Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

February Newsletter

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of Term 3, I would like to congratulate our whole school community on showing a great deal of perseverance. January is a hard month to endure, and we have experienced many wet, dreary days. We have also faced staff absence, and I am extremely grateful for the hard work shown by the team to support each other over the past few weeks.

As I write this, I can hear and see the many different activities going on around school. In the Hive, Year 4 children are cooking with Mrs Woods. Their conversations are focused on following instructions, measuring, turn taking, healthy eating and why washing up is important! Out at Forest School, Year 6 pupils are working together to build camps, climb trees and learning how to whittle wood. Down the corridor, Panthers are working on their science unit and are writing explanations of invented creatures using their new knowledge about living things. Meanwhile Tigers are learning about Chinese New Year, Lions are learning about Judaism and Year 5 are designing their own websites in their computing lesson. It is a great privilege to witness the engaging and meaningful learning opportunities that are happening in school this afternoon.

We are looking forward to our Values day of perseverance this Friday where we will deepen our understanding of this important value. Many of our KS2 children have been benefitting from coaching sessions with the Neuro Ninja team this term. This week's focus has been the worry system and how to manage anxiety. Persevering through difficult times is an essential life skill and any help we can provide for our children, we will.

Next week is the Time 2 Dance performance at the White Rock theatre. I know Miss Tuff has been working hard with the dancers to rehearse and we're all looking forward to seeing them perform. We also have our friendly local derby as we take on Crowhurst School in a Year 5/6 football match.

Of course, great things don't only happen in school. We would love to hear more about the children's achievements outside of school which we can celebrate in a Friday assembly. Please share your child's good news (or ask your child to write it) and bring it to school. We look forward to hearing about your child's achievements over the course of the year. The template is on the school website.

Thank you to our loyal and dedicated school community for your unwavering support this year. The days are lengthening and Spring is coming. I hope you all have a fantastic half term break when it comes.

With very best wishes,

Lex Beckett
Acting Headteacher

School Vision and Values Update

Today in school we have been celebrating and exploring our value of Perseverance. We looked at what this looks like in our day-to-day lives. Completing circuits with Mr Ridges – keeping going in when we might want to give up! Panthers explored the story of David and Goliath and created their own "giant" to represent a personal challenge. They added simple strategies—practising, asking for help, breaking tasks into steps, and believing in themselves—and planned how they will overcome their giant with determination. Across the school arrange of books and stories were used to deepen our understanding of this important skill.

Values Points Update:

Air Avengers: 576 Water Guardians:642 Earth Warriors:427 Fire Champions: 529

Attendance

With winter nearing its end, hopefully the worst of the seasonal illness bugs are behind us, and we can start to see attendance build up again. Our target is for every child to attend for at least **96%** of the year. The current percentages for the year groups are as follows:

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.33%	92.03%	93.06%	94.45%	91.68%	91.41%	89.13%

Our overall attendance is 92.1%. Should you have worries around illness, please visit https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/ to help you with any decision making.

Lateness – the number of children arriving late is increasing. Please could we ask that all children arrive ready to start learning promptly each day. The gates open at 8.45am with early morning tasks ready for the children before registration at 9am. If your child is consistently late then we will invite you into school to discuss next steps.

Attendance Monitoring

As a school we are required to analyse our attendance regularly throughout the year. In line with our attendance policy, this is done every half term.

Previously you may have received an individual PING message if your child's attendance figure was below 95%, however we will now email every family via Arbor at the end of each term with an attendance monitoring letter. The purpose of these letters is to keep you informed about your child's attendance and to highlight the importance of regular school attendance for their learning and wellbeing. This is not intended to raise alarm but to provide clear information and support.

The letter will include your child's current attendance percentage and offer support if attendance is below expectations. Our aim is to work together with families to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We are already aware of the reasons for any poor attendance and, where this is of significant concern and continues to be so as part of our termly monitoring procedures, we will contact you personally to discuss next steps. We will hold Attendance Monitoring meetings in the second week of each term.

Attendance Celebration

Attendance will be celebrated in our Friday assemblies on the last day of each term. Every child who has attended every day that term will be recognised. At the end of Term 3 there will be special recognition for those children with 100% attendance for Terms 1, 2 and 3. This will then be repeated for at the end of Term 6 for those who have done this special achievement for Terms 4, 5 and 6.

Family First Support Team

If you are looking for advice, support or information, but just don't know where to begin, the Family First support team is the place to start. They are available for general advice as well as signposting where to go next. This may be to the Parenting Team, School Health Team or other organisation. You can also visit their website by clicking here.

