



# Hassocks Infant School

## NEWSLETTER NO. 1 - September 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to all of our families! We've enjoyed a positive start to the autumn term and we're so proud of the children who have settled back into school perfectly. We'd also like to say hello to all of our new Reception families. Throughout the school we have spent a lot of time familiarising the children with classroom routines and we've had a whole school focus on our updated behaviour policy. I've included some information about this policy in our newsletter. Do ask your child about this – it's a great way to reinforce links between home and school.

This term is always a busy term and we have lots of exciting activities in the calendar. We have included some key dates with this newsletter. We do hope that you are able to join us for many of these activities.

Christmas may seem like a long time away but we're already busy planning for this which will come around very quickly! This year, we have made some changes to our arrangements for Christmas performances. Organising a performance with 90 children in a year group is a big task! It also means that a lot of curriculum time is lost in the second half of the Autumn term – this is time which can be used for learning. In the past, some children may have sat through weeks of rehearsals and this isn't always a productive use of the children's time. For this reason, we will have two performances at Christmas this year:

**Reception Nativity:** Our Reception classes will have a simple nativity play for all parents. These will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm.

**Year 2 Carol Service:** This year, our Year 2's will have a simple carol service which will take place in the United Reformed Church. These performances will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am

Please be aware that due to limited space, we will invite families to one performance only. We don't have the space to comfortably seat families attending both performances. We do politely ask families to only attend on the dates for their class. Further information is included in the calendar.

Our Year 1's won't have a Christmas performance this year. However, children in Year 1 will be leading our Spring festival later in the school year and will have an opportunity to perform and to share their learning with families. Our Year 1's will also be having a Grandparents Day during the summer term which will be an opportunity for Year 1's to perform for their Grandparents.





Adrian Bates-Holland, Headteacher

### Reception 6 Weeks In Meeting

This term we would like to invite our new Reception parents and carers to our '6 weeks in' meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 9am. You will find out more about what the six weeks has looked like for your child, and Miss Mitchell, our Reception lead will be on hand to answer any questions you have. Mrs Stedman and Mrs Nash will also be there to talk to you about their part in supporting your children. Please do join us if you can, drinks and biscuits will be provided!

## Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome some new members of staff to the Hassocks Team

			
<b>Miss Jenny Bowers</b> Specialist Support Assistant Reception	<b>Mrs Lana Malet</b> Midday Meals Supervisor Year 1	<b>Mrs Jen McDowell</b> Learning Support Assistant Year 2	<b>Miss Imogen Wainwright</b> Class Teacher Year 2  Miss Wainwright will be covering Mrs Soan's maternity leave. We are expecting Mrs Soan to return in the summer term.

At the end of last term, we announced some changes to our Teaching Assistant Support. Due to some changes throughout the school, we have been able to allocate an additional member of staff to our Year 2 team. All of our Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants have a class base, where they will spend a lot of their time. However, we are still planning for Teaching Assistants in Year 1 and 2 to work across the year group, sharing their skills and expertise and supporting children in a number of classes.

All of our teachers have ½ a day out of class when they are covered for their Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) Time. This alternates between mornings and afternoons on a fortnightly timetable. Recently qualified teachers also have some additional time out of class to focus on their professional development (ECT Time). This year, the following staff will be providing cover for teacher's PPA and ECT time:

<b>Reception</b>	Willow Class Mrs Nash	Beech Class Mrs Stedman (PPA Time) Mrs Knight (ECT Time – Alternate Thursdays)	Cherry Class Mrs Daniel / Mr Everett
<b>Year 1</b>	Ash Class Mrs Nash (PPA Time) Mrs Knight (ECT Time – Alternate Thursdays)	Chestnut Class Mrs Stedman	Apple Class Mrs Daniel / Mr Everett
<b>Year 2</b>	Elm Class Mrs Nash	Holly Class Mrs Stedman Mrs Knight (ECT Time - Thursdays)	Oak Class Mrs Joyce

Our full staffing structure is available on our school website and can be found [here](#).

## Job Vacancy

We still have some vacancies to fill and are currently recruiting for midday-meals supervisors, to cover on a part-time basis. If you are interested in finding out more about these vacancies, then please speak to the office.



