Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

May Newsletter

Dear Families,

As we look back on the term, I feel a genuine sense of pride for all that we have achieved as a school community. From the tireless work of the PTA, to our team of loyal volunteer readers, to visits from external experts, it is clear that the children's wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. Community is one of six school values and we are often complimented on the warmth and sense of belonging that is felt in our school. Working closely with families and our wider stakeholders continues to be a priority for us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 6 pupils who have taken the end of Key Stage Two assessments last week. They worked incredibly hard in the lead up to the tests and conducted themselves superbly throughout with determination and focus. A well-deserved residential PGL trip awaits at the end of this week as a wonderful way for all of Leopards Class to celebrate the end of term.

It has been a wonderful Spring and the school garden is beginning to bloom. Thank you to everyone who grew plants and bought them at the PTA sale. The proceeds are helping to develop our school garden further. Over the May half term, we are looking forward to a wealth of improvements in our Forest School area. This work will be conducted by one of our parents and we cannot emphasise enough how grateful we are for the generosity of this voluntary work. We can't wait to share the finished work with you!

Thank you to all of you who completed the parent questionnaire. We have received some reassuring statistics such as 100% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child feels safe at school, that their child is well taught and that the school is well led and managed. We also received some overwhelmingly positive comments:

'A lovely environment of both learning and allowing children to really enjoy their childhood - thank you.'….

'Such a kind & humble school. We're extremely happy with having our children live there best years here.'

….'I think everyone at Catsfield should be incredibly proud, and there is definitely no where else I'd send my boys!'

Of course, we have also received some constructive feedback which we would like to address through our 'Parents in Partnership' initiative. Please see below for more details on how to become involved.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a wonderful half term break next week.

Warmest wishes,

Lex Beckett

Acting Headteacher

Catsfield C of E Primary School
Church Road, Catsfield, Battle, TN33 9DP
office@catsfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk 01424 892247

Acting Headteacher: Lex Beckett
Chair of Governors: Charlotte Buckland

Collective Worship

Over the course of the year, we have made a number of improvements to our Collective Worship. We are very proud of our Head pupils who open and close our worship and of all of our children who participate so enthusiastically. On Mondays, we use our focus school value to explore bible stories and discuss them in our worship circles. On Tuesdays we explore an item from the news through a Christian lens which we follow up on Thursday with a deeper discussion. On Wednesdays we either have singing worship or a visit from Sam at the Spinnaker Trust and on Fridays, we have our Celebration Worship. Our daily act of worship enables us to come together as a school in order to reflect inwards, outwards and upwards.

Values Points Update:

Air Avengers: **657** Water Guardians**: 606** Earth Warriors**: 582** Fire Champions**: 659**

Parenting Support Resources

Parenting can be hard at times and when you feel like you would like a little bit of extra support, we would strongly encourage you to make use of "The Parenting Team" - part of the East Sussex Family Hub which brings together a wide range of services to support families and can offer signposting to specialist help where needed .They offer practical guidance to support your child's emotions, behaviour and choices.

All their sessions are free and open to anyone. They offer friendly help with no judgement, such as:

- Talking on the phone for advice. Call **01323 464655**
- Joining online groups or webinars with other parents and carers
- Attending face-to face sessions to get support in person

They cover tantrums, child and teen emotions, anxiety, neurodiversity, online safety, and more. For more information please visit their website here. We also have booklets in the school office with ore information – please do pop by and collect one.

Families in Partnership

Following our parent questionnaire, we would like to invite any parents to take part in a workshop to discuss some of the concerns raised. If you are interested in joining this forum, please complete the attached ping. Concerns cover themes such as:

- Seating at lunchtimes
- Parents evenings
- PTA events
- Ping
- Sporting events

Attendance

Our overall attendance figure has remained static at **93.2%.** To put this into context, 93.2% attendance means that, on average, each child misses around 13–14 days of school per year. Our target continues to be 96% or above, which reflects fewer missed learning opportunities and stronger outcomes for pupils.

Here is how this breaks down by year group:

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	94.42%	93.06%	94.52%	95.79%	92.85%	93.07%	89.04%
Late	0.83%	0.58%	0.86%	0.88%	0.65%	0.66%	0.34%

Well done to Year 3 who are so close to our 96% target!

