



Sandgate Primary School

Everyone deserves the taste of success

Newsletter

Issue 25

Friday 20th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you can imagine it has been a busy week at school getting up to speed regarding the Meningitis B outbreak in Canterbury. I attended a meeting led by the DFE & UK Health Security Agency on Tuesday and as a result we have put together some information for staff and parents regarding the outbreak which can be found later in this newsletter. In assemblies today, Mrs Shoob shared some brief information with the children on what Meningitis B is and all of the things we have in place to ensure the risk at school remains very low and that all of our pupils are safe, this was delivered in a child friendly, appropriate way. I took the decision to do this after there has been a lot of talk in class and on the playground about it. We have not shared with the children the indicative symptoms—but staff are all aware of them and are being vigilant looking out for them. In summary, the children have been reminded to not sneeze and cough in each others faces, not share water bottles or lip balms and to wash their hands at the normal points of the day when reminded by adults. These measures are always in place but a reminder always helps!

If you have any questions, please speak to myself, Mrs Shoob, Mr Evans or Mrs Hill and we will try and answer them.

We've had a lovely week in school, helped along by the return of some much-needed sunshine! The children have thoroughly enjoyed using the school field again now that the weather is brighter. Our active play equipment has been spread more widely across the space, giving everyone plenty to explore, enjoy, and keep busy with during break times.

This academic year we are delighted to be holding poetry recitals for every year group. These performances are a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to come into school and enjoy an exciting celebration of spoken poetry. So far, Years 5 and 6 have delivered fantastic performances to their families. Next week, Years 3 and 4 will be presenting their recitals on Friday 27th March at 2:40pm. We hope to see many of you there supporting the children.

We hope your child enjoyed Red Nose Day today! It was wonderful to see the school filled with cheerful flashes of red, with everyone wearing a red accessory to mark the occasion. Thank you for your kindness and generosity— we will share the total raised next week.

Sandgate Primary is renowned for its strong performances in the Herald Cup, in both the mixed and girls' tournaments. The competition begins each year in February, with teams progressing through several stages in the hope of securing a place in the final.

Last week the girls team beat Lypne Primary school 2-0 and the mixed team won 7-0 against Folkestone Primary Academy. The girls team have won all games so far and the mixed have won two games and drawn one.

Our next match is scheduled for Monday, where our mixed team will be playing Cheriton Primary at home. The girls team next play on Wednesday at home against Christchurch. We will keep you updated on how we are progressing with details of the final (in July) shared with you.

Have a fantastic weekend,

Lianne Jones

Acting Headteacher

Meningococcal disease outbreak in Kent

Meningococcal infection doesn't spread very easily. The bacteria can only be passed to others after a long period of close contact, for example with living with someone in shared accommodation, through prolonged kissing or sharing vapes. While meningococcal disease can affect all ages, recent outbreaks have shown that older children, teenagers and young adults, particularly those in shared settings such as schools, colleges and universities, are more likely to be affected.

The bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*) does not live long outside the human body limiting the risk from casual environmental contact.

MenB vaccination is only routinely offered to children under two, meaning children born before 2015 (*Y6 born 2014-2015*) have not been vaccinated as part of their routine immunisation schedule.

The UKHSA is advising anyone who visited Club Chemistry on 5 March, 6 March or 7 March to come forward for preventative antibiotic treatment as a precautionary measure.

Meningococcal disease can progress rapidly, so it's essential that parents and students are alert to the signs and symptoms of meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia. You should seek urgent medical help if you or your child develop any symptoms of meningococcal disease.

- a rash that doesn't fade when pressed with a glass
- sudden onset of high fever
- severe and worsening headache
- stiff neck
- vomiting and diarrhea
- joint and muscle pain
- dislike of bright lights
- very cold hands and feet
- seizures
- confusion/delirium
- extreme sleepiness/difficulty waking

These are not in order of importance nor do all symptoms have to be evidenced

Early symptoms can often be confused with other illnesses such as a cold, flu or hangover, and students are particularly at risk of missing the early warning signs.

What are we doing at Sandgate Primary School?