## Building Update

A big thank you goes to Dan, Paul and Graham who kindly gave up their time to paint the covered area on our front playground. During the summer holidays, a new astro-turf surface was added to make this an inviting space for children to use at playtimes and throughout the school day.

This space has been a focus for fundraising from FoHIS over the past year and it is now looking wonderful. We are now waiting for a stage area to be added and some resources to be delivered. Our thanks go to FoHIS and all of our families who worked so hard to raise the funds to refurbish this area.



We've also been incredibly busy over the school holiday and parts of our school have been transformed! Our Reception classrooms have all been repainted and look fresh and inviting.

Holly Class, one of our oldest classrooms in the school has been transformed – a new suspended ceiling was added, energy efficient lights were installed and the carpets have been replaced. The roof in this part of the building, which was prone to leaking has also been replaced.

We will be starting our next project during the October half term holiday and the toilet block outside of the hall is being stripped and completely replaced. We are very much looking forward to completing this work as these toilets are desperately in need of a refurbishment.



## **Reminders and Information from the School Office**

### **Collection Arrangements**

Please do keep the office informed about collection arrangements, either telephone 01273 842549 or email [office@hassocksis.com](mailto:office@hassocksis.com) before 3pm if it is not your regular contact/s picking up from school that day.

We hold a list of those adults with permission to collect your child so please do keep us updated with these details & changes. Thank you.

### **After-School Clubs**

Collection from all after-school clubs are made from the front playground. Please make contact with the club directly with regards to who is collecting your children.

### **Contact Details**

Should any details change, such as address, telephone numbers or emails, please update the office so we can update our records. Thank you.

This is particularly important with emails and ParentMail.

### **Car Parking**

Unfortunately we have already received a number of complaints from local residents regarding car parking at drop off and pick up times. Please take notice of road markings in Chancellors Park, Downs View Road and the surrounding area.

If you do need to drive to school please consider using the public car parks in the village and walking into school. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Medicines and Illness**

Please be reminded that we can only hold prescribed medication in school. This needs to be in the original packaging with the prescription label.

Please can medicines be brought into the office, where paperwork will need to be completed. Please do not leave any medication, sun cream, hand cream or lip balms in book bags or with your child. Thank you.

The NHS has useful guidance for parents about when to keep children off school. Please click the link [here](#) to see guidance on is my child too ill for school?

### **Chartwell Meal Ordering**

Ordering of school lunches are made on ParentPay. You are able to order several weeks in advance, with the cut off for ordering and amending meals being the Thursday evening for the week 10 days following.

If a meal has not been ordered (and your child does not have a packed lunch), please be aware they will be offered a jacket potato with the topping of the day.

### **Morning Drop Off and Collection**

Just a reminder to all of our families that children should remain with their adult at all times at drop off and collection times. For health and safety reasons, children should be supervised until they go into their classroom / leave the school premises. Whilst it is very tempting, children should not be using the play equipment at these times.

We also ask that an adult accompanies our Year 2 child(ren) onto the front playground each morning. Adults should remain with children until the front door opens and children are safely inside the school building. Thank you for your support with this.

## Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium funding is funding from the government, given to the school to help children from low income families. The money is spent by the school to help these pupils academically and socially. This funding makes a significant difference to the school and helps us to ensure that every child receives the very best support during their time at our school.

We are able to claim valuable pupil premium funding if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

[Universal Credit](#) (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

[Income Support](#)

Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)

Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)

Support under [Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)

The guaranteed element of state [Pension Credit](#)

[Child Tax Credit](#) (provided you're not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#) and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)

[Working Tax Credit run-on](#) - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If your child is eligible, please visit the West Sussex County Council website to complete an application: <https://familyinfoservice.westsussex.gov.uk/SynergyWeb/Enquiries/Citizen/FreeSchoolMeals.aspx>. If you require any support with the application, please contact the school office who will be able to assist you.

## Forest School Update

We're excited to announce that our Forest School is back in action! Mrs Daniel is due to finish her training to become a Forest School leader.



Forest school will take place every Thursday. Each class in Year 1 and Year 2 will attend for ½ a day each week over a 6 week period. Please keep an eye on ParentMail – we will let you know when it is your child's turn.

Information has been sent for Year 2.



