



Hassocks Infant School

NEWSLETTER NO. 5 - May 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Summer is finally here! We are all keeping our fingers and toes tightly crossed that the sunshine is here to stay! Now that the weather is warmer, we will be making the most of our outdoor area. Children will be using the field at playtimes and lunchtimes and there will be plenty of outdoor learning opportunities. Do remember to send children into school with named water bottles and sun hats! Children also need sun screen applied before they attend school if it is sunny.

The summer term is always an exciting term and as ever, we have lots of exciting events planned. These are always published on our school website and can be found on the "Diary Dates" page. Do keep an eye on our Facebook page too – we don't use this to share information but it's a great way to see what children have been up to in school.

Adrian Bates-Holland, Headteacher

Chartwell Competition



Chartwells held a competition to design a flower garden for bees - Bee Ready for the Bees

We had so many wonderful entries, well done to everyone who took part.

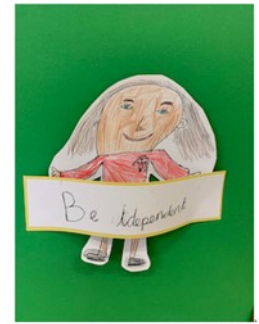


Be Independent!

Our value this half term is **be independent**.

This has been a focus in assemblies and classes. All children have been thinking about ways that they can be independent. This is a great value to practise and talk about at home...

- Encouraging children to get dressed independently at home
- Children might try a new skill independently
- Tidying toys away after playtime without being asked
- As children get older they may complete some of their home learning independently and for increasing periods



Mini Marathon

On Friday 19th April the children got running! In the full spirit of the London Marathon each class was set a challenge to run either 2, 3 or 4 laps of the Year Two playground. Collectively the children of our school ran a full 26.2 miles and raised a whopping £1,541 for our school! What an achievement!

Every child was presented with a beautiful sustainable wooden winner's medal to mark how brilliantly they had all done. There were tired legs and smiley faces all round! Thank you so much to all involved and to Jenny from JASC for 'running' the day so fabulously.



Watches

We have seen a number of children bringing smart watches into school recently. Some of these watches are quite expensive. Watches are a great way to help children to learn to tell the time. However, smart watches and similar devices such as Fit-Bits are a real distraction in the classroom. If your child has a smart watch or Fit Bit, please do not send this into school.

If you are sending your child to school with a watch, we ask parents to ensure:

- That this is an analogue watch with hands – these are used when children begin learning to tell the time
- Watches are not smart watches or similar
- The value of watches does not exceed £15

Please be aware that if your child does have a watch in school then it is their responsibility to keep this safe. We cannot be held responsible for any watches which are lost or damaged.

Upcoming West Sussex County Council road works starting taking place on Keymer Road starting from Monday May 13th

Drainage investigation of the existing system in the Keymer Road area will start on **13th May** and is expected to take **2 weeks** to complete.

2 and 3 way traffic lights will be in place at the upper part of Keymer Road (near the entrances to Chancellors Park and Woodland Road).

For more information please see Parent Mail sent on 8th May, thank you.

Madagascar Update

We are thrilled to share Madagascar news which we received from Nicole Donaldson, Director General of the Madagascar Development Fund.

I am pleased to tell you that the inauguration of your pre-school classroom at Antanimarina Primary School took place on 15 March – much earlier than originally programmed.

The inauguration began in the usual way, with the raising of the Malagasy flag, the singing of the National Anthem, and a series of speeches. A traditional song of thanks and welcome was performed by the school children followed before a Village Elder who thanked the donors who had made this project possible, and expressed his appreciation to “our dear friends in a far distant land”. He ended his speech with the message “Education is the best legacy”. He encouraged all parents to send their children to school explaining that Education was the main path way to development and growing prosperity.