Know the signs and symptoms and act quickly

No sharing of cups unless they are washed in hot water between uses

No sharing lip balms

Breakfast club will continue to use dishwasher to clean cutlery and drinking vessels etc

Lunchtime staff will continue to use the dishwasher to clean cutlery and drinking vessels

Good ventilation in classrooms / shared areas

Senior Leaders to attend UK Health Security Agency briefings for updates

Class teachers to talk to children directly and remind them about not drinking out of some one else's water bottle / coughing and sneezing without covering mouths / using 'chewy tools'

What we would ask of parents

Be aware and alert to the symptoms above

If your child is ill please seek medical advice

Inform us if a member of your family has been contacted by UK Health Security Agency to say they are a 'close contact' so we can be aware of symptoms



Safeguarding Snapshot



Top Tips for Parents

Each week we will send home a snapshot of safeguarding information to help keep your child safe.



All About Fortnite

The Fortnite age rating is PEGI 12 (ESRB Teen in the US) for Fortnite Battle Royale and Fortnite Save the World.

Each separate game under the Fortnite umbrella has been given its own age rating, and the PEGI rating for Fortnite as a whole is 'Parental Guidance.'

What safety features are available on Fortnite?

Parental Controls

Use the parental controls on the gaming device. Most devices allow you to set time limits on game play, set age limits for content, and restrict in-app purchases. The battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes. When trying to limit your child's screen time, make the most of this natural stopping point. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20 minute increments.

Turn off the voice chat feature

Speak to your child to make sure they know this feature exists, and encourage them to use the options below if they encounter someone who is offensive or inappropriate. You can disable the voice chat function in the game if you:

- Open the settings menu then choose the 'cog' icon
- Select the 'audio' tab
- You should be able to turn off 'voice chat' by tapping the arrows next to it

You can also 'mute' individual players in the game by:

- Pausing the game
- Hovering over the player you wish to mute
- Selecting the mute button (a loudspeaker icon)

Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

You or your child can report players who make them uncomfortable using the in-game feedback tool (located in the main menu).

You can also use the 'support' section of the Epic Games site (the makers of Fortnite). You're asked to select the platform you play the game on, the game mode you're playing, and then you can select 'report player'. You can provide more detail such as the player's name, and attach a screenshot.



Football Fixtures



Monday 23rd March: Herald Cup Game, Sandgate v Cheriton (Home)

Wednesday 25th March: Girls Cup Game, Sandgate v Christchurch (Home)

Monday 30th March: Herald Cup Game, Sandgate v All Souls (Home)



Gold Book

Congratulations to the following children who were rewarded in the Gold Book this week.



| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Henry W Bonnie | Ladybirds Ladybirds | Elodie Ophelia | Lions Lions |
| Marley Rosie | Bumblebees Bumblebees | Caleb Myer | Seahorses Seahorses |
| Celeste Noah | Owls Owls | George Tilda | Turtles Turtles |
| Thomas Maya | Rabbits Rabbits | Eva Rafe | Rhinos Rhinos |
| Bay Aurora | Penguins Penguins | Amber Coral | Hippos Hippos |
| Chloe Isabella | Panthers Panthers | Otto Isabella | Gorillas Gorillas |
| Arthur Calla | Bears Bears | Jake Tabitha | Manta rays Manta rays |

Sporting Events

23rd March 2026: Hockey Tournament at Three Hills 10am-3pm (Selected Years 5 and 6)

3rd June 2026: Football Tournament at Three hills (Selected Years 1 and 2)

1st July 2026: District Sports, 3.30pm-6pm (Selected Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Sports Days

