Dates for your diary:

September 2026

3rd School term begins

28th Book Share Lime/Larch 2:40 – 3pm and Hawthorn/Oak 3:10 – 3:30pm

October

5th 1:30 -3pm Open Eve (prospective parents)

12/13th Parent – teacher interviews

19th 3pm Phonics session for parents

19th Be Bright Be Seen

23rd end of half term

November

2nd Pupils return

2nd 3:40 – 5pm Open Eve (prospective parents)

23rd Santa Challenge

December

16th 2:00pm Lime and Larch Parents: Whole School Nine Lessons and Carol Service

17th 2:00pm Hawthorn and Oak parents: Whole School Nine Lessons and Carol Service

18th End of term

January 2026

Tuesday 5th Pupils return

February

8th Book Share Lime/Larch 2:40 – 3pm and Hawthorn/Oak 3:10 – 3:30pm

12th End of half term

22nd Pupils return

March

15th/16th Parent-Teacher Interviews

25th End of term

April

13th Pupils return

16th OPAL Play afternoon

May

w/c 10th Year 6 SATs

w/c 17th Year 2 assessments

28tt End of half term

June

7th Pupils return

w/c 7th Year 4 MTC

w/c 14th Phonics Screening

16-18th Year 6 residential trip

21st Book Share Lime/Larch 2:40 – 3pm and Hawthorn/Oak 3:10 – 3:30pm

July

w/c 5th Year 6 Transition Days

7th Sports Day

9th Reports to parents

Sutton VA Primary School September 2026 Newsletter

'Shine as Lights in the World' Philippians 2:15

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff,

Welcome to this new school year!

Staff and I are very excited for the year ahead and look forward to working together. Teachers share curriculum overviews each term to enable you to share and support your child's learning.

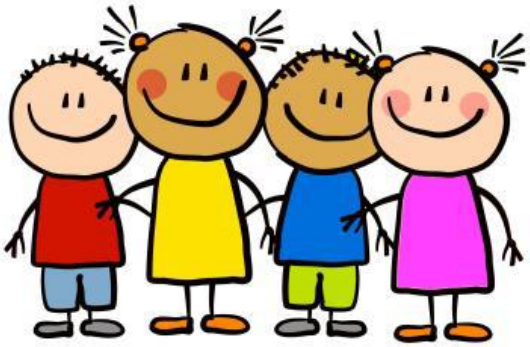
Our parent body is a wonderful resource – if there are topics or areas of the curriculum that are your areas of expertise/experience we would love to hear from you! In the past, parents have shared aspects of their culture to support learning in RE, Music performed by a professional musician, an AI talk from a parent who works in technology.

Please let us know if you would like to share your expertise or culture.

Mrs Lucy Chapman

Head Teacher

Values



'Encourage one another and build each other up.'
Thessalonians 5.11

Our focus this month is Friendship – a fitting Value when starting a school year in new classes and with different groups of children. During this month we will consider the qualities of a good friend and what it means to be a good friend to others. At home you might like to share stories about how you met your friends and some of their actions that have helped to sustain a strong relationship.

Contact us: sutton@suttonprimary.co.uk 01767 260334

Staffing for this year:

The staff at Sutton VA Primary School take their duty of care to act 'in loco parentis' (in the place of parents) very seriously. If ever you feel that this level of care and dedication can be improved please let us know, but similarly, if you feel a member of staff is just doing a great job or has gone 'above and beyond', a quick word to let them know will mean so much to them. Please see our website to see a list of roles and responsibilities and for the most efficient way to communicate with staff:
www.suttonprimary.co.uk/Communication_and_raising_concerns_grid.pdf

Lime Class: Miss Laughlin Class teacher with Miss Austin and Miss Anderson teaching assistants

Larch Class: Mrs Whitfield and Mrs Keen, Class teachers with Mrs Tack teaching assistant,

Hawthorn Class: Mrs Ross Class teacher with Mrs Lewis and Mrs Hammett teaching assistants

Oak Class: Mr Hodgson, Class teacher with Mrs Emmerson, Miss Jess, Mrs Khalique and Mrs Davenport teaching assistants

PE/Active Learning: Mr Passman will deliver PE/Active Maths on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Children should wear their PE kit on these days

Lime: Friday

Larch: Wednesday and Friday

Hawthorn: Wednesday and Thursday

Oak: Wednesday and Thursday

Staff roles:

Mrs Chapman is Head teacher, SENDCO and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Ross is Senior Teacher, Deputy Safeguarding Lead and will deputise in Mrs Chapman's absence

Miss Taylor is Finance Assistant and is in the Office on Monday and Tuesday

Mrs Page is Office Manager and will be in the Office Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Mrs Harper is Catering Assistant and Early Morning Club Leader

Governors

A list of Governors and their link roles and responsibilities can be found on our website at:
https://www.suttonprimary.co.uk/Our-Governors/

2025 - 26 Fundraising

School Parliament has supported 3 charities in the past academic year.

