



Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour



September Newsletter

Dear Families

It has been wonderful to see our pupils returning to school and our new Tigers settling in so well to the pattern of school life. It's been a busy first week with lots of establishing of routines and classroom expectations. Leopards pupils are beginning their topic on Industrial Britain whilst Panthers explore Ancient Greece, Lions are embracing the world of superheroes while Tigers focus on Marvellous me! Fantastic learning has already been shared with me which is wonderful to see.

The year 6 pupils have taken to their new roles as Buddies to the Tigers and are helping them to settle in. Our prefect team is also working hard as they carry out their roles and responsibilities with enthusiasm and maturity. I am incredibly grateful and proud of the pupil leadership in our school and look forward to the School Council elections next week and the appointment of our new class representatives.

As we all settle into the new school year, I would like to thank all our families for your positivity and collaborative approach. We know that the new school year brings challenges and changes and it's important that we all work together to ensure our pupils feel a strong sense of belonging at Catsfield. All classes are working incredibly hard on presentation and producing high standards of work, and I have enjoyed seeing samples of superb work from all classes over this first week.

It was lovely to welcome families to our information evening last week. The intention was to share details about the curriculum, timetables, assessment and homework which we hope was useful. We look forward to hosting similar events in due course.

Please note the dates below in this letter as we are already confirming many exciting events.

With best wishes

Lex Beckett

School Vision and Values



Our school vision, at the top of the newsletter, is underpinned by our six values of compassion, respect, wisdom, perseverance, community and friendship. We take one of these values as a focus each term, culminating in a Values Day. We will start the year with Compassion as our focus, as this links well to Harvest, which will be coming up later in Term 1.

Healthy Snacks

Children are welcome to bring in snacks from home to have at break times in school. These should be a piece of fruit or similar. They should be healthy snacks and not crisps, chocolate bars etc and should be nut free.



Head Bump Notification

If your child has a minor injury in school and receives first aid they will always be sent home with a green slip.



If a child bumps their head, we will also now send a PING informing you of this which you will receive at 3.20pm. This is to prompt you to ask your child for their green slip so you have all the details to monitor this appropriately.

Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is always a top priority. This year, we have taken further steps to strengthen our support for children with allergies and asthma in line with the principles of Benedict's Law, which introduces enhanced allergy safety requirements for schools and aims to ensure that staff are well prepared to recognise and respond to allergic emergencies.

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe, members of staff recently completed allergy and asthma training delivered by the East Sussex Health Service. The training has helped staff to further develop their knowledge and confidence in recognising symptoms and responding appropriately in an emergency.

We are also pleased to confirm that the school now holds emergency medication, including a spare Adrenaline Auto-Injector (AAI) and an emergency salbutamol inhaler, which are stored in the school office and can be accessed quickly if needed. These sit alongside the individual medication and healthcare plans already in place for pupils with specific medical needs.

Morning drop off

Could we politely request that parents do not enter the school building in the mornings unless they are due to attend a meeting or need to discuss medical matters with the office. Please say goodbye to your child at the bottom of the ramp and pass on any messages to the staff on duty at the gate. Thank you for your support with this.

Sports Report



After a successful year last year, we are once again looking forward to our sport provision this year.

For Term 1, our PE lessons will focus on invasion games and the skills involved with attacking and defending including hockey, football, handball etc

Our PE lessons will continue to be taught by LS Coaching (Mr Mendi as our new coach) with teachers leading the second lesson of the week.

Look what I have achieved!



Use this space to share some pictures of you completing your achievement!

Celebrating achievement outside school

It is always a highlight of our Celebration Worship on a Friday when we share pupil success from outside of school such as sporting success, music, drama or simply achieving something special to them.

Last week we celebrated a wonderful ballet success and an exciting camp out badge for Beavers. Please continue to share your child's achievements via the form [here](#) or from the leaflet dispenser outside the school office.

Governing Board

Message from Karen Bye – Interim Chair

I am writing in the newsletter to introduce myself to you. I am the interim Chair of Governors, following the departure of Charlotte Buckland who served four very productive years as Chair.

You will have received a parent governor election letter which included my name at the end and you're probably wondering who I am. I am an additional Governor who is also an experienced governor and former school leader. I am also a parent and involved grandparent. It's my pleasure to be working with Mrs Beckett and her team to grow the governing board.