Monday 15th June, EFYS and KS1

Tuesday 16th June, KS2

| Monday 23rd March | Tuesday 24th March | Wednesday 25th March | Thursday 26th March | Friday 27th March |
|---|--|----------------------|---|--|
| Drawing Club, Yrs 1 & 2, 3.15pm-4.00pm Environmental Club, KS2, 3.15pm-4.00pm Gymnastics 3.15pm-4.15pm (Please contact: info@venturecamps.co.uk 07548 294804) Invite Only Football | Art Club, KS2, 3.15pm-4.00pm Karate 3.30pm-4.30pm (Please contact Sensei Trevor on 07966686377) | Rocksteady PM | Clay Club, Yrs 1 & 2, 3.15pm-4.00pm LAST SESSION Dance Club. 3.15pm-4.00pm. Years 1-6. (Please contact Charley on 07772 637271) <i>If there is someone else collecting your child from Dance, please contact Charley directly.</i> Next Gen Football Club. 3.15pm-4.15pm. Please contact: NEXT GENERATIONSPORTS COACHING.ORG | Bilingua Sing French Club 12.30pm-1.00pm, Years 1 & 2 1.00pm-1.30pm, Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Please contact: charlotte@bilinguasing.com |



Easter Egg Decorating Competition

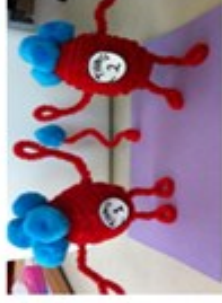


All children are invited to take part in an egg decorating competition on Thursday 2nd April (last day term)

If your child wishes to take part, please send entries to class on the morning of Thursday 2nd April.

There will be a winner and a runner up for each class and these will be announced and celebrated in Gold Book Assembly on the last day of term. Be as creative as you can! To be judged by Wayne Wills, our chair of governors.

What an egg-citing day it will be!



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st April: PTA Easter Bingo. 6pm

Thursday 2nd April: Last day of Term 4.

Friday 3rd April: Good Friday (Bank Holiday)

Monday 20th April: First day of Term 5.

Tuesday 5th May: Book Share for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Thursday 7th May: Book Share for Years R, 1 and 2



PTA Events

**Wednesday 1st April at 6pm:
Easter Bingo, Main Hall**

Wednesday 29th April: Cake Sale

Tuesday 5th May: PTA Meeting at 7.30pm

Friday 22nd May: Colour Run!

Friday 5th June: Break the Rules Day!

Friday 10th July: Summer Sizzle!



A 5 day trek by one of our parents in the Jurassic Coast for CoppaFeel!

Please see link below for the Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/emma-spencer-81?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_transactional--donation_received--nth_donation

The
Folkestone
School for Girls



YEAR 5 OPEN MORNINGS 2026

Our open morning events will take place between Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May 2026, from 9:15am to 10:45am for girls in Year 5.

The prospective students, with their parents and carers, will have the opportunity to see the school in action and hear from the Principal and Senior Leadership Team about all that is on offer at FSG.

If parents/carers want their daughters to sit the Shepway test in September, then details of this will be given at these open mornings.

Please fill in the booking form on the link below.

We would be grateful if families could fill in the form once and only pick one day wherever possible to help make sure that there is enough space for everyone. If you cannot make the day you have booked, or if any other details have changed, do not fill in the form again. Contact Main Reception on 01303 251125 and we will try to accommodate you on another day and change other details as required.

Once a day is fully booked, we will remove the ability to select it. We will run a waiting list for each day when necessary. If you need to be added to it, then phone main reception on 01303 251125.

Please visit The Folkestone School for Girls website for booking link



*We welcome parents of
Year 3 and Year 4
children to join us on
Friday 27th March at
2.40pm in the main hall
for a poetry recital.*

SMILE

Easter HOLIDAY CLUBS

Unleash your creativity at SMILE's Easter Holiday Clubs!

-  **Tuesday 7th April 10:30-14:30**
Tote bags & mobiles
-  **Wednesday 8th April, 10.30-14:30**
Mini escape room & hoodies
-  **Thursday 9th April, 10.00-14:00**
Finger Skateboards & t-shirts
-  **Friday 10th April 10:00-14:00**
Bunny making & Canvas painting
-  **Tuesday 14th April 10:00-14:00**
Modelling & Peg Doll Making
-  **Friday 17th April 10:00-14:00**
Beanie hat embroidery & Back Packs

**£30/day
Lunch
included!**



Want to join the fun? Pop along with your children or your friends after the holiday clubs for crafts and snacks until 4.30pm!

www.smilesandgate.co.uk

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Creative after school care for years 2-6

Creative, hands-on fun!

