



# Hassocks Infant School

## NEWSLETTER NO. 4 - January 2026



To all of our families,

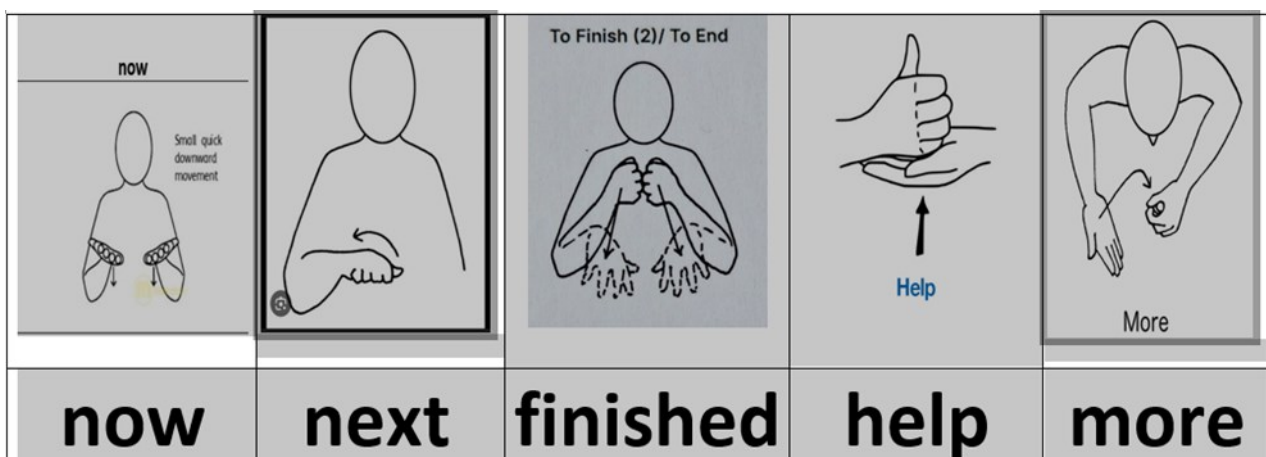
We are now almost half way through this school year – the weeks are racing by very quickly. We've enjoyed a busy half term and we hope that this newsletter provides a helpful insight into some of the learning which has taken place in the school over the past few weeks.

After the half term break, we will be holding our parent consultation meetings. These meetings are a good opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher to find out about their achievements in class, as well as their next steps. These meetings will take place in school, rather than online. Do keep an eye out for the ParentMail which will provide details on how to book an appointment.

Adrian Bates-Holland, Head Teacher

### **SEN/D and Pupil Premium Updates**

**Makaton-** The children have been busy learning key Makaton signs, and we now have a sign of the week each week in school. We have been very impressed with how quickly the children have been learning these and using them across the school. Our sign of the week is displayed by the office. Here are some of the signs we have been learning:



**SEN/D Paperwork-** We have a new format for SEN/D paperwork. If your child has an Individual Support Plan or a One Page Profile, we will be moving these over to our new system. This means that you will be able to view these via a link in your email. Please ask your child's Class Teacher if you have any questions.

**Pupil Premium-** If your child is eligible for means tested free school meals, we can fund one club for one term in an academic year. Please speak to the office or email [senco@hassocksis.com](mailto:senco@hassocksis.com) if you would like any help or more information on this. To check your child's eligibility for means tested free school meals, please click the link [here](#).

## Safeguarding & Internet Safety – Information for Parents

Keeping children safe is a shared responsibility between school and home. As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we would like to share some information with parents about **online safety** and how to support children in using technology safely and positively.

### Safer Internet Day

**Safer Internet Day 2026** will take place on **Tuesday 10 February 2026**

This annual event promotes the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. The 2026 theme focuses on helping children make **smart and safe choices online**, including understanding new technologies such as AI. As usual we will be taking part in Safer Internet Day – whilst the children learn about screen and online safety through our computing curriculum – this event is another opportunity to re-cap on some key safety themes.

You can find out more here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026>

### How Parents Can Support Internet Safety at Home

Even at a young age, children may access the internet through tablets, phones, smart TVs or games consoles. Small steps can make a big difference:

- **Talk regularly** with your child about what they enjoy doing online and encourage them to tell you if something worries or upsets them.
- **Explore the internet together** where possible — this helps you understand what your child is using and builds trust.
- **Use parental controls and privacy settings** on devices and apps to help limit access to inappropriate content.
- **Explain in simple terms** that not everything they see online is real or safe, and that they should always ask an adult if they are unsure.
- **Reassure your child** that they can always talk to you or a trusted adult if they see something that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Helpful parent guides and advice are available here:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

### Our Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child, or need some advice around challenging situations at home as well as in school please come and speak to someone in our safeguarding team.



