happy, and inspiring place for all children to learn and grow. By working in partnership, I am confident we can continue to keep our school the wonderful place it is.

I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks and I am excited for all that the term ahead may bring.

Kind regards,

Mr Hyett

Tiger Troop

This week, Y5 and Y6 enjoyed beginning their sessions with Tiger Troop, who we welcomed into school on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. The children faced different challenges, including avoiding the acid river, focusing on the value 'Courage' this week and had lots of opportunity to develop their teamwork skills following the drills and expectations of a troop. Parents will be sent home a QR code to upload photos of what they are achieving at home. We are all excited to see how the children do with their home challenges this week!



Archaeology Competition

Fergus in Y6 won an Archaeology competition before Christmas and was an archaeologist for the day.

"Y6 had a competition to see the Fernham Homes Archaeologists and I was lucky enough to win it. I started the day there nervous but when I started, an archaeologist called Mark showed me around and there were thousands of boxes with pots, axes and more, it was cool.

The we started the fun stuff, we started searching for pottery from the Stone age, Iron age or Roman age and then packaging them. I thought the fun stuff was over, I was wrong because I met Mark's friends and then we started 3D scanning a pot from the Roman age! This was far the best part but eventually it was time to leave."

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Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium (PP) funding is an allocation of additional funding to schools to support raising the attainment of the most vulnerable pupils and closing the attainment gap between them and non-PP pupils. These include pupils who are entitled to free school meals, those who are looked after by the local authority and the children of armed service personnel.

All schools have been allocated money since 2011 and are required to report on the amount of funding received, how this is being used and the impact the funding has had on the achievement of pupils. Schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit.

At Sutton Valence we have high aspirations and ambitions for our children and we believe that no child should be left behind in any aspect of their development whether academic, social or physical. We believe in a holistic approach that develops the whole child. We strongly believe that social background and the locality of where children live should not be an excuse or reason not to achieve or succeed. We work together as a school community to ensure that our pupils are given every chance to realise their full potential and encourage life-long learning. All children are encouraged to have a thirst for knowledge, be inquisitive and to foster curiosity of the wider world.

We recognise that not all children who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged and we also recognise that not all children who are disadvantaged have free school meals. We follow the government's guidelines to allocate Pupil Premium support to those children who receive, or have received, free school meals, or who are in care.

Key Stage 1 parents please note that even though your child automatically receives Universal Free School Meals you may still be entitled to Pupil Premium funding.

For further information please go to:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

We value your voice!

This term, we are inviting parents and carers to complete a short questionnaire to help us better understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping our school community and supporting the best possible outcomes for our students. The questionnaire will take only a few minutes to complete. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

Please take the time to complete the following parent survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/svRFRSVLhA>

Thank you,
Mr Hyett & Mrs Vieira

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Notices

- Please can we ask that you make use of the whole drive during drop off in the morning. This is to make sure the flow of traffic continues, the main road doesn't get clogged up with traffic and more children are able to exit their cars in one go. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, you are still able to drop them off at the end of the drive and an adult will be there to ensure your child walks to the KS1 and Reception gate.
- **Please can we remind you to use the paths around school and NOT walk on the drive at drop off or pick up.**
- Please can we remind you to park at the village hall and walk down when picking your child/ren up from school. Thank you to all those who do this already, it is greatly appreciated.
- Parents and Carers should only be parking up in the school car park if you are collecting your child/ren from wraparound care.
- Please can we remind you to enter and exit the village hall car park using the correct entrance and exit.
- Please be mindful about parking when not using the village hall car park. Avoid parking on other people's driveways, or parking so paths are blocked as children are having to walk in the road.

Key Dates

W/C 12th January	Science Week	Tuesday 13th January	Sublime Science <i>Whole school</i>
Wednesday 4th February	Y6 WW2 Trip	Friday 6th February	Number Day <i>More details to follow</i>
Thursday 12th February	Y1 Leeds Castle Trip PTFA Glow Disco	Friday 13th February	Last day of term
Monday 16th February — Friday 20th February	Half Term	Monday 23rd February	Return to school

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