

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr Paul Jensen B.Ed Grad Dip (SEBD) NPQH



Friday 18th July 2025

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Here we are at the end of another busy and fantastic year. The boys recently had their Presentation Afternoon which allowed the whole school to celebrate their achievements over the last 12 months. The final week has been filled with some fantastic trips and activities to give back to the community and of course Thursday's Sports Day which was another great success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who work so hard, day in and day out, to make Sunnydown the place that it is and to give the boys the most wonderful experience. As you are aware, Terri Wyse will be joining us in September to support as Interim Head, with the Senior Leadership Team continuing in their roles with their specific responsibilities to ensure consistency. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their unwavering support and professionalism over the last 12 months.

My last thanks goes out of course to Mr Jensen. As a leader, colleague and close friend, I would like to thank Paul for his huge support for everyone, including myself, over the last 11 years. I for one will miss seeing him every morning for a catch up, however, our loss is someone else's gain and I know that there will be many young people with needs who will continue to benefit from his passion and energy.

All the very best to you my friend.

Can I finish by wishing you all a very safe and happy summer break and look forward to seeing you all on our return in September.

Best wishes

Jez Lord

Yesterday, we had the most fantastic Sports Day ever, and much of that is down to the organisation and hard work from Mr Wright in sorting out the logistics and challenges of hosting the event in our own grounds this year. Students were exceptionally well behaved and well rehearsed, parading into the sports area in their Houses, waving flags that had been made with Mrs Ogle that morning, and the Team Captains carrying their House flags with pride. Each House had also chosen their own entrance music too! Races were cheered by fellow students, parents and staff alike, and there were the traditional Sumo wrestling contests - always great fun!

After the medals had been handed out, our four TAs who are leaving gave a speech about their time with us this year, speaking eloquently and with a real awareness of what a privilege it is to work at Sunnydown. We wish each one of them every success as they all go off to their various universities, replete with a gift of a set of bright yellow plates and bowls! Mr Jensen spoke movingly about his pride in everyone here and in leaving a legacy to remind students to always act with integrity, honesty and compassion. Some individual students handed him gifts and personal mementoes, Ms Kidder gave him a gift from all the students - a wonderful photo of Mr Jensen with the whole school which each student has signed - and Mrs Ogle presented him our new Sunnydown award - The Paul Jensen Prize - which will be awarded at the Year 11 Graduation ceremony. Mrs Ogle invited Mr Jensen to consider what this legacy award might be for and to let us know. It was a moving event and parents were very kind with their own words of

thanks. Students and parents then departed full of ice-cream and great memories.

Ms Kidder and the whole Pastoral team then hosted an absolutely wonderful goodbye party for Mr Jensen with almost 100 people in attendance! Wonderful food and music; a brilliant video filmed by Mr Derrig-Adams from all the staff and students (not a dry eye to be seen!), and some Karaoke too! Thank you to everyone who attended; staff, FOS, Round Table, Children with Special Needs Foundation, and many past colleagues.

Wishing all our students and their families, as well as our staff, a relaxing, rejuvenating and peaceful summer.

Andrea Jensen



Staff abided by a new outrageous mismatched and colourful dress code (Paulisms) for the last day of term.



Safeguarding

As the school year comes to a close, we'd like to thank you for working in partnership with us to support your child's education and well-being. While summer is a time for enjoyment and family connection, it also presents new environments, experiences, and sometimes unfamiliar risks for children and young people.

Online safety - With more time at home and fewer routines, many children spend longer on phones, tablets, gaming consoles, and social media over the summer.

Risks:

- Inappropriate content (violence, adult material, extremism)
- Online grooming and child exploitation
- Cyberbullying or peer pressure
- Oversharing of personal information
- Screen addiction or disrupted sleep

What Parents Can Do:

- Check privacy settings regularly on all apps and devices

- Use parental controls and safe search settings
- Create family agreements about screen time and routines
- Talk regularly – ask open-ended questions about online use

Resources:

- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org>
- <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Exploitation: Online & Offline - Children can be targeted for grooming, criminal activity, or manipulation both in person and through apps, games, or social media.

Look out for:

- Sudden behaviour or appearance changes
- New online contacts, gifts, or secrecy
- Going missing or avoiding usual routines

Advice:

- Talk openly and regularly about their friends, both online and offline
- Know what apps and games they use, and who they interact with
- Encourage them to speak up if something feels

Resources:

- NSPCC – Child Exploitation
- The Children’s Society – Exploitation
- Fearless

Personal safety - Older children often seek more independence during the holidays, such as visiting parks, meeting friends, or travelling by public transport.

