Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

Newsletter

Dear Families,

I hope you are all enjoying the start of Autumn – the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness!'.

We are now over half way through the first term and it is wonderful to see how well all our new children have settled in to school life. Unbelievably, we have already started taking bookings to show families round for next September! If you have a child due to start school next September, or know someone who does, please encourage them to contact the school office to book a visit. We love sharing our school with visitors and showing all the great learning and activities going on in the school.

Last week saw our first sporting event of the year with our Year 5/6 girls attending a rugby festival in celebration of England's magnificent World Cup win and this week, we are attending a boys' and girls' football tournament. In the final week of term, children from KS2 will be attending the annual cross-country event at Claverham. I know over the year there will be many opportunities for our children to take part in sporting events and I look forward to seeing all their amazing achievements.

The PTA had their AGM earlier in the term and I would like to express my huge thanks to the parents and carers who attended and have offered to take a role! I know the PTA is filled with incredibly hardworking, kind people keen to raise funds and organise events that our children love. I know they will be sending requests for help soon and so please, if you possibly can, do offer to help. I know they will be grateful for all offers of support and ultimately, I know our children are the people who gain the most from the PTA.

The term is whizzing past and we have enjoyed a packed start to the school year. We've had a visit from Queen Boudicca, treasure hunts, an adopted turtle, our first fun day Friday, pirate day, cello lessons, cricket coaching, forest school, a new sports crew and school council to name but a few! Much to look back on and I hope you are looking forward to the other events this term has to offer, especially our Harvest service at St. Laurence's in a couple of weeks (please do join us).

Thank you for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

Lex Beckett
Deputy Headteacher

Catsfield C of E Primary School
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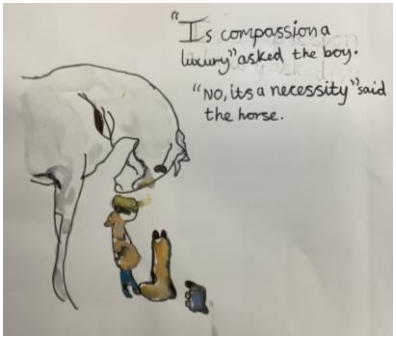
Headteacher: John Barnes BA (Hons) PGCert.NASENCO NPQH
Chair of Governors: Charlotte Buckland

School Vision and Values

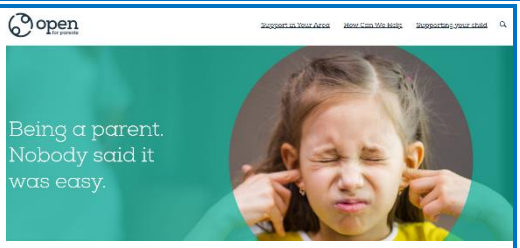
This term, our focus value has been compassion. It has been introduced to the children as understanding others' emotions and being moved to take action. On Friday, we celebrated our first values day of compassion. Please see our social media posts for photos and work created on the day. It was a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of this important school value. We are very proud of the way our children encourage each other to show care and kindness. Leopards class worked on messages of compassion in the style of Charlie Mackesy and I think this work from one of our pupils is a wonderful message for us all.



For those new to the school, Values Points are given out through the day as children are seen demonstrating the values and collected for the teams they represent. These are then counted by our head pupils each week. At the end of term before Christmas, Easter and the summer, a values cup is awarded to the team with the most points. On a weekly basis, the team which has earned the most, win extra time on the adventure trail that day. Monthly updates will be given on values points in this newsletter and the current scores are:

Air: 274 Water: 297 Earth: 305 Fire: 321

Support for Families



In East Sussex, we are fortunate to have a number of groups available offering wider support to families in a whole range of areas. You can find an overview of these and information about them on the school website under the 'Virtual School Office' tab titled, 'Support for Families' (or by clicking here).

The available groups include the Neuro-Ninja team (do sign up to the learning hub by clicking here to access all their content), Family Support Line (01323 464655), East Sussex Parenting Team (01424 725800), School Health Team, Family Support Work and Family Support Network. All contact details are available on the website, however some numbers are above for quick access.

I am very happy to share that I have contacted some of these groups myself and have also recommended them to a number of families. Feedback from those who have been in touch has been extremely positive and I have also found them incredibly supportive, non-judgemental and informative. Please do bear them in mind for advice on a whole range of matters both large and small.

Free School Meal Eligibility

Considering the ongoing pressures associated with the rising cost of living, we appreciate that access to free school meals and food vouchers in the holidays can provide valuable financial relief. For more information on eligibility please go to ESSC website here.