**Kamilya Stedman**  
DSL / Deputy Head



**Adrian Bates-Holland**  
DDSL / Head Teacher



**Alison Green**  
DDSL / SENCO

We are here to help, here is just a reminder of who we are.

## Summer Art Gallery

We are pleased to be planning a school art gallery taking place this spring and would love to invite everyone to come along and celebrate the children's work.

Children in every year group will be creating high-quality artwork to showcase their practical skills and developing artistic abilities. Each child's artwork will be framed, displayed, and available to purchase at the Parent Consultations on the 25th & 26th February, through FOHIS.

All classes will be using the animation *In the Tallgrass* by Erin Anfinson as inspiration, with each year group exploring the use of colour in different ways.

We look forward to welcoming families and friends to enjoy and celebrate the children's creativity.

Miss Barrett



## Reception Update

### Forest School

Reception have started visiting Forest School on a Monday afternoon. Half a class will visit each week, and are taking part in activities such as bug hunting, mud painting, scavenger hunts, tree rubbings, weaving and cloud watching.

### Library

Reception have also begun visiting the library each week. They enjoy listening to a story and choosing a book to take home.



### Post box walk

Before the holidays, the children were very excited to walk to our local postbox, to deliver some very important letters. They worked hard to write a list and loved taking on the challenge of putting the letters in the postbox themselves!

## Year 1 Visit to Hassocks Community Veg Patch

Year 1 had a wonderful time visiting Hassocks Community Veg Patch, our local community vegetable garden, what a fantastic learning experience it was!

The Patch is a volunteer-run growing project in our village, which we are using to support our science curriculum, particularly noticing and observing seasonal changes across the year. This autumn term marked the start of our journey, and we will be visiting every term until the end of the year to see how the Patch changes.

The children took part in a fun scavenger hunt, spotting signs of the season, before finishing with a snack and a story. They loved learning outdoors and exploring our local community.



## Year 2 News!

We have had a very exciting and busy term so far. When we returned to school, we were amazed to discover a mysterious nest on the playground. This sparked lots of curiosity and discussion as we investigated what might have happened. Our mystery was soon solved when we received letters from the mischievous Tyrannosaurus Drip, who has asked us to rewrite his story. The children have been incredibly enthusiastic and creative, and we can't wait to share their wonderful writing with you at the end of the term – watch this space!

In our history learning, we have been researching Mary Anning and discovering why she is such an important figure to remember. We have loved learning about her life, her discoveries, and the significant impact she had on our understanding of fossils. The children have also enjoyed finding out about the skills needed to be a successful palaeontologist and linking these to their own learning and curiosity.

This term, we have also started learning to play the recorder. The children have shown great focus and perseverance as they develop their musical skills, and they are becoming more confident with each lesson. We are really looking forward to sharing our newfound musical talents with the rest of the school in an assembly at the end of the term.



Parent Helpers!

We would love to invite parents and carers to support our children with their learning. If you have some free time, you could help as a reading volunteer, or, if reading isn't your thing, support small maths groups in KS1.

We are always grateful for extra adult help in school, and we are now extending our volunteer opportunities to include maths support as well. If you, or anyone you know, would be able to help on a regular basis, please let the school office know.

### Every Day is a Reading Day!

Reading with your child is one of the most important (and enjoyable) things you can do at home. Just a few minutes each day makes a huge difference. When children cuddle up and listen to stories, they begin to see books as something comforting, fun and exciting.

In school, we read to the children every day. They love having a say too, so children vote for a story-time read, giving them choice and a real sense of ownership. Through stories, children discover new ideas, hear exciting new words and develop a growing love of books.

We are passionate about sharing high-quality stories and poems with our children, which is why we have created a **Reading Spine**. This ensures every child enjoys the same carefully chosen stories and vocabulary across the school. If you visit the library, please look out for these books so you can enjoy them together at home.

You can easily support reading at home by chatting about the pictures, wondering what might happen next, linking stories to your child's own experiences, and choosing books they're excited about. Most importantly, enjoy it — your enthusiasm makes all the difference!





## Reading spine 2025-26

### YEAR 1



## Reading spine 2025-26

### YEAR 2