The first charity was a local one – The King's Arms charity in Bedford.

Sutton children often mention homelessness in their prayers, & so it seemed only right that the children support this charity in the local area. School Parliament hosted a spooky day for all to enjoy & raised **£321.** Many thanks for the many pumpkin donations received.

Our second charity was a national charity. Great Ormond Street Hospital remains one of the leading children's hospitals in the world and has supported some of our school families. A biscuit decorating & non-uniform day raised **£192.**

The international charity that completed our year of fundraising was Christian Aid. This charity caught the children's hearts as they wanted to support families & particularly children affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela. The children chose to organise a sponsored 'travel' around the school grounds in optional 'London marathon' costumes. A very wonderful **£602** was raised for this cause.

On behalf of School Parliament, I would like to thank all of you who have supported our fundraising efforts over the past year. We will see what fundraising ideas the children have this year!

Thank you again, Gaynor Ross

USEFUL INFORMATION

Welcome to the Central Bedfordshire SEND Local Offer

If you have a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), then think of the Local Offer as all of the services and support available to them and you as a parent or carer. Our Local Offer website contains information about education, health and care services, voluntary agencies, leisure activities and support groups.

https://localoffer.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/centralbedfordshire/directory/home.page

Attendance Matters and Absence Reporting:

Our attendance target for all pupils is 100%. In the past, our achieved attendance rates placed our school in the top 10% nationally, we hope this continues as it is through regular school attendance pupils achieve their fullest potential. Overall, outcomes for pupils in our school are above national and local levels and this is down to many factors, attendance being one.

Attendance monitoring and registers:
All pupils' attendance is regularly monitored by school staff, Governors and our Local Authority School Attendance Officer. **Every opportunity will be used to convey to pupils and their parents or carers, the importance of regular and punctual attendance. We will do this through; the school newsletter, individual letters where a pupil's attendance falls below our target and referrals to the local authority where attendance is causing a concern (where attendance is at or below 90%) or if pupils of Statutory Age (the day they turn 5) are taken out of school during term time.**

Register codes:
Please be aware that where a pupil is on a school's roll, the school is expected to be aware of where they are on any school day. As a result, we are required to 'code' the register twice daily. We are regularly held to account on our coding, as registers are legal documents. Where a pupil's attendance is at or below 90% the Local Authority are made aware. From this trigger, we cannot code non-attendance for illness or medical appointments without evidence that suggests the child cannot be in school – see below.

If your child is not attending school:
Parents/Carers must contact the school on the first day and any subsequent days of absence. Following *any* absence parents/carers are asked to write a letter of explanation, which is kept on file. As explained above, school staff are required to 'code' the register. If your child's attendance is at or below 90% an absence can only be authorised if a satisfactory explanation and evidence is offered - this may include medical evidence such as presecriptions or appointment cards (not medical certificates).

Holidays or days away, taken during term time cannot be authorised unless the school is made aware of exceptional circumstances. The fundamental principles for defining exceptional are *rare, significant and unavoidable*, which means the event could not reasonably be scheduled at another time. Circumstances where absences may be regarded as exceptional will vary from school to school and family to family.

We encourgage you to send your child into school with minor ilnesses such as colds and coughs. As a benchmark, consider whether a medical practitioner such as a GP or Nurse, would advise you to keep your

child off school. Please be reminded/made aware that all of our teaching assistants and midday staff have first aid qualifications – if your child is unwell at school they can assess whether home is the best place for them.

We seek to work together to enable all pupils to achieve 100% attendance in school. For more details on this, please read our Attendance Policy via the school website.

Traffic and parking at school drop off/collection

We encourage our pupils to take some exercise as part of their journey to and from school through Active Travel. Whilst many of you live too far to walk the whole journey to school, parking away from the school and walking or scootering some of the distance is not only a great way to keep active but also reduces pollution near our school and ensures those that really need to park close by can do so. If you use the pub car park, **this should be for short drops**. Please ensure your engine is turned off.
Our staggered collection times are as follows:

3:15pm Lime and Larch Classes
3:30-3:35pm Hawthorn and Oak Classes
Siblings in both phases, should be collected at 3:30pm

Please show consideration to the residents of Sutton when dropping off and collecting your child from school. We also ask you to use Church Field on a Thursday to avoid parking on the road near the Church.

Thank you for your support in this.

At Sutton School we promote healthy lifestyles – diet, physical and mental health, fitness and internet safety through; PE, PSHE, Science lessons, the Sutton Challenge Award, extra-curricular football club as well as through class discussions and Collective Worship. We ask that you support the school and assist your child in making healthy choices by providing healthy snacks and lunch boxes. **Please also remember that we have pupils with nut allergies so ask that snacks and lunch boxes are nut-free.** For some hints and tips visit: http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-eating.aspx

Sutton VA Primary School is a recognised '**Safe Space**'. Mrs Chapman and Miss Jess have trained to be Domestic Abuse Responders. If you need to talk to someone about what is happening in your relationship because you are afraid of someone you live with or an ex-partner, our school is a safe space.

