



South Avenue Primary School Newsletter Term 1



Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

As we come to the end of the first term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful things we have achieved together over the past few weeks.

I am delighted to say that the children have settled extremely well and have truly found their stride. They have all worked incredibly hard and have adapted beautifully to their routines. It has been wonderful to see their progress, growing confidence, and enthusiasm for learning.

At the beginning of term, you were all given the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, and we were so pleased that so many of you attended. Next term, we will be holding our parent consultations, where you will be able to discuss your child's progress and hear more about how well they have settled into their new year group.

Throughout this term, the children have taken part in a range of exciting activities, many of which have been shared in this newsletter. One particular highlight was our Harvest Festival. It was heart-warming to see all the children come together to celebrate and to hear their wonderful singing—especially from our EYFS children, who joined in with such enthusiasm. Thank you so much for your generous donations; your kindness has made a real difference to those in need.

Our Year 6 pupils also had a special visit from Kent Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered a valuable session on CPR awareness. The children engaged brilliantly and gained important life-saving knowledge that we hope they will remember for years to come.

Looking ahead to Term 2, we have a number of exciting events to look forward to, including individual school photographs, the Halloween Disco, Flu Immunisations, and parent consultations. As we move further into the term, there will also be Nativity performances from KS1, a Carol Service for KS2 (pupils only), and our PTFA Christmas Market on Saturday 6th December. It promises to be a busy and joyful term full of new learning experiences and festive celebrations.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support throughout this term. It makes such a difference to the children's experience and to everything we achieve as a school community.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. I hope the sun continues to shine for us all, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 27th October 2025.

Kind regards,

Miss Cadwallader
Head of School



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A Fabulous Offer!

South Avenue Primary School would like to thank the Dulux Decorator Centre, Sittingbourne for donating the paint for our eye-catching, new entrance display.

As a result of their very generous donation, we are in the process of creating a colourful display of our school values for all children, parents and guests to see.



An additional amazing offer is also available to all parent, staff and friends who are about to do any DIY - visit the local Dulux Decoration Centre at the address on the offer sheet and receive 25% off any of your paint and accessories (discounts may vary between brands and goods) - do remember to take the offer code - **3436106**

Please do thank and support our local Dulux Decorator Centre and don't forget to mention your connection to South Avenue Primary School.



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At the beginning of October, year 1 had the opportunity to visit Sittingbourne Heritage Museum. The children enjoyed their walk to the museum where we looked at local landmarks and made use of compass directions. Once at the museum, they learnt about the history of our town, looked at photos of local schools from the past and explored a range of historical artefacts. We hope that the museum will find suitable premises so that South Avenue can continue to visit in years to come.



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This term, **Year 4** have been getting creative with Roman-style mosaics, taking inspiration from artist Sue Kershaw. Using pasta sheets as their medium, the children have carefully begun crafting their own mosaic artwork.



Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in an exciting VR workshop, where they explored immersive virtual worlds linked to their current topics. The experience allowed the children to deepen their understanding in a highly engaging way, bringing their classroom learning to life.



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This term the children have been working really hard on their attendance at school. We know that they could not do this without your support! Today we gave out an outstanding 297 certificates to celebrate those children with amazing attendance and 192 of these were for 100% attendance. This means that almost 75% of the children achieved 95% or above. None having more than 1.5 days absent in term 1. This is fantastic!

All those who have 100% attendance in term 1 will have their names placed in the draw for the end of the academic year to be in with a chance of winning the £100 voucher for 'The Light'. There are 6 terms in a year so 6 opportunities to get their names in the draw.

A new term awaits and we can't wait to see just how many of our children can achieve outstanding attendance in term 2. Don't forget we wipe the slate clean and start afresh.

Overall we have achieved 95.9% attendance so far this academic year. We really do need to push this higher and strive for over 96% next term. With your continued support we know that we can achieve this.



Hot Chocolate Sale



November



The PTFA will be holding several events in the run up to Christmas! Please put the following dates in your diary! We will be kicking off Term 2 with our Spooktacular Halloween Disco on Thursday 30th October! In November, we will be selling hot chocolate after school (date to be confirmed). On Saturday 6th December we will be holding our annual Christmas Market where there will be a wonderful range of festive gifts ranging from sweets, pocket money toys, embroidered gifts, jewellery, handmade toys, cards and much more all from local businesses. The PTFA will also be providing refreshments.

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We have elected our new School Council for 2025/2026. They have already been busy and led an assembly last week. They spoke about the school dinners, what children like and what they are not so keen on. They reminded children to ask their adults to name their uniform, especially jumpers, cardigans and fleeces. Finally, they told the children about how bad Idle Engines are. The School Council members explained that when car engines are not turned off while waiting outside our school, it pollutes the air, causes lots of health problems, ruins the vehicle's engine and wastes fuel. The School Council says PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF THE ENGINE WHEN YOU ARE PARKED!!!



