

# SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the Spring Term and a happy New Year to all our families. I hope the break provided some time to rest and reset, and I am delighted to be starting this term with you as the new Headteacher of Sunnydown School.

I spent our first INSET day listening carefully to staff and working with them to shape a shared vision for Sunnydown. We reflected on what already makes the school outstanding and challenged ourselves to think beyond that, not about maintaining standards, but about how we become truly exceptional in everything we do. We agreed that the next stage of Sunnydown's journey is about precision rather than overhaul, refining our practice, deepening our impact and ensuring that excellence is visible in every classroom, every conversation and every decision. This term we will focus on small, deliberate improvements that build on our strengths and turn outstanding provision into something even stronger, more consistent and more distinctive for our pupils. Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received from pupils, families and staff. I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with you as we continue to build an exceptional future for Sunnydowns School.

Mr Richard Woolley - Headteacher

## Staffing

With Mrs Palmer leaving us at the end of last term, Miss Thomson, Mr Derrig Adams and Mr Bright have welcomed 9P back for this term. With effect from Monday, Mr Oringo will be re-joining the school and will be working with 9P Form group. Mr Oringo will also be leading on the computing in the school and supporting with some KS3 English and Maths lessons in the weeks ahead. We are looking forward to welcoming him back to Sunnydown School.

**Mr Lord**

## The Children's Commissioner

The Children's Commissioner has asked us to share this published new guide: [What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives](#). Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

The last time they published a guide like this, the things they wished parents had known: Young people's advice on talking to your child about online sexual harassment, in December 2021, it was to help parents and carers navigate difficult conversations about sexual harassment online. This guide is different in scope, in recognition of the complex, rapidly evolving landscape in which children – and parents – are navigating. It focuses on the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits.

This guide was written with the direct involvement of children in England. It is a reflection of their views. Their office visited schools to speak to teenagers, and spoke to their Youth Ambassadors and Youth Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel to get their expertise on what works and what doesn't work between parents or carers and children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Schools Bulletin regarding support programmes for parents and carers of children with autism

On behalf of Surrey County Council's All Age Autism Strategy, the Autism Outreach Service is coordinating a series of support programmes for parents and carers of children with autism or suspected autism in Surrey.

Each programme includes six sessions of 2½ hours, delivered by experienced professionals through a mix of in-person and online formats. To book, parents must either live in Surrey or have a child who attends a Surrey-based setting. Please see the link below for more information.

<https://surreyeducationsservices.surreycc.gov.uk/Article/181992>

**Mrs Wermig**

### Online Safety

Please see the attached online safety flier '10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators - Essential Online Safety.'

**Mr Cassim**

### Thales

Please read this invitation to Thales' virtual insight event where they will be talking about the opportunities available for apprenticeship roles at Thales across the UK, as well as giving advice on applications and assessment centres.



**Thinking of applying for an Apprenticeship, how about a role at Thales?**

Thales creates advanced technology to help keep people safe and make life easier. We work on things like secure communications, high-tech transportation and smart security systems that protect airports, trains and even your data online. We make travelling safer, and information more secure for everyone. We have a variety of apprenticeship roles, including engineering, manufacturing, project & planning, business, finance, procurement and end user support, starting in September 2026 and applications are open now!

**Want to learn more? Join us for an informative virtual event on Tuesday 20 January from 17.00 – 18.00**

**Our virtual event will include lots of information such as:**

- Thales and our different business areas
- the different future talent programmes available
- the benefits of working for Thales
- hints and tips on our application process
- hear from some of our apprentices

Simply scan the QR code or follow the link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thales-uk-apprentice-virtual-insight-event-tickets-1980096760714?aff=oddttdcreator>

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 The Thales Group  @ThalesCareers

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Building a future we can all trust



<p><b>Thought for the Week</b> (W/C: 5/1/26)</p> <p><b>Welcome Back - Setting Goals for the new year</b></p>	<p><b>Thought for the Week</b> (W/C: 12/1/26)</p> <p><b>The benefits of Diversity</b></p>
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<p><b><u>The Baton</u></b></p> <p><b>Leo Sumsion</b> <i>Mentoring</i></p>
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<p><b><u>Employability Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Eddie Smith</b> <i>Showing initiative</i></p>
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<p><b><u>Sportsmanship Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Frankie McSorley</b></p>
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<p><b><u>Respect Award</u></b></p> <p><b>Kai Bagwell</b></p>
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<b>RICE<sup>3</sup> Awards</b>	
<b>Resilience</b>	<b>Kamauri Craig</b> <b>Zac Picksley</b> <b>Jaden Doorga</b> <b>Blake Pope</b>
<b>Independence</b>	<b>Harrison Williams</b> <b>Harry Origgi-Fernando</b>
<b>Cooperation</b>	<b>Sam Watson</b>

<b><u>Scientist of the Week</u></b>	<p>The recipient of Scientist of Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch</p> <p><b>Harrison Williams</b></p>
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<b><u>Writer of the Week</u></b>	<p>The recipients of Writer of the Week, awarded by Miss Thomson</p> <p><b>KS4</b></p> <p><b>Zac Hoad</b>  <b>Harrison Williams</b>  <i>For commitment to improving English understanding through revision in own time</i></p> <p><b>Thomas Emms</b>  <i>Commitment to improving English understanding through revision in own time</i></p>
<b><u>Chef of the Week</u></b>	<p>The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is</p> <p><b>Ross Smallman</b>  <i>For independence and growing confidence</i></p>
<b><u>Reader of the Week</u></b>	<p>The recipients of Reader of the Week, awarded by Miss Thomson is</p> <p><b>Harry Origgi-Fernando</b>  <i>For his dedication to reading over the festive break</i></p> <p>&amp; awarded by Miss Newcombe</p> <p><b>Kasra Alavi</b>  <i>For his commitment to completing his book</i></p>
<b><u>Musician of the Week</u></b>	<p>The recipient of Musician of the Week, awarded by Mr Smith is</p> <p><b>Ethan Lyons</b></p>


### **House Points**

House Points	
Charlie Histed	1,100 House Points
Noah Atkins	800 House Points
Kai Bagwell	500 House Points
William Elliot	250 House Points
James Titchner	250 House Points
George Cooke	100 House Points

### **Forthcoming Events 2026**

Spring Term 2026	
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Open Morning (9.30am – 11.00am)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Year 11 DofE trip to High Ashhurst
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Half Term
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 10 Savers Croft Residential
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 7 Parents Evening
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Curriculum Evening
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Early finish – 1.30pm
Summer Term 2026	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 9 Bikeability Level 1

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Year 9 Bikeability Level 2
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Open Morning (9.30am – 11.00am)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 10
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 11
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 9
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 7
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Kenley Bike Event - Year 8
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Half Term
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 11 Graduation
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	INSET DAY
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Year 10 Parents Evening
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2026	Sports Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026	End of term (12.30pm finish)




**SURREY  
ARTS**





# KEYBOARD, DRUMS & GUITAR LESSONS


AT **SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL**

Experienced SEN tutor to support  
children with additional needs

For more information contact Surrey Arts:  
T: 01483 519303  
E: [surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyartsmusic@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**[surreycc.gov.uk/music](https://surreycc.gov.uk/music)**



  
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COUNTY COUNCIL