Safety

You may have noticed the green barriers that we have on the playground. The purpose of these is to keep our children away from the gate when visitors come and go during the day. We will endeavour to move them back at 3.20pm so that there is a clear route through to the playground for collection. Please also note that children should be delivered to the green gates so we can see them safely in to school from there.

Could we also kindly request that you don't encourage your child to press the gate release button. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Childhood Vaccinations Feedback

The East Sussex Health Protection Team is gathering parent feedback to better understand experiences with childhood vaccinations. These views will help us improve information, access, and support for families across the county.

The survey is completely anonymous and takes just 3–5 minutes to complete

Vaccination Accessibility Survey – Fill in form

PTA Update

Once again, a huge well done to Mrs Holmes and all the team on the PTA. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Movie Night last Friday, £200 was raised.

We are very grateful to the PTA for subsidising our KS2 trip to watch "The Boy at the Back of the Class" at Eastbourne Theatre in March. Watch out for a similar subsidised experience for our Lions and Tigers children later in the year!

Sharing Food

Please could you remind children that when in school, they shouldn't be sharing their food. A thank you to all for following our nut free rule, however children in the school have other allergens such as dairy and gluten. Staff at breaktimes and lunchtimes are vigilent and this is usually spotted, although if you can also remind them at home, especially if they bring in other snacks for breaktimes etc., that would be much appreciated.

Parking and School Zig Zags

Please remember, there should be no parking on the yellow zig-zags outside the school between 8-9:30 and 14:30-16:00. This includes drop-off and picks for wrap-around care and clubs. Our neighbours have asked that everyone is considerate about parking and turning in driveways.

School Crossing Patrol

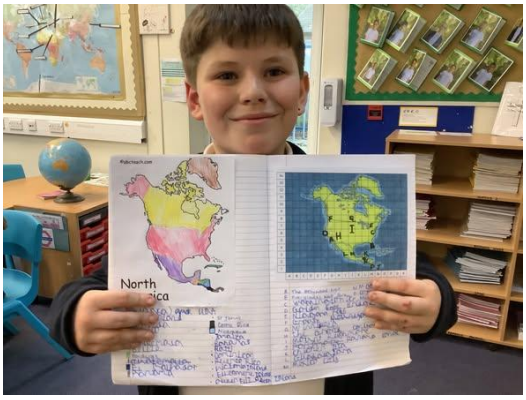
We have a vacancy for a school crossing patrol officer for the end of the school day. Information can be found on the school Website: Virtual Office: Vacancies, or by clicking here.

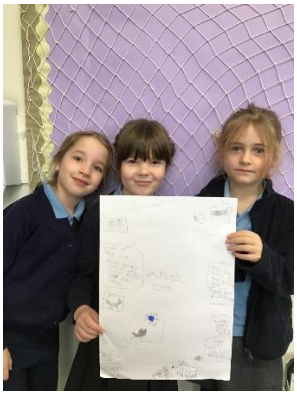
Wrap-Around Care

Our wraparound care offer continues to grow in popularity. Bookings are now open for Term 4. Ad hoc bookings are always open for when life gets busy and are also a good way for your child to try out an activity to see if they enjoy it. Tax free childcare can be used to pay for ad-hoc bookings.

We urge everyone who uses the service, or is interested, to investigate the tax-free childcare options offered by the Government, as this can make a significant contribution to the cost of wraparound care. Please go to https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/ to find out more or watch this thirty second video explaining how easy it is to sign up. https://youtu.be/ijmIcpxoEnU?si=LdHQgu9Qrmps3ZUJ

Photos from the Term





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

Dates for Term 3

February
5th: Y3 athletics with Mrs Swatton from Claverham
6th: Perseverance values day
12th: Learning Ladder reward day
12th Football match v Crowhurst
13th: Fun Day Friday
13th Attendance Monitoring letters sent via Arbor

w/b 16th: Half Term

Dates for Term 4

February
23rd and 26th: Tigers Balance Bikeability
26th: Parent consultations
27th: Respect Values Day
March
w/c 2nd – Invites to Attendance Monitoring Meetings sent out
2nd: Tigers Balance Bikeability
3rd: Leopards Class e-safety workshop
5th: World Book Day
10th: Panthers Learning Celebration
12th: Y5/6 Netball
13th: Enhanced Art Day
18th: Tigers and Lions Learning Celebration
19th: Y3/4 Benchball
19th T5/6 Rugby Tournament
20th: PTA Spring Disco
25th: Leopards Learning Celebration
26th: Easter hat and egg rolling
26th KS2 Theatre Trip
27th: Easter end of term service at St. Laurence 13:30 (14:45 end of day)
27th Attendance Monitoring letters sent via Arbor

Learning Celebration Dates:
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:
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