At the beginning of Term 1 our new School Council and last year's School Council members visited the Houses of Parliament. The children had a wonderful day being shown around Parliament and even got to listen to a new Bill being discussed in the House of Lords. They also attended a fun workshop. The children were a credit to South Avenue Primary School - WELL DONE to them all





You Are Not Alone - Free Parent Online Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers.**

First Tuesday of every month

7pm - 8.30pm

Platform: Zoom



Erik Wagter - host of the drop-in

What these sessions are all about

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'!

Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone



What parents say:

'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel, and I really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is back'

Who runs the sessions?

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism. Sometimes my wife Sally will join in as well.

If you would like to join please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the Zoom link.

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The PINS Project at South Avenue Primary School

South Avenue Primary School is taking part in the PINS project.

PINS stands for 'Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools'. It is an initiative that helps schools improve the experience of children who are **neurodivergent** so that they feel welcomed, supported, and able to take part in all aspects of school life. PINS is a national initiative led by the Department for Education and NHS England.



Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Families about the Kent PINS Project

How will PINS help my child?

PINS will help your child by improving their school environment and helping schools adapt the way they do things to meet your child's needs (which could include **mental health, speech and language and physical and sensory**) to help them learn and take part in all aspects of school life.

PINS will help **all pupils** in school—children don't need a formal diagnosis to benefit from this project.

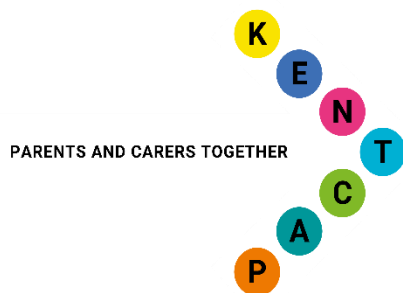
My child is neurotypical – how will PINS affect them?

All children in the schools taking part in the PINS project will benefit from a **better school environment** and from **more knowledgeable staff** who can adapt their teaching styles to the differing needs of children.

It's important in a school community and society in general, for everyone to understand neurodiversity, how it affects the people around us, and how we can support them. Therefore, we would encourage you to engage with PINS whether your child is neurodivergent or neurotypical.

How will PINS help parents?

PINS will help parents to build strong relationships and improve communication with their child's school so that they can have more confidence in how the school is supporting their child's needs.



Parents' views and experiences are a **vital part of this project**. Kent PACT (Parents and Carers Together—the local parent/carer forum) will hold forums like coffee mornings and other events for parents so that they can share their feedback, knowledge, and ideas with other parents and their child's school. We have already held our first one last week. By working together, parents/carers and schools can support each other to give children the best experiences of school.

As part of the PINS project, parents and carers can attend many free online training sessions and events. Some of them are Friendships by the Autistic Girls Network, Supporting your child through transition, Sensory Processing and Integration, Sleep and Autism and Understanding ADHD. You can find more by following this link: [PINS Calendar of Events for Parents and Carers](#)



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Dates for your diary!



Monday 27th November	Start of Term 2
Monday 27 th October	Individual School photos
Thursday 30 th October	Individual School photos
	PTFA Halloween Disco
Friday 31 st October	Flu immunisations (Whole School)
Tuesday 4 th November	Parent Consultations
Thursday 6 ^h November	Parent Consultations
Friday 7 th November	Primary Applications for Reception 2026 opens
Monday 10 th November	Anti Bullying Week - Power for Good
Tuesday 11 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
	Remembrance Day
	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Wednesday 12 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Thursday 13 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Friday 14 th November	Children In Need Day (more details to follow)
	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Monday 17 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Tuesday 18 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Wednesday 19 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Thursday 20 th November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Friday 21 st November	New Reception classes 2026 Tours (By appointment only)
Monday 1st December	Staff Development Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
Saturday 6 th December	South Avenue Christmas Market
Thursday 11 th December	Whole school Christmas Dinner
W/c 15 th December	Year R and KS1 Nativity (a.m & p.m)- more details to follow
Wednesday 17 th December	Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 trip to the cinema
Thursday 18 th December	YR, Y1 & Y2 trip to the cinema
Friday 19 th December	LAST DAY OF TERM 2 (School finishes at 1.30pm)
Monday 5th January	Start of Term 3



Remaining Staff Development Days for 2025/26 - Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st July 2026

Most of our Term 2 Activities Clubs will begin week commencing 27th October (unless stated otherwise in the emails sent out).

