SJS Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026

WELCOME BACK

Dear Parent / Carer,

It has been an extremely busy start to this academic year; however, the children appear to be settled and the curriculum is now moving forward in all year groups.

Our new Year 3 cohort are now fully fledged members of our school community and seem to have got to grips with the expectations of the school and the routines which are always tricky to begin with.

As always, education works best when it is a collaboration between parents, schools and children – all pulling in the same direction. We look forward to working with you in order to maximise your child's potential during the forthcoming academic year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

- **21** Y4 Money Matters workshop
- **24** Family Fun Run 09:30-11:00
- **25** School Photographs

- **29** PTFA Movie Night 'Minions & Monsters' 15:30-17:15

OCTOBER 2026

- **1** Flu Vaccine
- **1** Book Fair 15:30-16:00

SCHOOL OFFICE

Please be aware that the office is open between **08:30-16:00.**

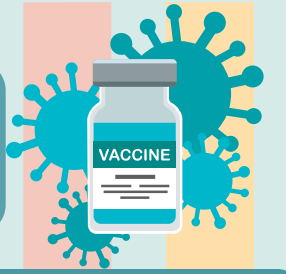
The office email is only monitored between **08:30 - 13:00**

GOVERNOR INTEREST

There may shortly be a vacancy for a Governor at the school. If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the Governing Body or knows anyone who has local links and expertise in any areas which may be beneficial then **please contact Mr Dyson via the School Office email** so that we can retain details on file.

If anyone would like to discuss this opportunity with the current Chair (Annabel Hall) then she will be available at the **Parents Evening on Wednesday 21st October.**
Simply register interest with the Headteacher for an appointment.

Reminders



SCHOOL MEALS

Meals must be booked in advance, they cannot be booked on the day. The cut off time is **midnight the day before.**

If your child attends school without a meal booking, we will phone the parents/ carers and ask you to bring in a packed lunch

Meals **must be paid for in advance** via ParentPay**.**

For children entitled to Free School Meals, the meal will be charged at £0.

Can we please ask parents to check the menu with your child before booking them a school dinner. There are no alternatives if child refuses to eat the meal provided.

Any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact Tracy in the office.

FLU VACCINE

The flu vaccine will be taking place on **Thursday 1st October.**

Please ensure you have completed the online permission form, which the office has emailed out via ParentPay, if you wish for your child to have this by **Friday 28th September.**

COLLECTION

Please can all parents/carers, ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day or after a club.

Teachers have additional commitments such as clubs, staff meetings and training and cannot be delayed.

We will continue to monitor children who are collected late at either the end of the day or from an afterschool club, and parents may be contacted to discuss any concerns.

BENEDICT'S LAW- ALLERGIES

With Benedict's Law taking effect on 1st September , new policies and procedures have been put into place.

If you know that your child has an allergy or there are any changes to your child's allergy, please ensure you inform the school ASAP.

All children with an EpiPen must have

- an allergy action plan written by the doctor who prescribed the EpiPen.
- two in-date adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens or equivalent) at school and available at all times so that staff can respond appropriately in an emergency.

Please check expiry dates regularly and provide replacement medication and updated care plans as needed. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Events

FAMILY FUN RUN

This is an event where children are given the opportunity to do laps of the school field whilst dressed in their favourite outfits. In the past, some children have come as Harry Potter characters, superheroes, sports people, in football kits or as any other creative characters they have so chosen.

It is always lovely to see them using their creativity. Alternately, children can simply run in their PE kits. Please do not spend lots of money on outfits - simply repurpose something they already have.

The **gates open at 09:30** for parents and spectators to sign in. The children will be parading their outfits before running. Please send children to school in normal uniform with their outfits in a bag - we will get them changed after registration. If this creates issues then please contact us and we will work with you to find a solution.

This is one of the school's primary fundraising events – we would be very grateful if parents could try to help their children with sponsorship for this event from family, friends or other known acquaintances.

Any **sponsorship received can be paid to the school through the payment item in ParentPay.** Last year, the children managed to raise **over £1,700 collectively** – this money was used to help with the cost of supplementing the library offer, engaging author visits and many other areas which were outside of the normal school curriculum, thus giving the children experiences which the school would otherwise not be able to afford.