The Mayor of Antanimarina said how happy he was to attend the inauguration of this “beautiful new classroom”. He wanted to “thank Friends of Hassocks Infant School, who provided funding for this beautiful new classroom, and making our dreams come true. Please tell our dear friends from overseas how grateful we are. We promise to look after this beautiful gift, and hope that your generosity will have a good and positive effect on the lives and studies of the children of Antanimarina”.



The Regional Director then cut a ribbon in front of the new classroom and unveiled commemorative plaques in English and Malagasy before leading the guests and the authorities to visit the new preschool classroom and afterwards to a sit down meal of rice and meat organised by the villagers.

My colleagues and I share the community’s pride in their new building and greatly appreciate your support for MDF’s work. Working together we have given the parents and children of Antanimarina the hope and opportunity of a better, more prosperous future for their children. Thank you.



School Uniform

As the weather is getting warmer, some of you may be purchasing new clothes in preparation for summer. We do see many variations of our uniform and we wanted to remind all of you of the expectations for school uniform which is summarised here:

Grey pinafore dress, skirt, shorts or trousers

Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan

White blouse, shirt or polo shirt

Pink/white or red/white checked / striped summer dress

All items should be **clearly labelled with the child's name**.



Our full uniform policy can be found here:

<https://www.hassocks.w-sussex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1499&type=pdf>

Please note that children are expected to wear plain black, closed toe shoes to school – children should not be wearing flip flops, boots or sandals.

Do remember to name all of your children's clothing – it is a huge challenge to reunite lost items with their owners if they are not named!

Forest School Update



We're excited to have a forest school update for all of you! Mrs Daniel has started training to become a Forest School Leader. This is a big commitment in terms of her time but we are hoping that she will have completed training to restart our Forest School programme in the next academic year. We are very much looking forward to seeing our Forest School area back in use – keep an eye on future newsletters for further updates.



In the meantime, we are planning lots of opportunities to work outdoors and using our outdoor area. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful space which offers lots of great experiences to enhance children's learning. Here are some examples of lessons which have recently taken place outside...



Update from Reception

Ready, Set, Grow!

Last half term, the children in Reception were very busy in our outside area planting lots of seeds. We planted radishes, sweet peas, lettuce, potatoes, beans and strawberries!



We were also lucky enough to go on a walk to the local woods! We noticed some signs of spring, including blossom on the trees! We even had some time to play in the nearby park.

Thank you to all the parents that helped on our walk!

Update from Year Two

Year Two have begun our new, exciting topic about Kenya! We investigated clues relating to our key text and made predictions about what the story could be about. We were very intrigued by the diary and had lots of fun playing with the noisy thunder stick!

In music, we have been enjoying learning how to play the recorder using notes B, A and G. We learnt and performed hit classics such as 'Hot Cross Buns' and 'Little Fly!' We then worked in small groups to compose our own original scores for our friends to enjoy.



Update from Year One

We have had a busy few weeks. Our term started with a strange discovery!
We found a Bog baby in the forest area!

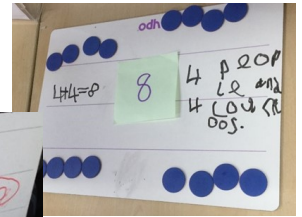
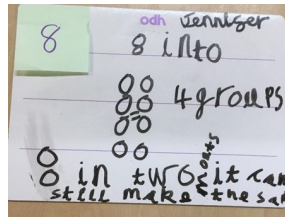
We are now caring for Bog babies in our classroom!



Q Can you ask questions?
Has it lost its parents?
Is it endangered?
Does it hibernate?
Is it nocturnal?
Does it like to dig?
could/
Can it fly?
Does it migrate?
Can it climb?
Does it live somewhere
dark?
What kind of creature is it
Is it a carnivore?



In maths we are looking at multiplication and we have been looking at making equal groups.



We have been learning about the continents of the world. Our big question was "What are the seven continents of the world like?"

We explored maps and created posters and booklets to tell other people about the continents.