Wraparound Care

Bookings for Term 2 are now live, with lots of new activities including Tri-Golf, Gymnastics, Badminton and Table Tennis. Don't forget we are always open for ad hoc bookings for when life gets busy! All the details can be found on our website here.

Sports Report

After a successful year last year, we are once again looking forward to getting involved in a variety of inter-school events this year.

So far this term we have competed in a Y5/6 football tournament and a girls' rugby tournament. Later in the term we have the annual key stage 2 cross country to look forward to (dates on the calendar below). Practice in school for this has begun!

Church Events

Father Robert and his team will be continuing their monthly children's services on the first Sunday of each month. Father Robert has thoroughly enjoyed getting into school over the last year and is keen to grow the partnership between us. These services are designed to be family friendly and short, so please do go along to support.

For school events, please see dates below for Harvest and end of term Christmas service at the church.

Attendance Focus

We believe that regular school attendance is vital for every child's learning, wellbeing, and future success. We understand that there can be many reasons why children may miss school, and we want to work in partnership with families to explore how we can best support families in overcoming these challenges.

In the coming weeks, we will be launching a new initiative focused on improving attendance across the school. This will include opportunities for parents to share their views, access support, and work collaboratively with us to ensure every child can benefit from consistent, high-quality education.

We'll be sharing more details, including how you can get involved very soon!

Open Days for Prospective Reception Parents

Although the 2025-26 academic year is only just beginning, we are already starting to think ahead to next years' Reception intake! I would like to invite all prospective parents to attend one of three open afternoons the school will be holding.

We are always happy to welcome new families into the school so please mention these to any friends or other family members with children who are due to be starting school in September 2025.

The open afternoons will be Wednesday 15th October, Wednesday 19th November from 1:45 – 2:45pm and Thursday 20th November 6:00 – 7:00pm.

If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the office to arrange a separate appointment.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook for a daily update of school life!

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Photos from Term 1

Dates for Terms 1

October
Fri 3rd: Compassion Values Day
Girls Rugby Tournament
Sun 5th: 9:30: Children's service at St Laurence Church
Mon 6th: Y6 Health team checks
Thu 9th: Lions and Tigers Pirate Day!
Y5/6 Boys and Girls Football Tournament
Attendance Workshop 9am
Wed 15th: Prospective Reception Parent tour
Thu 16th: Individual and family photos
Fri 17th: 14.15 Harvest service at St. Laurence – please join us (Normal collection time at end of day)
Wed 22nd: High Weald Workshops x 2 classes
Thu 23rd: High Weald Workshops x 2 classes
Y5/6 Cross Country

Dates for Term 2

November
Sun 2nd: Children's service at St Laurence Church
Tue 4th: Back to school
Thu 6th: Parent consultations 13:15 – 18:30
Mon 10th: Anti-bullying odd socks day
Thu 13th: Y4 Gym session with Mrs Swatton
Wed 19th: Prospective Reception Parent tour
Thu 20th: Prospective Reception Parent tour
Thu 25th: Leopards trip to Imperial War Museum

December
Mon 1st: EY/KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal
Tue 2nd: Nativity at 9:30
Thu 4th: Nativity at 14:00
Fri 5th: Community Values Day
Mon 8th: Enhanced Art Day
Wed 10th Prefects and KS2 School Council trip Parliament

Learning Celebration Dates:
Autumn
Thu 20th Nov: 9:00: Panthers
Fri 28th Nov: 9:00: Leopards
Lions and Tigers: Nativity dates

Spring
Tue 10th Mar: 14:00: Panthers
Wed 24th Mar: 9:00: Lions and Tigers
Wed 25th Mar: 9:00: Leopards

Summer
Tue 30 Jun: 14:30: Tigers
Tue 23rd June 09:00: Panthers
Thu 2nd Jul: 09:00: Lions
Tue 7th Jul: 9:00 Leopards

Future INSET Days:
Monday 3rd November
Monday 20th – Wed 22nd July

Other notable dates:
Spring parent consultation: Thu 26th February 13:15 – 18:30
Easter hat and egg rolling: Thu 26th March
Easter end of term service: Fri 27th March at St. Laurence 13:30 (14:45 end of day)
KS2 SATs: Week beg. 11th May
Sports day: Friday 5th June 13:30
End of year leavers service: Fri 17th July at St. Laurence 13:30 (14:45 end of day)

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: John Barnes
Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Lex Beckett, Cassie Skevington

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