Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

June Newsletter

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Sports Day on Friday. A fortunate break in the weather enabled us to go ahead and it was a fantastic day of sport, teamwork and community. In the morning, the children represented a different country and completed a circuit of 11 different events including javelin, the sack race, long jump and skipping. The winning team was South Africa having accumulated an impressive number of points. Stickers were awarded for children who displayed our school values. In the afternoon, the individual races were competitive resulting in some very close finishes. I'm sure you will agree the final inter-house event was a spectacle to behold as over 100 pupils took it in turns to run their leg in the whole school relay. Thank you to the wiling adults who took part in one of our many parents' heats – again, a wonderful sign of our community spirit.

Before half term, many of the Year 6 pupils completed their end of Key Stage 2 assessments. SATs week is always a significant milestone and I was incredibly proud of the focus and perseverance shown by the pupils in the many test papers they completed. Last week it was Year 4's turn to take their Multiplication Check test and this week it is Year 1 who are tested on their phonics knowledge. Congratulations to all of our pupils who have completed end of year assessments.

Following the SATs, it was perfect timing to be able to go away on our bi-annual residential trip to PGL in Windmill Hill. Leopards class took part in a packed timetable of activities including the zip wire, rifle shooting and abseiling amongst many others. We had a fantastic 3 days away and I know the children will be talking about it for many weeks to come. Thank you to the staff members for giving up their time with families to accompany the trip and thanks to for the generous gifts from families.

The final term is always busy as we look ahead to a variety of events including trips out, sports competitions, the school fete, final assemblies and services to mark the end of term and the end of primary school for our Year 6s. Mrs Harwood has been busy visiting the nurseries and pre-schools to meet our new Tigers as we turn our attention to preparing for the next academic year.
As always, so much to be grateful for and so much to celebrate as we enjoy our last term together this year.

Warmest wishes,

Lex Beckett

Acting Headteacher

Forest School make over

During the May half term holiday, our Forest School area underwent a huge improvement project thanks to the incredible generosity of one of our families. The Jackson family from HMJ Contractors, voluntarily donated all the materials, labour and design to bring much needed improvements to our outside wooded area.

We are excited to host an assembly where the family will talk through the work that they did and the involvement of their 3 children.

The changes include landscaping of the far end and the creation of den building equipment, a new mud kitchen, carved stools around the fire, compost areas, a swing – all using natural timber to create an authentic forest school experience. Our children will benefit from this work for many years to come and we cannot emphasise enough how grateful we are to have received such generosity in times of financial austerity in schools.

On Wednesday 24th June, the Forest School area will be open after school for you to see the improvements. Please do come along, we would love to see you!

Not only is this work an endorsement of our school value of community, it reinforces our commitment to the wider curriculum and the benefits of outdoor learning. We are proud of the broad and rich curriculum we have to offer our pupils and will continue to enhance our provision as best we can. Thank you HMJ Contractors for all your hard work.

Values

Our value for this final term is Friendship.

As explained in last month's newsletter, we focus on one value for the term in our Monday collective Worship. This term we will share bible stories that highlight the value of friendship and why we consider it so important in our school. By the end of the year, our children are very familiar with all our values and are able to recognise examples of when they see them in action. Our vision 'Nurture the spirit, grow the mind, love your neighbour' is woven in to everything we do.

Attendance

Our overall attendance figure has increased slightly to **93.4%.** Thank you to everyone for supporting this our goal of reaching our target of 96% or above.

Here is how this breaks down by year group:

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	94.74%	93.53%	94.57%	95.86%	93.13%	93.05%	89.13%
Late	0.76%	0.56%	0.79%	0.91%	0.64%	0.67%	0.35%

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

Coming soon …. our termly attendance newsletter where we will be sharing attendance success stories and strategies to support attendance throughout the year.

Free School Meals

A reminder that the holiday supermarket voucher scheme (HUGGG vouchers) for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals has now been ended by ESCC. Support for families continues to be available, but it will be assessed based on individual household circumstances and need. Families can find out more about support available through these links:

- Crisis and Resilience Fund
- Cost of living support

Families eligible for free school meals can get free activities and food through Holiday food and fun.

'**Your child may qualify for free school meals from September 2026**.
From 1 September 2026, eligibility is expanding so more families can get support. If your child is not currently eligible and you receive Universal Credit, you'll be able to apply now.
Apply now: Free school meals - East Sussex County Council

Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

From September, there will be important national changes to how schools manage allergies, following the introduction of new statutory guidance linked to Benedict's Law. Benedict's Law has been developed to improve safety for children with allergies and ensures that all schools take a more consistent, proactive approach to allergy management.

These measures aim to ensure every child is kept safe and that staff are confident in responding quickly and effectively in an emergency.

We are reviewing and strengthening our own procedures in line with this guidance and kindly ask parents to keep the school informed of any allergies or medical updates.

We are also pleased to share that we are working towards becoming an **Asthma Friendly School**. Please look out for updates via PING if your child has an inhaler in school.

PTA Update

Thank you to the PTA for organising Funday Friday at Sports Day – it raised £108 which we are putting towards our new playground equipment. They are busy working on the chocolate Fathers Day gift which will be coming home in time for this special day!

The **Summer Fete** is being held after school on Friday 3rd July and need everyone's help! Here is a list of ways you could get involved:

* **Mufti Day** Friday 26th June children are invited to wear their own clothes in exchange for a bottle donation for the tombola.
***Plants -** following on from the success of our Friday Funday plant sale, we'd like to include a plant stall. If anyone has any new plants or seedlings they would like to donate.
* **Teddy bears and books** in good condition
*We would also like to ask for donations of **cakes/sweet treats** bought or home made for the cake stall.
* If any families have a business or know of any local business who may like to donate a **raffle prize**, please do get in touch.
* **Help on the day** setting up, manning a stall and / or clearing up

Please contact the PTA to let them know how you can help – pta@catsfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Childcare Choices

Do you earn less than £100,000?

If so you are entitled to get Tax-Free childcare worth upto £2,000 per year per child. You can then use this to pay towards Wraparound Care. Effectvely giving families a 20% boost towards childcare costs.

Who is Eligible?
To qualify for Tax-Free Childcare, families must meet certain criteria:

- Both parents (or a single parent in a lone-parent household) must be working
- Each parent must earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours per week at National Minimum Wage
- Each parent must earn less than £100,000 per year
- The child must be 11 or under (or 16 if they have a disability)

How Does It Work?
Parents set up an online childcare account via GOV.UK. Once registered:

1. They deposit money into the account.
2. The government adds the top-up automatically.
3. Payments are then made directly to the childcare provider from the account.

Parents reconfirm their details every three months to continue receiving support.

More information can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Tax Free Childcare FAQs

Developing aspirations

As part of our KS2 PSHE curriculum, we begin to look at career opportunities and discuss aspirations with the children. Last term, we invited in Dr Ella who talked of her journey to becoming a doctor from her routes as a pupil here at Catsfield School.

If you know of other past pupils who have pursued careers that they feel they would like to share with our school community, please let the school office know.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have signed up to come and give an overview of their profession to Leopards and Panthers on Monday 29th June and Tuesday 30th June. We can't wait to hear all about your careers in the police, healthcare, housing, graphic design and much more!

Sports Update

We are looking forward to our Year 5 and 6 rounders tournament on 18th June at Battle and Langton. We also have further striking and fielding games in the pipeline – details to follow.

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.

Photos from the Term

Dates for Term 6

Years 5/6 rounders tournament: Thursday 18th 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
Tuesday 7th July: 9:00 Leopards

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