



New member of staff

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sarah Shinar to the staff team this year. Mrs Shinar is an experienced teacher and will teach Brisbane Class on Fridays this year. We wish Mrs Shinar every success as she officially starts her new role at the school and we are all looking forward to working alongside her.



New for 2024 -25

Parent and Carer Forums

We place great value on our relationships with you as parents and carers and we want you to be fully involved in school life. This year, we will be running a termly Parent and Carer Forum. These will take place six times per year, at 2.30pm and 6.30pm on the same day. We hope that providing two different times will make them accessible for everyone who would like to attend. The forums will be an opportunity for you to come and discuss different aspects of school and we hope that you will find them informative and valuable. The first forum of the year will take place on **Thursday 19th September** and we will be sharing our school development priorities for the up-and-coming year, as well as explaining how the forums will run.

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.'**

This is our termly newsletter and we hope that you 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; you can access this page by clicking [here](#). Upcoming events are also listed on the homepage of our website. Please see the school notice board for weekly updates too.

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.



2024-2025 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!



Timings, Dropping-off and Picking-Up

The school day will continue to run from 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 would be a safeguarding concern. If you do arrive before 8.35am, it is your responsibility to supervise your child(ren).

Important Changes for Pick-Up

This year, we have made some minor changes at the end of the school day. To help reduce congestion on the front playground at the end of the day, all Key Stage Two Children will be collected from their classroom fire exit. Elliston Class will be collected from their classroom door by the clock tower. Any children in Darwin, Geraldton and Nelson Class will need to be collected from the fire exits on the back playground. You will then be able to exit the school grounds using the side gate by the village hall. We appreciate that changes to routines can take a little while to adjust to, so staff will help point you in the right direction at the end of the school day.

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 as per usual. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

We are delighted that Breakfast Club will continue to provide before-school provision for our families. Breakfast Club will be run and managed by Wylde Coyotes. Our website page has been updated to provide you with all the information that you need, including how to book a place, 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 many books that have been borrowed have not been returned to school. Please could we request that any school reading books that you may have at home are returned this week. Thank you.



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 9th 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.

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.

New Statutory Changes for Attendance

On 18th August 2024, The Department for Education have brought in new statutory changes to how school must respond to attendance and absence concerns. We are currently updating our school attendance policy to reflect these changes. In brief, the law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education. Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend, or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

When there are any concerns about attendance, schools are required to work closely with families to help reduce any barriers that may be affecting a child's school attendance.

There have also been some significant changes around the issuing of penalty notices for periods of absence. A separate leaflet has been sent out to explain what these are and how they are issued.

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. The children will continue to wear their PE kit into school on the days that they have PE, unless they are in Auckland, or Brisbane Class as changing in school helps their independence and fine motor skills. 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 25th September, at 9.00am** in the Village Hall. You will receive our volunteer pack to read and 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.

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 Term 1 will be sent out electronically and you will be able to sign-up using Parent Pay.



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, in conjunction with Wiltshire Council. There is a charge for this bus service as it does not cover our general catchment area. We have a 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 username 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 (which is Wednesday) for the following week for all pupils. If you fail to meet the deadline, you will have to provide a packed lunch for your child(ren).

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 will continue to be held during the afternoon and will start at 2.30pm. Our first Celebration Assembly will be on **Friday 20th September, at 2.30pm**, in the Village Hall. You are very welcome to join us every Friday should you wish to do so.



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.

As a committee we have some exciting plans lined up for the year ahead, which we are really looking forward to; however, we are always looking for fresh ideas and we 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.

Up-and-coming plans ...

The school calendar, with all the key dates we're able to confirm 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 are hosting our first meeting of the school year on **Wednesday 18th September at 9.00am** in the village hall and anyone is welcome to join us, to see what we do and understand how you can get involved. There will also be a general meeting for school volunteers in school on **Wednesday 25th September at 9.00am** if you wish to find out more about helping out in school.

This term, it is the Geraldton Class Cake Sale on **Friday 4th October**.

This year we are planning a Quiz Night for **Friday 18th October**. This will be an evening event, so get a babysitter booked! It should be a really fun evening. Teams will comprise of up to 6, £5 entry per person. Please see the attached poster for further details.

As always if you have any ideas for fundraising, or ways that FOS could benefit the school, please find us on the playground or send us an email at fos@suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk. Furthermore, if you'd like to get involved with Friends of School or want to 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://www.facebook.com/share/m1WX4yqDSGSTsCi2/?mibextid=K35XfP>

Best wishes,
FOS

Contacts:

Eleanor Everitt (Chair)
Sam Allison (Treasurer)
Charlie Pywell (Secretary)