Top Tips:

- Plan routes in advance and share locations
- Ensure children carry phones and emergency contacts
- Teach ‘stranger safety’ rules
- Avoid canals, railways, or derelict areas

Useful Apps: what3words, Hollie Guard, Google Family Link

Mental health and emotional well-being - Some children may struggle with mental health over the summer, particularly if they miss the routine and support of school.

Signs:

- Withdrawal, low mood, or irritability
- Sleep problems or appetite changes
- Unexplained aches
- Disinterest in activities

What Helps:

- Maintain routines
- Encourage communication
- Provide support and reassurance

Support Services:

- Young Minds: 0808 802 5544 | <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>
- MINDWORKS: 0300 222 5850

- Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com>
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Shout: Text SHOUT to 85258

Seasonal safety: Fire, Water & Sun - Summer brings fun, but also risks. Here's how to help children stay safe:

- Fire Safety: Keep BBQs and fire pits away from flammable items. Never leave flames or devices unattended. Test smoke alarms and store matches safely.
- Water Safety: Always supervise children near water. Avoid unknown or unsupervised areas. Teach them the RNLI's 'Float to Live' technique.
- Sun Safety: Apply SPF 30+ sunscreen regularly, stay in the shade during peak hours, wear hats and light clothing, and keep hydrated.

Useful Links:

- RNLI – Water Safety
- RLSS – Drowning Prevention
- NHS – Sun Safety
- London Fire Brigade

Safeguarding contacts

Urgent Concerns:

- Police: 999
- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Children's Services: 0300 470 9100 (cspa@surreycc.gov.uk)

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy, and safe summer.

Warm regards

Jo Wermig (DSL)

Summer Book Writing Festival 2025

We're delighted to share that Sunnydown school has been selected to take part in the **Summer Book Writing Festival 2025** - the world's largest free summer writing programme for children aged 8–16, proudly organised by **BriBooks**. This means that your child has the chance to write, illustrate and publish their very own book!

Every child who participates will have their story turned into **real, printed books!** They will also have access to expert-led masterclasses providing support and guidance on writing an original story. All participants also receive a certificate. There is the potential to compete nationally and internationally with top entries receiving: a book launch opportunity at the Global Literary Festivals (London, New York and Singapore), features on the BriBooks YouTube Channel and an invitation to be featured on the 'Authors of BriBooks' podcast.

The best part about all of this - there is no cost at all! Register today:

<https://www.camp.bribooks.com//events/student/signup/sc-uk-2025?sid=189978> to receive full details and access to the masterclass.

Scan QR:



For any questions, feel free to contact me at j.newcombe@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk or via the school office on 01883 342281.

For any questions directed towards BriBooks, please contact them at support@bribooks.com. Let's encourage Sunnydown school's budding storytellers to shine on the world stage!

Miss Newcombe

Tandridge Learning Trust
Courses for Parents & Online Safety Information

Summer 2025 / 2
Edition 4

Upcoming Online Courses

Building your Child's Resilience
Developing Early Communication Through Song, Play and Stories
Develop Skills to Support your child's Sensory Needs (ASD, ADHD and other)
Developing your Child's Self-Esteem
Empowering Your Child: Positive Ways to Handle Anger and Meltdowns
Exploring Behaviour Strategies
First Steps to Understand Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance
First Steps to Understanding Masking
First Steps to Understand My Neurodivergent Child (ADHD, Autism)
Help your Child to Manage Anxiety
Help your Child to Develop Positive Bedtime Routines
Help your Child to Develop Positive Friendships
Help your Teen manage Anxiety
Navigate the options after Year 11 (college, apprenticeship, work)
Sensory Routines to Support your Child's Behaviour & Learning
Sensory Routines to Support Your Child with ASD, ADHD and other
Supporting your LGBTQ+ Child
Use a Positive Approach to Build Your Child's Resilience

Please note that some of these courses may have waiting lists and some run to more than one session. For full details of these and other courses offered by Surrey Adult Learning and how to book, click below.

[SEARCH COURSES](#)

Online Safety Information

Resources from *Internet Matters*

Since 2014, Internet Matters has provided information and advice to parents and carers to help their children navigate the ever-changing digital landscape.

For many of you, your children will be moving from primary to secondary school in September. There may be a number of digital 'firsts' experienced by your children at this time. They may, for example be getting their first smartphone. The organisation offers a wealth of information designed to help you and your children understand the possible risks and benefits of going online as they transition from Year 6 into Year 7.

