



Dates for your diary

All the diary dates that you need for the term are available on the calendar section of the school website. You can access this page by clicking [here](#).



New members of staff

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Alison Kjaer (pronounced K-ear) to the staff team this year. Mrs Kjaer is an experienced teacher and will teach Darwin Class on Fridays and will also teach music on Wednesday afternoons as part of our Enrichment programme. We wish Mrs Kjaer every success as she officially starts her new role at the school. We are all looking forward to working alongside Mrs Kjaer.

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Sutton Veny CofE Primary School

Together, through **friendship**, in **peace** and with **courage**, we reach for the stars.

Colossians 3:12: **'clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'**

New school day: timings, arrival & collection

We have extended the school day for this academic year and our new timings are 8.45am – 3.15pm. The school site will be open from 8.35am each morning and school staff will also be on duty from this time. There will be two members of staff on 'meet and greet' duty each morning and they will help those children who are dropped-off in our 'meet and greet' zone at the bottom of the school car park. Class teachers will always be on the front playground first thing in the morning and at the end of the day. Staff visibility at these times of the day is important to us, so that we can greet the children every morning and ensure they are collected safely at the end of the day. It also allows you to pass on any information to your child's class teacher at these times of the day. Under no circumstances should any child be left by themselves on the school playground before 8.35am, as this is a would be a safeguarding concern.

This is our termly newsletter and we hope that will enjoy reading about what will be happening in school. Regular updates will be sent out via our eSchools platform throughout the term. Please keep an eye out for these. All of the dates for the term are available from the calendar section of our school website. Please see the school notice board for weekly updates too.

website: www.suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk
email: admin.suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk



Welcome back and 'happy new school year!'

Welcome back to everyone for the start of a new school year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new children starting school this September, and to their families. We hope that you will all be very happy at Sutton Veny School. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time and we have all been looking forward to the children returning to school. As a school, we place great value on positive relationships, and this includes our system for communication. At the start of each term, a newsletter will always be sent out, containing details about up and coming events and any other school news. These newsletters are written for every member of our school community and we hope you enjoy reading about school life and sharing it with the children.

At the end of the school day, the playground will be opened again at 3.00pm. The children in KS2 will be led around to the front playground by their class teacher and the children will wait with their teacher until they are linked-up with whoever is collecting them. Under no circumstance, will a child be able to leave the school playground without an adult. The only exception would be if we have received written permission that a child is allowed to walk home on their own, if they live in the village and are old enough to do so.

The children in Auckland, Brisbane and Canberra class will need to be collected from their class fire exits. Thank you.



2023-2024 Calendar on Sale Now

Each year our Friends of Sutton Veny School (FOS) produce a school calendar in partnership with staff at the school. These cost £6 each and all of the funds raised go to the school. The new Calendar is now on sale and you'll be able to purchase one from our FOS team on the school playground. If you're unable to purchase one from the playground, please contact the school office and we can make alternative arrangements for you. The school calendar contains important dates for the school year and a picture of each child on the month of their birthday. We always receive very positive feedback about our school calendar, so don't miss the opportunity to be organised for the year ahead!



Attendance & Punctuality

All the evidence and research shows that children who attend school regularly, do well at school. By law, schools are required to keep accurate records of attendance and act swiftly if they are concerned about the amount of time a child has had off school. If your child has been, or is due to be absent from school, it is your responsibility as parents and carers to inform the school, otherwise this is considered an unauthorised absence. If your child is ill, please phone the office (before 9am) to inform us on **each day** of their absence from school. To report your child's absence, phone the school office and choose option 1. This takes you through to our dedicated absence answer machine. If we have not heard from you by 10.00am, a member of our admin team will phone to ensure we know why your child is not at school.

We encourage you to book medical or dental appointments outside of school hours. However, we do understand that this is not always possible. If your child needs to leave school during the day for an appointment or for any other reason, the school must again be informed and evidence of the appointment will be required. Permission will only be given on the understanding that an adult known to the school will collect and return your child. It is also necessary to sign your child out (and then in again) if you remove them from school after registration.

'Twenty to nine – be on time!' Please ensure that your child is on time for school and collected promptly at the end of each day. When a child is late to school, it has a negative impact on their education and makes them self-conscious when entering the classroom later than everyone else. If you are ever late arriving to school, please make sure you physically report to the school office to make sure your children get into school safely.

Do not drop your child off and expect them to find their own way into school. This is part of our school safeguarding practice. Please telephone the school if you are going to be late collecting your child at home time. We understand that this is unavoidable at times. However, it is important that we are informed so we can keep the children safe and reassure them that we have heard from you, as this will stop them from worrying. Our school Attendance Policy is available on our school website and details all of our systems and procedures.



