Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour

# April Newsletter

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a good Easter break and are looking forward to the term ahead. The end of last term was packed with events to celebrate Easter including our Stations of the Cross reflection, egg rolling, Easter bonnets, the giant egg hunt and the PTA Funday Friday! Of course, we ended the term with our traditional Easter Service at St Laurence's Church. Thank you for all your support with these events.

We are in the process of creating a display celebrating our nurture provision here at Catsfield. We are very proud of the wide range of nurture opportunities we have in place to support our children such as sensory circuits, Draw and Talk, cooking, Lego therapy, Zones of Regulation, Forest School alongside many other academic interventions. We are also excited to announce that last term we launched our lunchtime nurture club for children in KS2. Three days a week, we invite children to spend time inside; playing games, doing arts and crafts and talking. We are very grateful to be able to offer this club as an additional way to support children with their well-being. It has proved to be hugely popular and we hope if your child has attended that they have enjoyed this new provision.

Linked to this, we have noticed an increase in the number of requests from parents relating specifically to parenting advice and support. We completely understand that parenting can be challenging at times and that families may seek guidance when concerns arise. However, we would like to take a moment to clarify the role of the school to ensure support is directed in the most effective way. Our primary focus is on what happens in school:

- providing high-quality teaching and learning
- supporting pupils' wellbeing and emotional development
- creating a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment
- working with families where school-related concerns or barriers to learning are identified

While we support children in many ways during the school day, it is important to share that we are not trained or resourced to offer specialist parenting guidance. We can of course signpost where appropriate to the expert guidance that is available. These services are specifically designed to support parents and carers and are best placed to offer the advice and assistance you may be seeking. Please look at the article later in this newsletter for more information and look out for further details about the workshop we are arranging on sleep and anxiety led by external experts.

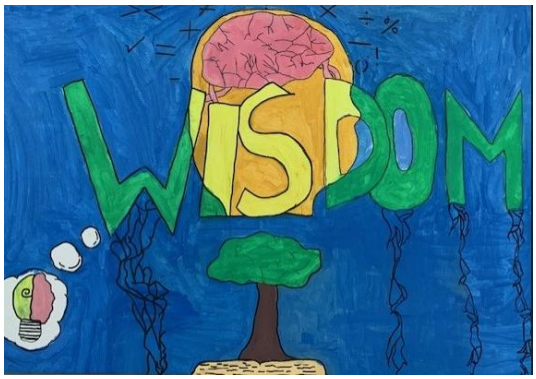
We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the continued trust you place in our school and for the open communication we share with families. We value working in partnership with you to support your children's learning, wellbeing and development and would like to gather your views about the school via our annual Parent Survey. Please click here to access this. Should you have any specific concerns related to your child's learning, wellbeing or experiences at school, please do continue to contact us as usual — we are always happy to work with you in these areas. Please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with a member of staff

Warmest wishes,

Lex Beckett

Acting Headteacher

## School Vision and Values Update




This term our focus value is Wisdom inspired by Proverbs 15:31*: 'If you listen to feedback, you will grow and be at home among the wise.'*

Pupils are learning and exploring that Wisdom means making good choices, learning from mistakes, and listening to others. Mistakes help us grow, and pupils are learning to see them as opportunities for improvement rather than something to fear. We are celebrating the children demonstrating wisdom across the school—in their learning, their behaviour, and their relationships with one another.

Values Points Update:

Air Avengers: **1,108** Water Guardians**:** **1075** Earth Warriors**: 952** Fire Champions**: 903**

## Parenting Support Resources

Parenting can be hard at times and when you feel like you would like a little bit of extra support, we would strongly encourage you to make use of "The Parenting Team" - part of the East Sussex Family Hub which brings together a wide range of services to support families and can offer signposting to specialist help where needed .They offer practical guidance to support your child's emotions, behaviour and choices.

All their sessions are free and open to anyone. They offer friendly help with no judgement, such as:

- Talking on the phone for advice. Call **01323 464655**
- Joining online groups or webinars with other parents and carers
- Attending face-to face sessions to get support in person

They cover tantrums, child and teen emotions, anxiety, neurodiversity, online safety, and more. For more information please visit their website here. We also have booklets in the school office with ore information – please do pop by and collect one.

## Families in Partnership

Thank you to those of you who supported our Families in Partnership gardening afternoon. The raised beds are ready to plant, and the entire space looks much smarter. On Friday 8th May the PTA will be holding a special Funday Friday selling plants and seedlings kindly donated by one of our families – all proceeds of this will go to this towards gardening resources for the children to use. If anyone has any spare seeds or plants they would like to donate to this or any more time to develop the garden more, please contact Mrs Anderson via the school office.

We will be organising our next Families in Partnership meeting later in the term to review the results of the parent questionnaire. Watch out for details on how to sign up to this!

## Attendance

We continue to focus on driving strong attendance. Thank you to everyone for engaging with us on this journey to achieve 96%. Last term saw some great achievements, with our overall attendance figure continuing to increase from **92.6%** to **93.2%.** Here is how this breaks down by year group:

| | Year R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Attendance | 94.00% | 92.93% | 94.40% | 95.65% | 92.74% | 92.99% | 89.53% |
| Late | 0.86% | 0.62% | 0.90% | 0.85% | 0.58% | 0.70% | 0.35% |

On the last day of term, we celebrated everyone who had attended every day last term. Well done to everyone who received a 100% certificate from Mrs Beckett.

