Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

March Newsletter

Dear Families,

As we step into March and begin to see the first signs of Spring - brighter mornings, braver daffodils, and less rain (!), it is an opportunity to focus on new beginnings. Following the departure of Mr Barnes, our school is entering a new chapter of its own. As I once again take on the role on Acting Headteacher, I want to reassure you that I am steadfast in my commitment to Catsfield School. I do not underestimate the responsibility that this carries, and I pledge to dedicate myself wholeheartedly to the privileged task of leading our school.

Although change can sometimes arrive unexpectedly, it also brings opportunities: for fresh ideas, renewed energy, and strengthened teamwork. I am delighted to share that our leadership team is continuing to work closely together, bringing a strong, united approach that places your children - their learning, safety, and wellbeing- at the centre of every decision.

Over the coming weeks, this strengthened leadership will be reflected in the calm consistency across classrooms, the exciting learning opportunities, and the continued dedication of our staff. Most importantly, your children will feel it in the reassurance of routines, caring adults, and the sense of belonging that makes our school such a special place. The wellbeing of our entire community is of paramount importance, and we will continue to work tirelessly to enable everyone in our school to thrive.

Spring teaches us that change can lead to blossoms we never expected. As the trees begin to bud and the days grow lighter, we are excited about the possibilities ahead—new projects, new learning adventures, and new ways to celebrate the achievements of every child. The school grounds are starting to look better and we look forward to using our school field very soon for sport and lunchtimes.

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent consulations over the past week. It is wonderful for staff to spend time talking about your child's achievements, targets and progress; I know there was much to celebrate. Please contact the school office if you were unable to attend and would like to meet your child's teacher.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, kindness, and trust. Our partnership with you is what makes this community so strong, and together we look forward to a season of growth, optimism, and bright beginnings.

Warmest wishes,

Lex Beckett
Acting Headteacher

School Vision and Values Update

Our focus value this term is Respect. We see this is as fundamental for our children as it builds strong, positive relationships, fosters empathy, and promotes essential social-emotional skills. It enables children to understand boundaries, treat others with kindness, and improves communication, which reduces conflict. Every Monday, our Collective Worship focuses on our value. Our PSHE lessons are also linked to Respect this term as we explore healthy relationships. In UKS2, we also explore why respect is so important when communicating online.

Values Points Update:

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

Families in Partnership

Catsfield C of E Primary School

Est. 1845

As we look forward to the brighter days of spring, we are hoping to give our school's outdoor areas a much-needed refresh. To do this, we would love to invite our school community to join us for an after-school grounds makeover!

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There are several small but important jobs we'd like to tackle, including:

- Pruning and tidying our fruit trees
- Refreshing and preparing the allotment beds
- General weeding, sweeping, and clearing around the outdoor learning areas

If you can spare some time—even if it is just half an hour —we would be incredibly grateful. No specialist skills are needed, just enthusiasm! If you have any gardening tools you can bring along (such as gloves, pruning shears, or trowels), they would be very helpful as our gardening equipment is limited.

We would like to hold this gardening focus after school during the last week of term from 3.20pm to 5.00pm. If you can support with this, please email the office.

Children are very welcome to help with you, or they can join wraparound care for free!

Our outdoor spaces play such a big part in the children's learning and wellbeing, and with your help we can make sure they are ready for a fantastic spring and summer ahead.

Attendance

A huge thank you to everyone who as engaged with us on our Attendance focus. Since the last newsletter our overall attendance has risen from **92.1%** to **92.6%.** Whilst this is a positive achievement this figure still places us in the bottom 12% of all schools, so still lots to do!

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.60%	92.32%	93.66%	95.09%	91.92%	92.61%	89.38%
0.91%	0.72%	1.01%	0.98%	0.56%	0.80%	0.40%

Attendance Celebration

As we detailed in last month's newsletter we are celebrating Attendance in our Friday assemblies on the last day of each term, with our first celebration happening at the end of Term 3. Every child who attended every day that term was recognised, and we will be repeating this again at the end of this term.

Those children who had 100% attendance for the whole year received a special award from Mrs Beckett for this brilliant achievement.

This will be repeated for at the end of Term 6 for those who have done this special achievement for Terms 4, 5 and 6.

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. Everyone was sent a letter via Arbor at the end of last term – if you didn't receive this, please check your junk / spam folder. 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 to everyone. The next one will be sent everyone on **Friday 27th March.**

Pupils whose attendance is below 90% are classed by the DfE as "persistently absent". Invites were sent to parents of all pupils who fall into this category to attend an "Attendance Clinic". Thank you to everyone who came along to these we have had some incredibly useful conversations and discussions around how we can support. For example, when a child is under the weather but perks up by mid-morning please do send them to school, we are always happy to see them and understand how difficult it can be to make the correct call about keeping a child home for the day. If you would like to come and talk to us about your child's attendance, please just call into the office and we can arrange for you. We are here to help!