New Breakfast Club!

We are delighted that we are able to offer a New Breakfast Club for our families from the first day of Term. Our Breakfast Club will be run and managed by Wylde Coyotes. A new website page has been developed to provide you with all the information that you need and this can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



School Reading Books

As a school, we place great emphasis on the importance of reading and learning to read. Cracking the 'reading code' unlocks the world for the children. It is vital for their language development, communication skills and it helps the children access the wider school curriculum. We are always happy to loan out school books, including during the holidays. Class teachers have noted that books that have been taken home have not always been returned. Please could we request that any school reading books that you may have at home are returned to school this week, so that we can replenish our selection of books.

Back to School Nights



'Back to School Nights' are an important aspect of our induction for parents and carers to their child's new class. They are an opportunity to meet the class teacher, visit the classroom, and hear all about the routines, timetables and key information for the year ahead. We would strongly encourage you all to attend, so that you get all of the information that you need to support your child(ren). Attending school meetings also shows your child(ren) that you value their education and this is an important message. The Back to School meetings will be held in your child's classroom from 6.00pm, during the week beginning 11th September. Please see the school calendar on the website to see which day each class has their Back to School Night. Please note that these meetings are for parents and carers only, and we kindly ask that children do not attend.



School Swimming

The children from Year 2 – Year 6 will all receive school swimming lessons across the school year. Swimming starts for Elliston Class this term on **Tuesday 12th September** and a separate letter will be sent home to the class with further information. The children will need their swimming kit in school every Tuesday. Please see the calendar for swimming dates and times for the other classes.



School Uniform

Our school uniform is an important aspect of our school as it ensures that the children all look ‘uniform’ and smart in their appearance. We ask that you help your child(ren) to follow our school expectations for school uniform, so that we maintain our standards of dress throughout the school. Please note that teachers will speak to you if they have noticed items and styles that do not fit with our school policy. Currently, our branded items are available from Scholars in Warminster. Scholars are no longer providing our school hoodie for PE as this item is being phased out. This is to help reduce the number of branded items and therefore the cost for everyone. The children can just wear their school jumper, or cardigan on PE days instead. Friends of School also run a very successful pre-loved uniform service, where you can purchase second-hand school uniform. We also ask for you to send in a pair of wellington boots to be kept in school. This is so the children can access the field all year round. One of our biggest frustrations as a school is unnamed uniform. Please ensure that you label every item, so we can make sure that any misplaced items are returned to their rightful owner. Thank you.

Volunteering in school

We greatly appreciate the support from our team of parent and grandparent volunteers, who help to support reading, school trips, lunchtimes and our parent/teacher association (Friends of Sutton Veny School). If you would like to find out more about volunteering in our school, or you are able to offer your help, you are invited to attend a meeting for parent volunteers, led by Mr Lewis, on **Wednesday 27th September, at 9.15am** in the Village Hall. You will receive our volunteer pack to read and sign. We will also need to ensure that we have carried out the necessary safeguarding checks for all adults who help in school. Please email the school office if you wish to attend the meeting and join our valuable team of volunteers. Thank you in advance for your support – it is very much appreciated.



Driving & Parking Reminders

Please remember to drive and park safely and considerately in the village. We have a number of families who walk to and from school and so please slow down and take great care passing them. To minimise the dangers of cars moving in and out of school, the school car park is only for staff, taxis, emergency vehicles, or those with a disabled parking permit. The entrance to school and the designated space for the bus are both ‘no-waiting areas.’ We respectfully remind you that it is unsafe and inconsiderate to park your vehicle in the areas that will endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians and other road users. We ask parents to limit congestion for the passage of buses and emergency vehicles and park safely and considerately by:

- Not parking in the staff car park, or the space marked ‘school bus’
- Avoiding narrow areas (please do not park where the cones are placed)
- Not parking, or turning in the driveways of local residents
- Not parking beyond the end of the footpath by the church, or before the first house on the opposite side of the road.

Please see the school notice board, for our safe travel guide. This is also available on the school website. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



School bus services

There are two bus services that help transport the children to and from school. There is one bus service that covers our catchment area and collects and returns children to and from the Deverills. This service is organised and funded by Wiltshire Council as it covers our school catchment area.

The second bus service covers the Warminster area and this is run by Beeline. There is a charge for this bus service as it does not cover our general catchment area. Beeline have and Wiltshire Council have been working together to adjust the pick-up and drop-off times for the bus services so that they match our new school timings. In the morning, pick-up times will be ten minutes earlier than last year. We have designed a new website page, which provides all of the necessary details about the bus services. You can access this by clicking [here](#). If your child uses the bus service, they will have the term dates stuck in the back of their Link Book, so you can indicate whether they will be using the bus on any particular day.