- Painting
- Crafting
- Lego
- Den building
- Fun-packed playroom

**Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs
16:00 - 18:00**

£12.00
+£2 to collect from Sandgate Primary

Smile Sandgate
21 Sandgate High Street
www.smilesandgate.co.uk



TERM TIME CLASSES HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Book here: 

Holiday Workshops

FOR AGES 5-12

Springtime Wonders

Tuesdays & Wednesdays

SANDGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Coolinge Lane, Folkestone,
CT20 3QU

£27/Class
£50/Day
£95/Week

07391 670905 | FOLKESTONE@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM
WWW.CYGNETSARTSCHOOL.COM/BRANCH/FOLKESTONE

Cygnets teaches traditional drawing, painting, and sculpture, combined with unique projects, experienced teachers & professional quality materials.

We run two holiday workshops per day, so students can attend individual classes, or bring a packed lunch and stay for both!

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Tuesday 7th April</p> <p>10.30 - 12PM Fox Cub with Pencil</p> <p>12.30 - 2PM Murmuration with Gouache</p>  | <p>Tuesday 14th April</p> <p>10.30 - 12PM Hare with Fineliner and Watercolours</p> <p>12.30 - 2PM Bluebell Wood with Soft Pastels</p>  |
| <p>Wednesday 8th April</p> <p>10.30 - 12PM Feather Still Life with Charcoal</p> <p>12.30 - 2PM 'The Poppy Field' Study with Oil Pastels</p>  | <p>Wednesday 15th April</p> <p>10.30 - 12PM Colourful Eggs with Mixed Pastels</p> <p>12.30 - 2PM Chick with Clay</p>  |

Lots of different projects to choose from:






Booking for our Summer Term coming soon!

folkestone@cygnetsartschool.com cygnetsartschool.com/branch/folkestone

**These clubs are outside providers and are not run by the school.
Please contact them directly for information on bookings and payments.**

THE BADGER'S DEN
is coming to Sandgate Primary Forest School

eee

After school club
Mondays 3.15-4.00pm yr 1-6

eee

Weekly Forest School sessions with Helen level 3 Forest School practitioner.
First session starts on the 19th of January 2026

Outdoor fun

- Warm fire
- Craft activities
- Freedom to play
- Hot drinks and snacks
- Fresh air and nature
- £5 per session

Contact information

eee

If you would like to book email or call Helen on hshearcroft@me.com / 07968694113

FOOTBALL AT SANDGATE PRIMARY
For boys & girls aged Yr 1-6

THURSDAYS // 3:15-4:15PM

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

Please book via our website under school services. Please pack appropriate clothing as we will always be outside.

LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF FOOTBALL WITH PROFESSIONAL EARLY YEARS COACHES!

LITTLE STORIES

BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE WITH ACTING, MOVEMENT & CREATIVE PLAY!

Perfect for building confidence and imagination!

Community Room: Sandgate Primary
Year 1 & 2

EVERY TUESDAY | 3:15-4:00

Register Interest:
caitlin@contactartist.info
Caitlin McCarthy
PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

£5

YOUNG PERFORMERS

Develop confidence through drama, movement, and stage skills.

Community Room: Sandgate Primary:
Years 3 - 6

**EVERY TUESDAY:
4:00-5:00**

Register Interest:
caitlin@contactartist.info
Caitlin McCarthy
PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Fine art
FOR YOUR KIDS

At Cygnets our focus is on traditional drawing, painting, and sculpture, combined with unique projects - all taught by experienced teachers using professional quality materials.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
EYFS - YEAR 6
ALL ABILITIES
ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED

Day: Wednesdays
Time: 3:15 - 4:15 PM
Venue: Sandgate Primary School, Bears classroom
Cost: £13.50 per week for 10 weeks (Term 3 and Term 4)
Starting date: Wednesday 21st January 2026
Final date: Wednesday 1st April 2026

Book Now! SCAN THE QR CODE OR USE THE LINK BELOW:

<https://cygnets-art-school-folkestone.classforkids.io/term/2>