**Attendance Clinics – Working Together to Support Your Child**

Following on from the attendance monitoring email sent at the beginning of this term, we would like to remind families about our upcoming Attendance Clinics. Families whose child's attendance is currently 90% or below (classed as *Persistently Absent*) will automatically receive an invitation to attend one of these sessions. However, we would also like to reassure families that if your child's attendance is above 90% but you still have concerns, you are very welcome to come along and book a slot too.

Good attendance plays an important role in your child's learning, confidence, and wellbeing. Even small dips in attendance can have an impact on progress and engagement, and these clinics are designed to be a supportive opportunity to work together.

During the meeting, we will:

- Review your child's attendance
- Talk through any concerns or barriers
- Explore any available support
- Agree on next steps together

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended last term — the conversations were incredibly valuable in helping us understand the stories behind the numbers and how we can best support families moving forward. One parent shared afterwards:

*"Thank you for this and for a very positive and helpful meeting. I'll admit I was initially hesitant about booking as my child's absences were for genuine illness, but it was extremely useful to talk and to hear things from the school's perspective. I also feel much more confident in making decisions about when it's okay to send my child in, even if it's later in the day, such as after break or lunch."*

If you would like to book a slot, please contact the School Office.

## Curriculum enrichment

Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed their theatre trip to Devonshire Park Theatre to watch the stage adaptation of the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q. Rauf about Ahmet who arrives in England as a Syrian refugee and is befriended by a group of children who offer him kindness, support and compassion. The play was fantastic and a wonderful experience for our Panthers and Leopards classes and linked perfectly to last term's value of Respect. Thank you to the PTA for funding this.

Curriculum enrichment is a priority at Catsfield and staff are busy planning further trips and visitors for the summer terms. Look out for more details coming soon!

## Household Food Collection Truck

You may remember back in November that we had a visit from Nicola McLaren, Councillor for Catsfield and Crowhurst Ward, who introduced us to the food collection service and invited us to name one of the trucks. We are pleased to share that Leopards Class' name '**Wasty Warrior**' and Tigers Class name "**Food Snapper**" have both been chosen! If you spot one of our trucks on the road please send us a picture, we would love to see it in action!

## PTA Update

The PTA are currently hard at work organising the Spring Disco which is going to be on Friday 1st May. Excitingly there will be a professional DJ attending, so should be lots of fun. Don't forget to sign up via PING and ParentPay.

Last term they organised two very successful events which raised record breaking amounts! The Mothers Day Sweet Pea gift raised £360 and the Easter Funday Friday a phenomenal £200! Thank you to everyone's incredible generosity. So far this academic year a total of £3,972.82 has been raised.

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

The PTA Summer Fete will be held after school on Friday 3rd July. If you are available to help in anyway please do contact the PTA at pta@catsfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk. We would be grateful to anyone who can spare some time to help set up, run a stall and / or help clear up. Just an hour of your time will make a huge difference.

## Sports Update

Last term we attended many sporting events including the Benchball tournament at Claverham, the rugby festival at Ark Alexndra and the netball finals. Congratulations to all the children who represented Catsfield so well. This term in PE lessons we are focusing on athletics in preparation for Sports Day (Friday 5th June) as well as tennis lessons and swimming for Years 3,4 and 5.

This term we look forward to two events at Battle Abbey school – netball and football tournaments for Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6.

## Earrings

We would like to remind you that children can wear earrings for school in the form of a small stud only. Hoops or dangling earrings are not permitted for health and safety reasons.

Earrings must be removed for PE. The only exception for this is if ears are newly pierced, when tape can be used to cover them. On PE days, pupils either need to come to school without their earrings in, or bring a small box to put their earrings in for the duration of the PE lesson. Please note that staff are not able to take earrings out or put back in, pupils must be able to do this themselves.

On this note, a reminder that long hair should be tied up throughout the day.

## Holiday Club

LS Coaching ran a successful holiday club during the Easter holidays. Booking is now open for the May holiday club. Please use this link to book your slot.

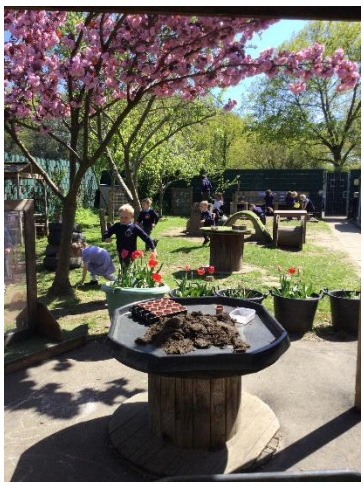
## Morning messages

A polite reminder that all messages should be passed on to the staff members at the school gate. Unless you need to pass on medicines or complete a form, please avoid entering the school in the morning as we work to settle children in for the day ahead. Thank you for your support.

## Keeping Safe

We are grateful to our emergency services for visiting school recently. Visits from the police and fire brigade have helped our children to learn about keeping safe. Next month, we are looking forward to a visit from the RNLI who will guide us in how to keep safe near open water. These workshops help to strengthen our PSHE curriculum.

## 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 5**

**April**
30th Class photos by Tempest
30th Yr 1 Multi skills with Claverham

**May**
1st May PTA Spring Disco
1st May Football/Netball at Battle Abbey
6th May RNLI visit to KS2
11th- 14th May KS2 SATs
20th May – 22nd May PGL

**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:**
Sports day: Friday 5th June 13:30
Summer Fete: 3rd July
End of year leavers' service: Fri 17th July at St. Laurence 2pm

**Academic Year 2026-27**
Inset days 2nd, 3rd, 4th September 2026 and Monday 4th January 2027

**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