

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

Portley House, 152 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5ED

t: 01883 342281/346502

e: office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk



Friday 9th 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 21st 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://surreyeducationservices.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:

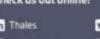
- Thales and our different business areas
- the different future talent programmes available
- the benefits of working for Thales
- hints and tips on our application process
- hear from some of our apprentices

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=oddtdtcreator>

Follow us
Check us out online!

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

Scan Me! 

Thales Group     

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

THALES
Future Ready

Thought for the Week
(W/C: 5/1/26)

Welcome Back -
Setting Goals for the new year

Thought for the Week
(W/C: 12/1/26)

The benefits of Diversity

The Baton

Leo Sumsion
Mentoring

Employability Award

Eddie Smith
Showing initiative

Sportsmanship Award

Frankie McSorley

Respect Award

Kai Bagwell

RICE³ Awards

Resilience

Kamauri Craig
Zac Picksley
Jaden Doorga
Blake Pope

Independence

Harrison Williams
Harry Origgi-Fernando

Cooperation

Sam Watson

Scientist of the Week

The recipient of Scientist of Week, awarded by Mr Cybuch

Harrison Williams

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

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

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

surreycc.gov.uk/music