## Keep us Posted

We just wanted to give you a reminder to let us know about any significant changes in your child's life. It's helpful for us to know when things change, so we can support children as needed. For example; a new baby in the home may mean you have less time for home reading, or your child may be extra tired from waking in the night. We can support and give a little more TLC when needed if you keep us posted.

## New Behaviour Policy

At the end of last term, we included an update on our new behaviour policy which has now been introduced throughout the school.

We have simplified our school rules into three, memorable rules:

- Be Ready
- Be Safe
- Be Respectful

Throughout the school, we have introduced the three new rules to the children. Our Hassocks Heroes help all of the children to remember our three rules and have been warmly welcomed by all of the children throughout the school.

		
<p><b>Ready Rex</b></p> <p>Ready Rex reminds us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be ready to learn</li> <li>Try our best</li> <li>Remember everything that I need</li> </ul>	<p><b>Respectful Rabbit</b></p> <p>Respectful Rabbit reminds us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have lovely manners</li> <li>Treat everybody with kindness</li> <li>Respect other people's differences</li> <li>Look after our school environment</li> <li>Listen carefully to others</li> </ul>	<p><b>Safe Spike</b></p> <p>Safe Spike reminds us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use kind words and actions</li> <li>Tell a trusted adult if something is worrying me</li> <li>Keep our school environment tidy and safe</li> </ul>

All of our staff team will be looking for children who are working hard to follow these rules. We have revised our reward systems used throughout the school and the following systems are used by all staff members to praise children for great behaviour:

<p><b>Verbal Praise</b></p>	<p><b>Hassocks Hero Stickers</b></p>	<p><b>Visiting a Senior Leader, Headteacher or Teddy, our School Dog</b></p>
<p>Verbal praise is given regularly by all staff. This includes: teachers, senior leaders, teaching assistants, office staff, premises staff, midday meals supervisors and agency staff. We aim for verbal praise to be clear and sincere. We always try to link this to our school rules.</p>	<p>Hero stickers are awarded for children consistently following our school rules.</p> <p>If your child comes home with a sticker, do ask them what they have done to earn it.</p>	<p>Children can visit a senior leader or the Headteacher for praise and to celebrate positive behaviour or great learning.</p>

Hassocks Heroes Award	Class Jar	Postcard or Phone Call Home
<p>Upto two children from each class are selected for a Hassocks Heroes certificate which is shared in assembly on Friday. The certificate is taken home with the child to celebrate with parents.</p> <p>These awards replace the leaves which were previously shared.</p>	<p>Pom-poms are earned by the class for positive behaviour and learning. They are issued by all staff in school and lead to a treat for the whole class, e.g. 10 minutes of extra playtime, extra PE or biscuits and squash.</p>	<p>Achievements or exceptional behaviour may be celebrated with parents / carers by sending a postcard home or making a phone call.</p> <p>Please don't worry if we try to call you – we may be calling to celebrate something wonderful that your child has achieved!</p>

For further information about our behaviour policy, please visit our school website [here](#)

## Parenting Support

### After School Dysregulation

Picture the scene: your child comes out of school and the teacher says they've behaved like the perfect child all day, but the moment you get home they have a complete meltdown. Your child may scream, shout, lash out, sulk or be generally dysregulated.

If that scene is familiar to you, you're not alone. This type of behaviour is what some psychologists refer to as '*after-school restraint collapse*' and it's not unusual. It happens because your child has been busy managing their emotions all day as they navigate the complexities of school life. When they get home, that's their safe space to let it all out!

The BBC Bitesize 'Parents' Toolkit' has been speaking to educational and child psychologist *Dr Anisa-Ree Moses*, for some tips on how to support these outbursts of emotions after school. This article can be found online [here](#).

### Parent Online Workshops

The NHS Psychology in Schools Team in Norfolk and Suffolk run a program of parent workshops throughout the year to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. All the workshops are recorded for you to watch at any time.

The topics covered are:

- managing anxiety in your child
- low mood
- sleep
- self-harm
- eating difficulties
- challenging behaviour
- trauma
- bereavement
- supporting children to manage big feelings

More information about each workshop, plus links to the videos on YouTube, can be found online here: <https://www.nsft.nhs.uk/parent-workshops/>