One of the key factors affecting our attendance figure continues to be term-time holidays. While we fully understand the desire for family time and recognise the pressures around travel costs, absences during term time can have a significant impact. Just a week away from school is equivalent to 25 hours of missed learning, which can be difficult to catch up on. So far, this academic year we have lost 109 days to term time holidays, an increase of 26 days on the same period last year. Please consider using our inset days attached to the summer holidays to take advantage of cheaper holidays. See the dates section at the end of the newsletter for details.

Volunteers

We are extremely fortunate to be supported by so many volunteers including many of our parents one of whom is ending her time with us. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Clare Shilland, our 'Resident Parent Artist' who has voluntarily run our after-school art club for the past two years. Thank you for your time, expertise and enthusiasm in Art Club.

Our 'Pop-up art gallery looks fantastic in the school hall. Every child's portrait is on display in the style of 'Freida Kahlo'. The pictures were part of the Horticultural Society's Spring Show and we are so pleased to have them back filling the hall with colour.

PTA Update

The Spring disco raised a fantastic £300. DJ Alfie was a huge hit…the children had a fantastic time – thank you to everyone who volunteered.

The Funday Friday Plant Sale raised a huge £212, which we are putting towards new gardening resources. The next Funday Friday will be held on on Sports Day where the PTA will be providing refreshments both during and after the event. If you would like to help out at this, please do get in touch!

Next term there will be more details coming out about the Summer Fete which is being held after school on Friday 3rd July. The PTA are already hard at work sourcing raffle prizes if you would like to contribute or know of a local business who does please do get in touch!

PTA contact details – pta@catsfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Sports Update

We are looking forward to taking part in the Hopkins Cup Football Tournament at Hastings United. We will be entering teams from Years 3 and 4 as well as boys and girls teams from Years 5 and 6. We also look forward to our Year 2 children taking part in a multi sports event at Claverham – details to follow.

Well done to our Years 3,4 and 5 and some 6s for completing six weeks of swimming at Summerfields. Teachers have seen huge improvements over the weeks with confidence and stamina increasing all the time.

Sports Day is fast approaching – 5th June.
The entire day will be devoted to sports with the afternoon session focused on competitive races to which parents are invited. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy the afternoon.

Holiday Club

LS Coaching ran a successful holiday club during the Easter holidays. Booking is now open for the May holiday club. Please use this link to book your slot.

Gentle reminders

A polite reminder that all messages should be passed on to the staff members at the school gate. Unless you need to pass on medicines or complete a form, please avoid entering the school in the morning as we work to settle children in for the day ahead. Thank you for your support.

We are noticing an increase in medical appointments during the day. The early collection of children can be disruptive so please try to limit these until after 3.20.

Thank you for your support.

Keeping Safe

As part of our preventative curriculum, we are dedicated to keeping our pupils as safe and informed as possible. Our PSHE lessons teach our children the knowledge, skills, and understanding needed to stay safe, manage risks, and develop healthy relationships. We focus on fostering resilience, emotional health, and positive values, enabling pupils to navigate life's challenges effectively. To support this, we invite in as many visitors as we can to enhance this provision. Recently, we have had visits from the fire service, police and last week the RNLI. Understanding dangers and keeping safe is a priority for us all at Catsfield.

Photos from the Term

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Dates for Term 6

Sports day: Friday 5th June 13:30
New Parents Meeting: Wednesday 10th June 4pm
Years 5/6 rounders tournament: Thursday 11th June
Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Matthews Church, Tuesday 16th June
Leopards Class trip to Battle Abbey: Thursday 18th June
Claverham transition: 2nd /3rd July
Summer Fete: 3rd July
Panthers Class trip to Cuckmere Haven: 6th July
Lions and Tigers trip to Rare Breeds Centre: 10th July
Year 6 Bikeability: w/c - 13th July
End of year Leavers' service: Fri 17th July at St. Laurence 2pm

Learning Celebration Dates:
Summer
Tue 30 Jun: 14:30: Tigers
Tue 23rd June 09:00: Panthers
Thu 2nd Jul: 09:00: Lions
Leopards - TBC

Future INSET Days:
Monday 20th – Wed 22nd July

Other notable dates:

Academic Year 2026-27
Inset days 2nd, 3rd, 4th September 2026 and Monday 4th January 2027

Safeguarding Information

For your reference, please find some contact details below for people both in and out of school you can contact should you have any safeguarding concerns over any children in our school:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Cassie Skevington
Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Lex Beckett, Kate Sayer

East Sussex Single Point of Advice: **01323 464222**
NSPCC: 0808 500 8000