Contact information

Please keep school up dated on your contact details. It is very important that we are able to reach you or your chosen contacts in an emergency, if your child becomes unwell or has an accident. Your work place and/or number may have changed or you may need to update the emergency contacts for your child. Changes should be made in writing and emailed to the School Office at sutton@suttonprimary.co.uk

Please use the following emails to contact your child's class teacher:
Miss Laughlin l.laughlin@suttonprimary.co.uk
Mrs Whitfield s.whitfield@suttonprimary.co.uk
Mrs Keen f.keen@suttonprimary.co.uk
Mrs Ross g.ross@suttonprimary.co.uk
Mr Hodgson t.hodgson@suttonprimary.co.uk

Update from All Saints' Church

Hello everyone,

For those I have yet to meet I am Rev. Alex Wheatley. I'm Rector for a team of churches which includes All Saints Sutton, a church with which your school has very strong and happy links! For our returning families welcome back, I look forward to seeing you all soon.

I thought that at the start of a new school year it would be good to write about our joint Shine Together service and tell you about some of the things we can offer you and your families.

Shine Together Service

Our wonderful Shine Together Service on a **Thursday afternoon** starts at **2:45pm for adults** (and any little ones they bring) for a 'Thought for the Week' before the school children join us at 3pm to continue the service which they help lead.

The earlier part at 2:45 is a time for you to have a think amidst busy family life!
It is of course optional, and I appreciate that for some of our parents a 10 minute church event might be a bit daunting, but let me assure that its quite relaxed and we're very keen to welcome you to what we hope you will think of as your church. (Equally we always understand if parents are running a little late).

School pick up on a Thursday is therefore from church, though we strongly encourage you to **park on 'Church Field'** just next to the Old Rectory where some playground equipment is. (Please note that one end of the field is open to Potton Brook so children should be supervised). If a child is not picked up by 3:40 he/she will be brought back to school by school staff. To help with crowd control we ask that you come into church by the main door and then exit by the north door opposite.

Activities for You and Your Family

Because there are good connections between Church and School, we often try to let you know of events coming up in your church via the school newsletter. Here are details of our regular events:

Afternoon Tea! - *First Wednesday of the Month, 3pm-4:30pm*
These are a sort of community café for both the village and school communities. All are welcome to join us for tea, coffee and of course cakes! The next ones are as follows: Wednesday 7 October; Wednesday 4 November; Wednesday 2 December. *(Due to the cold weather we then take a break till March!)*

Breakfast Church - *Every Second Sunday of the Month, 10:00am*
Here we gather for a meal and an informal service with prayers and songs. There is then a choice between an informal discussion on the theme or craft activity or both! This is a warm family atmosphere with good coffee, good food and good fellowship

Sunday Morning Services
With the exception of Breakfast Church (see above) we have our **main Sunday service** at **9am**. You are of course very welcome to come along!

Church Open for You
We are committed to keeping the church open for people to use for quiet time, including our school families.

In addition to these monthly initiatives there are also other events throughout the year, such as the annual **Duck Race and Plant Sale** in May, plays, concerts and more. We will keep you posted on these via the school newsletter.

Our Sister Churches and What They Can Offer You

All Saints is part of a wider team of churches which includes St. Mary's in Potton and St. John the Baptists in Cockayne Hatley. Therefore, we will also often include things from these churches as well. The main one to tell you about is:

Friends & Family: ***10:30am, 1st Sunday of the Month, St. Mary's Potton***
These are family style services geared around Bible stories, crafts and quite often cake as well! If you enjoy Shine Together you will really enjoy Family and Friends.

Your Generous Donations & the SASH Project

Part of the Shine Together service includes a collection. We are very grateful for all the support we receive. If you wish to give, we provide your child (via their book bag) with a small white envelope into which they can put coins.

At the moment the money we collect at Shine Together is going towards the Save All Saints Heritage (or SASH for short). Despite what the name might suggest this project is not just about restoration with a focus on things past. On the contrary, this project is about making the church space more appropriate for the present and for the future and includes a 'sub-project' to reorder the seating in the church to make it more useable.

I hope that brings our new families up to speed, but if you have any questions don't be afraid to ask. I can be reached at

alex.wheatley.rector@gmail.com
01767 764062.
(Please be aware I'm not contactable on Mondays)

Here is a prayer to begin the new school year:

Father God
Some of us are excited
while some of us are anxious;
some of us can remember last year's lessons
while some of us will need a bit of time;
some of us are full of beans
while some of us have cooler heads.
We thank you that whoever we are
and whatever the future holds,
we are together in your school and in your church.

Amen.

Blessings,
Rev. Alex Wheatley