Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

Newsletter

Dear Families,

As we head towards the end of this incredibly busy term, we can look back over the past few weeks and feel an enormous sense of achievement. It has been wonderful to see how much the children have learnt and the Panthers' and Leopards' celebration assemblies were fantastic highlights of the topics covered.

This term, our focus has been the value of Community. Our daily act of collective worship always links to our focus value and we have had opportunities to hear bible stories, news items or visiting speakers who have helped us to understand the significance of our Christian Values. The work of our School Council has also been based on Community as we have spent time focusing on the homeless in our wider community. Thank you for all the generous donations of clothing and money which has been gratefully received by Warming Up The Homeless.

The school is looking suitably festive thanks to Mr Pettifer for hanging the lights and to the Catsfield Christmas Tree Farm for donating our lovely Christmas Tree. With the first Sunday of Advent having passed, the advent wreath is out and the first candle has been lit. Nativity rehearsals are well under way and we look forward to the first performance next week. Leopards pupils are also busy rehearsing for the One Voice concert at the De La Warr Pavilion on the 16th December. Should you know of any members of our community who would like to come to school on the afternoon of the 15th December to hear the children sing and join in with some Christmas carols, please do invite them along. (Details below)
The sound of children singing at various points throughout the school during the week is joyous!

The PTA are working hard to prepare for the various Christmas fundraising events. We're looking forward to the sElfridges, Santa's Grotto and the Funday Friday and know that huge amounts of money will be raised.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to families for your support over the past two terms during times of staff absence; compassion and community are clearly the foundations on which Catsfield School is built. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the staff team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the children have had the very best experiences at school.

With very best 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

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

School Vision and Values

This term, our focus value is Community. We would like to invite our local community to an afternoon of Christmas Carols in the school hall on Monday 15th December at 2pm. Please share this message with anyone you think would like to attend and enjoy some Christmas cheer!

The current scores for our Value Points are:

Air: 791 Water: 877 Earth: 823 Fire: 820

PTA

We are incredibly grateful to the PTA for their tireless hard work. They devote themselves to raising as much money as possible for the benefit of our children through a wide variety of events throughout the year. Last academic year the PTA raised an incredible £8,483.59, which we used to fund a huge array of experiences and resources for the children including the whole school trip to Herstmonceaux Science Centre, £2,000 of science resources, playground and ICT upgrades and the Learning Ladder Reward Day in July.

This year, we are keen to explore as many different sources of income as possible (not just parental contributions) and would welcome any suggestions, contacts or feedback. We are looking to fund a number of projects to improve our outside areas including Forest School, plus support our Cookery programme.

As ever, the PTA is keen to have as much support as possible and welcome new members to support the successful work they do. There is still time to help at the Funday Friday event next Friday which is replacing the usual Christmas fair. Just let a member of the PTA know or pop along to the office. Don't forget to return your raffle tickets to the school office!

Mobile Phones

To help maintain a focused and safe learning environment, mobile phones are not permitted for use during the school day. We understand that some children may need a phone for travel or after-school arrangements. If this is the case, the phone must be handed in at the school office upon arrival and will be stored securely in the school safe until the end of the day.

Warming Up The Homeless

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our school community, the charity Warming Up The Homeless collected a huge amount of donations of clothing and sleeping bags. The mufti day event raised a brilliant £170 for the charity and we are hopefully that the cake sale after school today will add to this total

The Warming Week project has been superbly led by the school council and I would like to thank Miss Gater for her compassionate support and energy.

Sports Report

Congratulations to the pupils in Years 5 and 6 who competed in the Cross County finals at Claverham. The event took place in freezing conditions on a gruelling course but the children showed enormous grit and stamina.

We look forward to the Year 4 Gymnastics competition – 11th December at Battle and Langton.

Church Events

Father Robert and his team will be continuing their monthly children's services on the first Sunday of each month. Recently, Leopards Class spent time at the church learning about the service of Holy Communion. Panthers Class will visit in January as part of their RE learning too.

Friday 19th December at 1.30pm – End of Term Christmas service.

Sunday 21st December 4pm – Service of Nine lessons and carols (One of our pupils will be reading this service)

Wednesday 24th December 11pm – Midnight Mass

Attendance Focus

Thank you to everyone who signed up to attend our first "Families in Partnership" meeting on Tuesday 9th December at 9am**, unfortunately we have had to postpone this until early in the Spring Term.** Once we have the new date, we will share this with you. Please do consider joining this group and help shape our attendance strategy moving forward.

Flu Vaccinations – It's Not Too Late!

Our attendance data shows that children who receive the flu vaccine have, on average, 2% higher attendance than those who don't. Protecting your child against flu helps keep them healthy and learning!

The Immunisation Service recently visited our school to offer flu vaccinations. If you completed a consent form but your child wasn't vaccinated, you should have received an email with instructions to book a clinic appointment—no need to complete another form.

Missed the deadline?

If you didn't return a consent form but would still like your child to be vaccinated, you can still do so! The online consent form reopens one working day after the school visit. Simply:

1. Visit https://www.sussexim munisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu
2. Enter your email and school code: **SX114494**
3. Complete and submit the form
4. Book an appointment at a Community Catch-Up Clinic: https://www.sussexim munisations.co.uk/clinicbooking/booking

If you need help, call the Immunisation Team on 01273 696011

Family First Consultation Advice Line

Hello from The Parenting Team!

We are a small team supporting parents and carers of children aged 0–19 across the whole of East Sussex. Everything we offer is **completely free**, and the only eligibility requirement is that the parent or carer looks after a child aged 0–19 in East Sussex.

Our support includes:

- Online 6–8 week parenting groups on specific topics
- Online 2-hour webinars
- Drop-ins at Family Hubs across East Sussex—no booking needed
- Face-to-face workshops on key topics
- Telephone advice and support
- Facebook Chat availability
- Instant-access videos on YouTube

Please visit the school website here to find details of the services we offer. In addition there is the new Family Hub '**Family First Consultation Advice Line'**, offering support and guidance on a wide range of topics for families. Call **01323 464655** during office hours.

Wraparound Care – Term 3 Bookings

Bookings for Term 3 Wraparound Care are open and close **Monday 15th December at 9am**.

What's on offer?

- **Breakfast Club**: Daily from 8:00–8:45am, with optional badminton (Mon) and table tennis (Fri).
- **Afterschool Sessions**:
  - **Session 1 (3:20–4:15pm)**: Activities include football, gymnastics, tri-golf, team games, arts & crafts, and Time 2 Dance.
  - **Session 2 (4:15–5:15pm)**: Snacks provided, plus play-based activities, outdoor games, and films.

Cost: £4.50 per session (except Time 2 Dance). Payment via ParentPay or government childcare account. Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit can help with costs. Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for details.

Don't forget you can also book ad-hoc sessions for your child when life gets busy! Just contact the office with your requirements and we will organise the rest.

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

Photos from Term 2

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

Dates for Term 2 & 3

December
Mon 8th: Enhanced Art Day
Tues 9th: EY/KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal
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

January
Mon 5th. School reopens after Christmas
Thu 8th Jan. Panthers and Leopards visit to St Laurence Church
Thu 15th. Yr 6 Athletics with Vicky Swatton
Fri 30th. PTA Movie Night

February
Thu 5th. Yr 3 Athletics with Vicky Swatton
Thu 12th. Learning Ladder Reward Day
Fri 13th PTA Friday Funday and End of Term

Learning Celebration 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