



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 on the calendar section of our school website; you can access this page by clicking [here](#). 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 communication. At the start of each term, a newsletter will always be sent out, via Parent Pay, containing details about upcoming events and any other school news. They will also be uploaded to our school website. 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.



Welcome to new members of staff

We are delighted to welcome Mr Graham Marchmont and Miss Grace Butler to the staff team this year. Mr Marchmont will be teaching Brisbane Class this year and Miss Butler will be working as a teaching partner in school. We are all looking forward to welcoming them to the staff team and working alongside them.



2026-2027 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 £6.50 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 this week. 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!



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 5.30pm. Please see below for times and dates. Please note that these meetings are for parents and carers only, and we kindly ask that children do not attend.

Auckland Class: Thursday 10th September

Canberra and Darwin: Monday 14th September

Geraldton and Nelson: Tuesday 15th September

Brisbane and Elliston: Thursday 17th September

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. Please could we request that any school reading books that you may have at home are returned this week. 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](#).



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 will be available at the end of the day at collection. 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).

Attendance & Punctuality

All the evidence and research show 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 expect all children to arrive on time for school each day, so that they can enter the classroom with their peers and begin the day in the same way as the rest of their class. If, for any reason, you are late to school in the morning, you must accompany your child to the school office, sign them in and provide the reason for being late. Under no circumstances must children be left to find their own way into school as this poses a safeguarding risk to them.

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.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and supporting your child's attendance and punctuality.

Consultant Headteacher Role

At the end of the last academic year, Mr Lewis was appointed to work as a consultant headteacher for Wiltshire Council for the 2026-27 academic year. It is a positive reflection on the strong practice and professional culture at Sutton Veny that Mr Lewis has been appointed to carry out this role. This means that he will be supporting other headteachers and schools within Wiltshire for an average of five days per term. Miss Gee will deputise for Mr Lewis on the days he is out working with other schools.

School Uniform

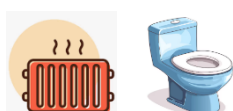


Our school uniform is an important aspect of our school as it ensures that the children all look smart in their appearance and that it is fair for everyone. We ask that you help your child(ren) to follow our school expectations for school uniform, so that we maintain our standards. Please note that teachers 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. A reminder that green hoodies are no longer part of our school uniform and the children can no longer wear these to school.

Friends of School run a very successful pre-loved uniform service, where you can purchase second-hand school uniform. We kindly ask for you to send in a pair of wellington boots into school. This is so the children can access the field all year round. One of our biggest frustrations is unnamed uniforms. 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 23rd 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.



Summer Work in School

Over the summer various work has taken place in school. We have had a full heating upgrade, which means that all of the heaters in school have been replaced and will be more efficient during the colder months. The KS1 toilets have also been redesigned and fully refurbished, which has greatly improved these facilities for the children.

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. Some of our after-school clubs are run by outside providers and there are separate booking and payment systems for these. The Term 1 Club letter will be sent out shortly and will provide you with all the information that you need.

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 Games Mark is a government-led award scheme to help schools assess and celebrate their commitment to PE and school sport. Mrs Chatwin, who leads PE in school, applied for the School Games Mark for Sutton Veny in July. We are delighted to share that the school has received the Gold Award for the 2026-27 academic year, which is fantastic news and great recognition for the school.



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 ParentPay platform. Please check your emails regularly for up-to-date school information and news, as updates will be sent out throughout the term.

We also use ParentPay for making online payments, ordering hot lunches and signing children up for clubs and school trips. 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).

New families will be issued with a ParentPay 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.

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 8-Stamp awards are presented too. This year we are moving away from presenting certificates for achieving 8-Stamps and the children will receive a sticker instead. This is to help reduce the amount of paper and card that we use in school to support our approach to sustainability in school.

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. Celebration Assembly will continue to be held during the afternoon and will start at 2.25pm. Our first Celebration Assembly will be on **Friday 18th September**, in the Village Hall. You are very welcome to join us should you wish to do so.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

One of our school development priorities for this academic year is to improve the opportunities that the children get 'play' at social times of the day. Play is such an integral part of child development for many reasons and, as a school, our aim is to provide the children with a wider range of resources and ideas, so that they can engage in different types of play. To begin with, we are going focus on collecting loose parts to help the children to construct, create and build, alongside collecting role play equipment, like costumes, hats, cloaks etc. to inspire their imaginative play. Our plan is to teach and inspire them to engage with different types of play and to develop our resources over time. If you have any children's costumes, different types of hats, or role play equipment suitable for school, or loose parts like spare pieces of guttering, old tyres, plastic crates etc., we would be extremely grateful for any donations.

Family Support and Early Help

As a school, we are understanding and empathetic to the fact that there are times when our families may need help and support. If you need a listening ear, or if you require support, advice and guidance please do reach out and ask. Life is full of challenges and we have a number of mechanisms for supporting the children and our parents and carers. We are also able to signpost to services, agencies and professional organisations, who may be better placed to provide the help, or support that you need.



Updates to the English Curriculum

During Term 6, the teachers were excited to undertake training in a new approach to teaching English approach called *Grammarsaurus*. This programme aims to help children understand the different elements of a sentence, thereby helping them grow their confidence in the fluency and accuracy of their written pieces. This change to the curriculum comes as a direct result of feedback from the children that they are sometimes not as confident as they would like to be in the formulation of their sentences.

For Years 2-6, there are approximately twenty lessons, which will be taught by the end of Term 2. Year 1 will begin learning this approach after Christmas, when the fundamentals of writing are in place.

Another change to the English curriculum comes in the form that spelling assessment will take. There will no longer be weekly spelling tests on a Friday. Over time, staff and parents have observed that these weekly tests have little impact on the children's spelling as a whole, as they do not always apply the learning of their spellings to their written work. Furthermore, parents often report these tests can cause worry and stress. This can prove damaging to the self-esteem of pupils who try their best, but who constantly feel like they are not doing well enough. A huge amount of paper is also used in preparing these spellings over the course of an academic year, which does support our commitment to sustainability. Spelling will still be taught rigorously in school as part of the English curriculum and class teachers will focus on helping the children transfer learnt spelling rules into their writing.

You can hear more about these changes at the Back-to-School Meetings in September, as well as hearing about the different forms that homework assignments might take in the future.



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 really excited about the 2026/2027 year and have a fun schedule of events planned.

We have the usual film nights, discos, our fantastic Christmas Fayre, the Easter Egg Hunt, colouring competitions etc. Everything is in the school calendar so you can plan ahead.

Speaking of which ... the school calendars will be on sale after school, in the playground on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September. They cost £6.50 a calendar and we only have a limited amount so make sure that you get one!

Last year, we had our most successful fundraising year ever and the brand-new set of iPads that we were aiming for have been ordered and will be arriving at school shortly.

Coming up this term we have...

- **Wednesday 16th September:** FOS meeting at 9am in the village hall. Everyone is very welcome so please do come along. We are always keen for new faces and new ideas.
- **Wednesday 23rd September:** School Volunteer and FOS information morning at 9am in the village hall. Please come along to find out how you can support the work of FOS and the school.
- **Friday 2nd October:** Geraldton Cake Sale (preloved uniform will also be on sale)

Friends of School has a Facebook page where we keep everyone up to date with our events and fundraising, which you can access [here](#).

If you'd like to find out more about being involved with FOS, then please do come along to our meetings or email us. If you'd like to be added to our email list of volunteers then please let us know at fos@suttonveny.wilts.sch.uk

Best wishes,
FOS

Contacts:

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