HARVEST FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY

On **Wednesday 14th October**, the school will be holding our annual Harvest Festival assembly. This is a chance for the children to come together as a whole school to give thanks for the food which keeps us healthy and to learn a little about hunger issues which are evident in the world today.

The school is linking once again with **Deal Foodbank** who also serve the local community relevant to sandwich and surrounding areas. If anyone can donate items, then these would be gratefully accepted in the days leading up to the assembly.
Could we ask that any fresh produce donated is brought into the school no earlier than **Tuesday 13th October.** In addition to foodstuffs, the foodbank is always grateful for items such as sanitary and hygiene items too.

BOOK FAIR

The annual Scholastic Book Fair will be open from **15:30 to 16:00** on Thursday 1st October; Friday 2nd October; Monday 5th October and Tuesday 6th October and will be situated either in the School Hall or in the Library area.

This is a **cash free sale** and **all purchases can be made via a QR code accessed on your smart devices** at the point of sale.

Reading

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful children and parents who took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge!

We were absolutely blown away by the creativity and imagination shown in the photographs. The places you came up with to be pictured reading were incredibly inventive. It was fantastic to see children enjoying books in so many different places!

We would also like to say a big thank you to everyone who didn't submit their photograph to Instagram but brought it in when we returned to school. Every entry counted and it was lovely to see so many children getting involved.

This was, without a doubt, our most successful Summer Reading Challenge yet and we are so proud of everyone who took part; your enthusiasm for reading has been fantastic to see!

A massive well done to all of our budding readers and a big thank you to parents and families for supporting and encouraging reading over the summer.

Now we're already looking forward to seeing what you'll come up with for our Christmas Reading Challenge. Where will your books take you next?

PTFA

On **Tuesday 29th September,** the PTFA are holding their first event of this academic year – the Autumn Movie Night. Details have been shared with parents regarding this event and we look forward to seeing as many children as possible.

This is just the first of many opportunities in the School Year which are offered by our wonderful PTFA but these events do not happen without the efforts of a dedicated group of parents.

If any parents are able to offer any assistance either at this event or at any future events then please leave your details either at the School Office (we will pass them on) or simply put a letter / details in the red PTFA postbox in reception at the school. I know that the PTFA would welcome new members and it is only through engagement that organisations such as this are able to continue. The school would be a much poorer place (in all respects) without this body.

Attendance

At Sandwich Junior School, we have high expectations for attendance and punctuality. Regular attendance is essential to a child's academic progress, wellbeing, and overall success at school.

Every session missed can have a significant impact on learning. Our curriculum is progressive, meaning that new knowledge and skills build upon previous learning. When children are absent, they can miss important foundations and key learning experiences, making it more difficult for them to keep pace with their peers. Over time, this can affect both their confidence and self-esteem.

Punctuality is equally important. Children who arrive late miss valuable learning opportunities at the start of the school day, including intervention sessions, reading activities, and spelling work. Establishing a consistent routine helps children feel settled and ready to learn, whereas repeated lateness can contribute to stress and dysregulation.

As a school, we have a duty to monitor attendance, persistent lateness, and unauthorised absences. Where concerns arise, this may lead to further meetings with parents and carers, and in some cases the issuing of a Notice to Improve.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that the school is unable to authorise holidays during term time. Term-time holidays are likely to result in a penalty notice being issued.

Attendance remains a national priority and is closely monitored by both the Department for Education and Ofsted. We therefore ask all parents and carers to support us by ensuring that children attend school every day, arrive on time, and are absent only when they are unwell.

Together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to achieve their full potential.

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- **29th** PTFA Movie Night 'Minions & Monsters 15:30-17:15

OCT 2026

- **1st** Flu Vaccine
- **1st** **2nd** **5th** **6th** Book Fair 15:30-16:00
- **14th** Harvest Festival (Year 3 parents only) 09:30-10:00
- **19th** Year 3 Fashion Design workshop
- **21st** Year 2 Open Morning 09:30 start
- **21st** Parents Evening 16:00-19:00
- **22nd** Parents Evening 15:40-18:00
- **23rd** Last Day of Term 1

NOV 2026

- **3rd** First Day of Term 2