Term Time Holidays and INSET days

So far, this academic year we have lost 72 days of learning due to family holidays. To try and support the cost of family holidays we have deliberately added inset days to the summer holidays to allow families to take advantage of cheaper flight costs outside the standard holiday times. In September we will hold 3 of our INSET days at the end of the summer holiday, with our first day back to school being **Monday 7th September.**

PTA

We are so grateful to all our PTA volunteers who work tirelessly to raise funds and create special experiances for our children. So far this academic year they have raised a huge **£3,370**! The movie night raised £206 and February's Funday Friday raised a record breaking £197. Thank you to everyone involved. The money raised has been used to fund our Learning Ladder reward day where all the children explored the rich sounds and musical traditions of Africa through an interactive drumming sessions where everyone learnt to play the djembe. This term KS2 are going to see "The Boy at the back of the class" at Eastbourne Theatre which the PTA have heavily subsidised to make this accessible. KS1 will be doing a similar experience later in the year.

PARKER & SON EST.1929
BUILDING, ROOFING & SURVEYING

The PTA are currently organising this year's Mothers' Day gift – a beautiful Sweet Pea grow you kit plus sourcing the Easter Eggs for our annual egg hunt! Thank you to Parkers and sons who have donated the money for this.

One of the next fundraising focuses for the PTA is new playground equipment and storage for the equipment so it doesn't get damaged for the playground. Here are some of the items that we are hoping to purchase!

Storage boxes - £62.50 for a set of 3	**Go Karts – approx £100 each**
Racking for the shed - £120 per set	**Storage shed for go- karts - £145**

Become a School Crossing Patrol Officer in 2026

Do you know someone who has a spare hour on weekdays?
We're looking for reliable and caring people to help keep children safe on their way to and from school.
Working as a school crossing patrol is a rewarding way to support your local community.

Tom, a long serving patrol describes the role as "very rewarding" and "a job you don't need to retire from," while Sooja, a volunteer patrol, says, "ensuring the children's safety going to and from school is important and a small contribution I can make." Just a few hours a week can make a big difference - be the friendly face that starts their school day!
The role pays £12.65 per hour, and you'd be needed for around five hours a week during term time only.

Interested? Get in touch:

- Eastsussex.gov.uk/Patrol
- Phone: 01273 482293

Lunchtime nurture club

We are excited to announce the launch of a lunchtime nurture club on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This club will provide a quieter space for children who may find the playground too overwhelming at times and we have a number of different activities planned. Mrs Woods and Mrs Sanders have requested any doantions for the club including:
Jigsaws, loom bands, small word figures, lego, board games. Please bring donations to the school office.

Lost property

Please look through the many items of lost property on the tables at the end of each day.
After the 13th March, we will invite you to take any items you may like and afterwards we will dispose of the items.

Holiday Club

LS coaching will be running their popular Holiday Club this Easter. To book please use this link here

Volunteers

We wanted to express our thanks to the many volunteers we have working in our school each week. We are incredibly fortunate to have the dedicated support of our loyal helpers who give up their time to support children's learning. Thank you.

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, making each session **£3.60** rather than the standard **£4.50**. 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

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

Acting Headteacher: Lex Beckett
Chair of Governors: Charlotte Buckland

Dates for Term 4

March

10th: Panthers Learning Celebration
11th Football against Crowhurst
12th: Y5/6 Netball
13th: Enhanced Art Day
18th: Tigers and Lions Learning Celebration
19th: Y3/4 Benchball
19th T5/6 Rugby Tournament
25th: Leopards Learning Celebration and PGL meeting
26th KS2 Theatre Trip
27th: Easter hat and egg rolling
27th: Easter end of term service at St. Laurence 14.00. normal end of day
27th Attendance Monitoring letters sent via Arbor

April

13th INSET Day
14th First day of Term 5
14th Swimming begins for Yr3,4&5
22nd Fire fighters visit Tigers and Lions
30th Class photos by Tempest
30th Yr 1 Multi skills with Claverham

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:
Additional INSET day: 13th April
Monday 20th – Wed 22nd July

Other notable dates:
PTA Spring Disco 1st May
KS2 SATs: Week beg. 11th May
PGL: 20th May – 22nd 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)

Academic Year 2026-27
Inset days 2nd, 3rd, 4th September 2026.

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