To read the guidance, click the link below:
[Moving to secondary school - tools to support the Year 6 transition](#)

Internet Matters also offers a service called *Pulse*, which gives deeper insight into the online lives of children and parents' concerns through their bi-annual research with 2,000 parents and 1,000 children in the UK.

The May 2025 Pulse survey includes lots of interesting and useful key findings, for example:

- How children spend their time online - on average children spend more than one day per week online (27 hours).
- Their experiences of harm - 77% of children report that they have experienced harm online, an 8% increase from a year ago.
- Parental concerns - 75% of parents are concerned that their child spends too much time online. This is the top concern of the parents surveyed.

You can access the findings of the report by clicking the link below:
[Internet Matters Pulse: Insight into children's digital lives](#)

Courses for Parents and Online Safety Information

You may be aware that The Tandridge Learning Trust have an online safety feature in each of their termly newsletters, *Trust Talk*. So far, they have covered Online Grooming, Tik Tok, Snapchat, YouTube, Upsetting Content Online, Influencers, Sextortion, Being Vigilant at Christmas, Roblox and their end of term newsletter which will be published next week will cover Fall Guys: Ultimate Knockout. All these articles are available as links on their website: [Tandridge Learning Trust - Online Safety for Parents](#).

They add to this support by sharing a brief overview every half term that focuses on the most topical issues. For this half term, they have chosen to feature resources provided by *Internet Matters*.

They have also shared with us some upcoming online courses for parents that are being offered by Surrey County Council, together with a link to find and book the courses. Knowing some of our parents live outside of Surrey; however, Surrey Adult Learning has confirmed that these courses are open to all regardless of home address. Please note that they will be moving this overview to the beginning of term, effective from September.

Thought for the Week
(W/C: 14/7/25)

Reflection on the year

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SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3 September	INSET DAY
Thursday 4 September	INSET Day
Friday 5 September	Start of Autumn Term HT1 - Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 (Arrival 8.30am)
Wednesday 10 September	Start of Autumn Term HT1 - Year 7 (Arrival 10.00am)
Friday 24 October	Finish for half term (normal finish time)

Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October	Half Term
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Monday 3 November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 November	Start of Autumn Term HT2 (Arrival time 9.00am - 9.30am)
Thursday 18 December	Last day of term (finish 1.30pm)
Friday 19 December	INSET DAY

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6 January	Start of Spring Term HT3 (Arrival 9.00am - 9.30am)
Friday 13 February	Finish for half term (normal finish time)

Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February	Half Term
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Monday 23 February	Start of Spring Term HT4 (Arrival 9.00am - 9.30am)
Friday 27 March	End of Spring Term (finish 1.30pm)

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 April	Start of Summer Term HT5 (Arrival 9.00am - 9.30am)
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday
Friday 22 May	Finish for half term (normal finish time)
Monday 25 May	Bank Holiday

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May	Half Term
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Monday 1 June	Start of Summer Term HT6 (Arrival 9.00am - 9.30am)
Friday 19 June	INSET DAY
Wednesday 22 July	End of term for pupils (finish 12.30pm)

Forthcoming Events 2025

Summer Term 2025	
Friday 18 July 2025	END OF TERM (12.30pm finish)
Monday 21 July 2025 (Was 4 th November 2024)	INSET DAY
Tuesday 22 July 2025 (Was 14 th March 2025)	INSET DAY
Wednesday 3 September 2025	INSET DAY
Thursday 4 September 2025	INSET DAY
Friday 5 September 2025	Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 Return (8.30am)
Wednesday 10 September 2025	Year 7 Return (10am)
Wednesday 17 September 2025	Open Morning (9.30-11am)
Wednesday 24 September 2025	Open Morning (9.30-11am)
Monday 27- Friday 31 October 2025	Half Term
Monday 3 November 2025	INSET DAY
Friday 19 December 2025	INSET DAY
Monday 5 January 2026	INSET DAY
Wednesday 28 January 2026	Open Morning (9.30-11am)
Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026	Half Term
Monday 30 March - Friday 10 April 2026	Easter Holiday
Wednesday 29 April 2026	Open Morning (9.30-11am)
Thursday 18 June 2026	Graduation (TBC)
Friday 19 June 2026	INSET DAY
Tuesday 21 July 2026	Sports Day
Wednesday 22 July 2026	END OF TERM (12.30 finish)



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