Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

# Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new term; I hope you all enjoyed the break and any Bonfire Night celebrations you may have had.

The first term of the academic year was a busy and successful one and already much has been achieved by the children. It was lovely to see so many families join us for our Harvest Service at St Laurence Church and we are very grateful for the generosity of our families as we made a huge donation of food to the Battle and Bexhill foodbanks. Following on from this, our School Council members have chosen to support another local charity this term: Warming up the Homeless. The council will be meeting with representatives from the charity to find out about the work they do before thinking about how we as a school can support their work. I am very proud of the School Council for being so active in their plight to help others – examples of how our values of Compassion and Community are so important.

On the last Friday of term, we said an emotional goodbye to Mrs Macpherson, our school secretary, who has held the post for over 20 years. Mrs Macpherson has been the friendly face, the voice at the end of the phone and the constant support to hundreds of families over the years. She has shown enormous loyalty and commitment to the school and we are going to miss her as she moves on to new ventures. Finding a replacement for Mrs Macpherson attracted many applicants and we are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Bryant who will take up her post on the 17th November. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming her to the team and in the meantime, please bear with us as we work to cover some of the administrative tasks before Mrs Bryant starts.

The first week back has already been busy with Parents' Evening and the annual Pumpkin Disco. Thank you to our dedicated PTA team for organising the disco and the Fun Day Friday on the last day of term. We are also very grateful to our prefect team for helping to sell poppies every day and we look forward to our Head Pupils laying a wreath on behalf of the school at the Remembrance Service at St Laurence's on Sunday 9th at 9.15am – all families are welcome to attend the service.

Learning this term has started at pace and the children are working hard on their new topics. Tigers are looking at Celebrations while Lions topic is 'A pocketful of Catsfield'. In Panthers, the topic is 'Forces Unleashed' and Leopards Class continue with World War 1 and Europe. Look out for class celebration assemblies where the children will share their learning.

The term ahead is filled with many exciting events and activities in school – please see the dates below and make a note of the events in which your child will be involved.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the support that is available should you find yourself facing challenging circumstances. There are groups that we can signpost to support (many of these are listed on the display board outside the school gate or on the 'support for families' page under the 'Virtual School Office' tab on the website).

With very best wishes,

Lex Beckett
Deputy Headteacher

## School Vision and Values

This term, our focus value will be Community. As the display board in our reception area states:

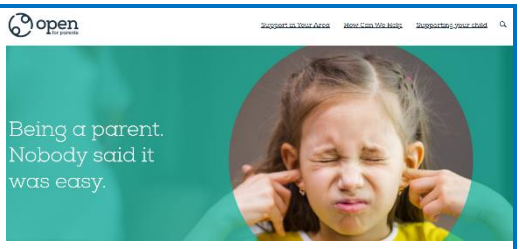
Community is helping people in need.
Community is welcoming people to our school.
Community is caring about everyone in our school.

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: 586 Water: 614 Earth: 604 Fire: 595

## 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.

Feedback from those who have been in touch has been extremely positive with many saying how incredibly supportive, non-judgemental and informative the services have been. Please do bear them in mind for advice on a whole range of matters both large and small.

## Tesco Stronger Starts

We were delighted to learn that we had come 2nd in the instore vote in Tesco Ravenside. This means that we have won £1000 to put towards our Cookery Programme with Mrs Woods. A huge thank you to everyone who voted for us and shared the word with friends and family. It really does make a huge difference!

## First Aid Training

On Monday 3rd November the staff team received 1st Aid training. The day was an important opportunity to refresh essential life-saving skills and ensure we are fully prepared to respond to medical emergencies. This year's training placed a special emphasis on understanding and managing allergies and anaphylaxis, ensuring all staff are confident in supporting children with these medical conditions.

## Sports Report

Congratulations to the boys' football team who made it through to the final of the small schools' competition.
We are looking forward to the next round of the cross country competition in which a number of our pupils will be competing.
Mrs Swatton continues to support us this term with a focus on gymnastics.

## 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.

## Attendance Focus

At the beginning of term, we sent out a letter launching our new "Families in Partnership" working party focused initially on improving attendance. We want to work together with you to explore what's getting in the way of regular attendance — and how we can help. This invitation is open to everybody, regardless of your child's attendance figures – as the aim of the group is to work together to find solutions. We would be exploring:

- The current attendance trends at Catsfield School
- The barriers facing attendance
- The effectiveness of current attendance management strategies
- New ideas to support improving our attendance figures

The first meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th December at 9am** and we would aim to meet three times a year.

Thank you to those who have already signed up to be part of this group. If you feel that this is something you would like to work in partnership with us on then please fill in the PING form. Alternatively if you would like to discuss further what this may involve, please speak to Mrs Anderson in the School Office.

We look forward to working with you on this challenging but important issue.

## Open Days for Prospective Reception Parents

Our first Open Afternoon was a resounding success and we look forward to welcoming more families to our remaining events.

**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.
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.

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

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

**Headteacher**: John Barnes BA (Hons) PGCert.NASENCO NPQH
**Chair of Governors:** Charlotte Buckland

## Photos from Term 1

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**Dates for Term 2**

November
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 20th Cross Country Finals at Claverham
Tues 25th: Leopards trip to Imperial War Museum
Thurs 27th. Non-Uniform Day – donations for PTA Elfridges
Thurs 27th. Leopards trip St Laurence Church
Fri 28th High Weald Welly Walk Lions and Panthers

December
Thurs 4th Panthers trip to St Laurence Church
Mon 8th: Enhanced Art Day
Tues 9th: EY/KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal
Tues 9th. Carols at Christmas Tree Farm 5pm
Wed 10th: Nativity at 9:30
Wed 10th Prefects and KS2 School Council trip Parliament
Thu 11th: Nativity at 14:00
Fri 12th PTA Christmas Fun Day Friday – including raffle draw.
Mon 15th. Community Values Day
Tues 16th: Leopards One Voice concert – De La Warr
Wed 17th: PTA Elfridges and Santa Grotto
Thurs 18th: Christmas lunch
Fri 19th: End of term service at St Laurence: 1.30pm

**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 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