We have successfully recruited several governors (including a new parent governor) and have had our first meetings. A good start to the year.

We will continue to keep you informed of any changes to the governing board as we go along.

Wishing your child(ren) a very successful year ahead.

Karen Bye
Interim Chair of Governors

Open Days for Prospective Reception Parents

Although the 2026 - 27 academic year is only just beginning, we are already starting to think ahead to next years' Reception intake! I would like to invite all prospective parents to attend one of three open afternoons the school will be holding.

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 2026.

The open afternoons will be Wednesday 14th October at 2pm, Tuesday 17th November at 9.30am and Thursday 19th November at 6pm. Please contact the office to book your place on your preferred date.

If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the office to arrange a separate appointment.

Please look at the East Sussex website if you have any questions about the process of applying: [Apply for a school place | East Sussex County Council](#)

Key deadlines for applying for a primary school reception place:

12 September 2026 Applications open

15 January 2027 Closing date for school applications

16 April 2027 National offer day

Attendance

Our attendance figure for last academic year was 93.5% which placed us in the bottom 10-20% of primary schools nationally.

So far our current attendance this year sits at **96%** which is in line with our target.

We will be continuing the procedures we put in place last year to monitor and celebrate attendance which include:

- Termly email with your child's attendance figure
- If your child is classed as "persistently absent" (below 90%) you will be invited to an attendance clinic, where we can look at how to work collaboratively to support your child attending school.
- 100% attendance will be celebrated at the end of each term

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's attendance please do come and speak to a member of the team.

Flu Vaccine

The school health team will be in school in School on **Friday 25th September** to administer the annual nasal Flu spray vaccination. You will have received a PING message with details on how to consent for your child to receive this.

The deadline to complete this form is Tuesday 22nd September. If you have any issues completing this please do and come and see us at the office where we can help.

Last year the children who had the flu vaccine had a 1% higher attendance figure than the whole school average.

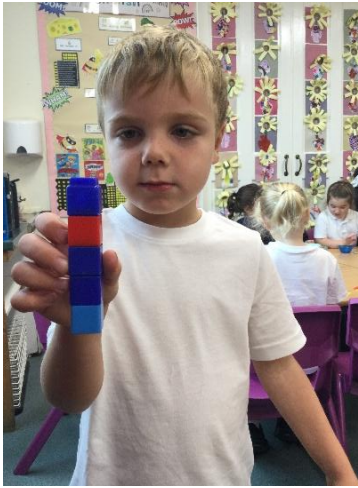
[Frequently Asked Questions | Flu Vaccinations](#)

How to consent:

[Flu Vaccination Consent Form](#)

Our school code is **SX114494**

Photos from the Start of Term



Dates for Terms 1

September 25th – Flu Vaccines
October 1st – Tempest Photography school photos
October 7th & 8th – High Weald School Walks
October 9th – Tigers and Lions Superhero Day
October 16th at 2.15pm – Harvest Service at St Laurence's Church
October 20th - Leopards London trip
October 21st at 9am – Panthers Celebration Assembly
October 22nd at 2.30pm – Tigers stay and play session
October 23rd at 2pm – Year 5/6 cross country cluster competition at Claverham

Dates for Term 2

November 3rd – Parents' Evening
November 5th – Parents' Evening
November 19th at 1pm – Yr 5/6 cross county finals at Claverham
November 25th at 9am – Leopards Celebration Assembly
December 2nd – Reception and Year 6 NHS Measurement Screening Programme
December 4th – One Voice performance for Leopards Class at the De La Warr 7.45pm
December 8th at 9.15am – Nativity dress rehearsal
December 9th at 9.15am – Nativity Performance
December 10th at 2.30pm – Nativity Performance
December 10th – Gymnastics Competition at Battle & Langton School
December 11th at 3.20pm – PTA Christmas Fete and Carols by Candle light at 4pm
December 15th – Tigers and Lions Post Office visit
December 17th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day
December 18th at 2pm – Christmas Church Service.

Inset Days

January 4th
February 22nd

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: Lex Beckett
Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Kate Sayer, Cassie Skevington

East Sussex Single Point of Advice: **01323 464222**
NSPCC: 0800 500 8000