Website & school communication

Our school website is a valuable source of information for all of our families. Your child's class page will contain a timetable and curriculum information for the term ahead. The school newsletter is always uploaded onto the relevant section of the website too. The homepage of the website also contains up-and-coming events and a link to the school calendar.

A reminder that all of our school communication will continue to be emailed out via our eSchools platform. You can access this by clicking on the login icon on the homepage of the school website, although we recommend downloading the eSchools APP. Please ensure you check your emails regularly for up-to-date school information and news as updates will be sent out throughout the term. New families will be issued with an eSchool login shortly after they start at the school. If you are yet to receive one, or you have lost your details, please contact the school office.



Parent Pay

The school uses Parent Pay so that parents and carers can make online payments, order hot lunches and sign children up for clubs and school trips. New families will be issued with a user name and login when they start school. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or queries about Parent Pay. A polite reminder that all hot lunches must be ordered by the weekly cut-off day for the following week. If you fail to meet the deadline you will have to provide a packed-lunch for your child(ren).

After school clubs

Throughout the year we offer a range of clubs for the children, to cater for different year groups and interests. The majority of these clubs are run by members of staff, who kindly give up their time to develop the children's interests in different areas and topics. The clubs letter for Terms 1 and 2 will be sent out electronically and you will be able to sign-up using Parent Pay.

Learn Along



You are invited to come along and spend a lesson learning with your child. 'Learn Along' will take place on the following dates and times:

Tuesday 10th October: 9am until 10am

Wednesday 11th October: 9am until 10am

A reminder and sign-up information will be sent out nearer the time.



Celebration Assembly

Each Friday, we hold a weekly celebration assembly. Each child takes it in turn to be a special person for the week and they present their learning to the school. Birthday stickers and certificates are presented too! Parents and family members are always invited to attend and share their child's achievements and see them receive their presentations. Your child's class teacher will let you know the date that your child will be special person. This year Celebration Assembly is moving back to the afternoon and will start at 2.30pm. Our first Celebration Assembly will be on **Friday 15th September, at 2.30pm**, in the Village Hall. You are very welcome to join us every Friday should you wish to do so.



School photographs

Each child will have their photograph taken on **Monday 9th October (am)**, by David Wiltshire Photography. Siblings will be photographed as a family group and not individually unless you request this in the office. Forms will be sent home on this date for parents to purchase the photograph, if they wish.



Village Hall News

Sutton Veny village have a few up-and-coming events that our families may well be interested in. In February, the village are hosting a pantomime in the village hall, which is hugely exciting. Rehearsals for all parts will take place from **12th September**. These rehearsals are for all aspects of putting on the performance, not just for acting roles, and anyone is welcome to attend. On **Saturday 21st October**, there will be a social gathering around a bonfire (no fireworks), with food and drinks on the village field. Following that, on **11th November**, there will be a village quiz night for anyone who is interested. It would be great to support these local events, so do get involved!



A message from FOS

Friends of Sutton Veny School (FOS)
Charity number 290388

Friends of School (our Parent Teacher Association) would like to welcome you back for the new school year. We are a friendly team who meet throughout the year to plan fundraising and events to enrich our children's experience at school.

We have some exciting plans lined up; however, we are always looking for fresh ideas and welcome new faces, whether in a formal role or as part of our team of ad-hoc helpers. We can't do it without your support.

We are hosting our first meeting of the school year on **Wednesday 13th September** and we would love you to join us for a cuppa, to see what we do and understand how you can get involved. There will also be a meeting for volunteers in school on **Wednesday 27th September at 9.15am** if you wish to find out more about helping out. This term, it is the Nelson Class Cake Sale on **Friday 13th October**.

As always if you have any ideas for fundraising, or ways that FOS could benefit the school, please find us in the playground or send us an email at fos@suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk. There are lots of ways to get involved with Friends of School, from coming to the meetings, being on the committee or just being on our volunteer email list for whenever we need help at our events. If you'd like to get involved with Friends of School or find out a bit more then please do get in touch.

Please look out for FOS communication throughout the year via eSchools or on the school website FOS page. Don't forget we also have the Friends of School Facebook page where we share information about events etc. If you'd like to follow the page, then you can find it at <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1154539228562579/?ref=share>

The school calendar with all the key dates for this year has been printed and will be on sale in the school playground, after school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, for £6 each. Alternatively, you can contact the school office to arrange to purchase one.

We still need a Secretary to join the Friends of School committee. If you have an hour a month to spare, then please do speak to Eleanor Everitt or Sam Allison for more information.

Best wishes,
FOS

Contacts:

Eleanor Everitt (Chair)
Sam Allison (Treasurer)
Current vacancy (Secretary)