



# Hassocks Infant School

## NEWSLETTER NO. 3 - January 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! The Christmas holiday already seems like a long time ago but I do hope that you all had a wonderful break. We've had an enjoyable start to the Spring term and New Year and all of the children have settled in beautifully.

This is a short half term – there are only 4 weeks to go until February half term. At this point, we will be half way through this school year. As ever, we have a busy term planned with lots of exciting activities. There are also opportunities for parents to come into school to celebrate the children's achievements – an open afternoon and our spring festival. Do see the diary for all of the key dates.

Adrian Bates-Holland, Headteacher

### Our Values Focus

Our school has 6 key values. These are qualities that we aim to develop in our children during their three years at this school.

**Be determined** – *We never give up.*

**Be independent** – *We are able to think and work on our own.*

**Be ambitious** – *We believe in ourselves and are determined to succeed.*

**Be kind** – *We treat others the way that we would like to be treated.*

**Be a team player** – *We work with others.*

**Be yourself** – *We value diversity and celebrate our individuality.*

This half term we are focussing on the value **be determined**.



Each week, one child is chosen from each class in Year 1 and Year 2 to receive an award in celebration assembly. These are often linked to our values. The awards are displayed on the values tree in our school hall and another is sent home to share with parents. Throughout this term, these awards will also be introduced in Reception. Children in Reception will be joining our celebration assemblies later in the summer term.

### Punctuality

Just a reminder that our gates open at 8.45am each morning and classroom doors open at 8.50am. We expect all of our children to be in their classes and ready to start their learning by 9am. There are a few families who are regularly arriving as the gates are closing – please can all families ensure that children arrive on time every morning. Arriving late is disruptive but also means that your child will miss out on key learning which takes place at the start of the day.

We will be closing both of the gates promptly at 9am each morning. Anybody arriving after this time will need to come to the school office.

## Collection Arrangements for after school clubs

Please ensure that you have contacted the after-school club to advise of pick up arrangements, let the club know if your child is going to Kudzize from them. They need to be told directly and be kept informed who is collecting your child.

### Forest School Update

Unfortunately our Forest School Leader left at the end of the summer term which means that we have not been able to run our forest school sessions this term. Our forest school is very popular with all of the children and an invaluable opportunity for children to learn lots of skills.

Sadly, it takes a long time to train existing staff members as new forest school leaders and we have struggled to recruit a replacement. We are working on a plan to get forest school back into action but it will take some time to do this – we will keep families updated.

In the interim, we plan to use our wonderful outdoor area as part of our curriculum so that all children get lots of experiences to learn outdoors and in all subject areas.

### Tackling fuel poverty together

Living in a cold home could have serious consequences to a person's health.

Citizens Advice delivers an energy advice service to help tackle fuel poverty. The service is a free phone line: **08001456879**, open Monday to Friday 10:00 to 16:00, for people to gain **advice and support on issues**, including:

- Energy grants, broken boilers and heating repairs.
- Assistance with paying bills and being energy efficient.
- What to do to keep warm this winter.

**Please note that this countywide service is manned by Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice.**

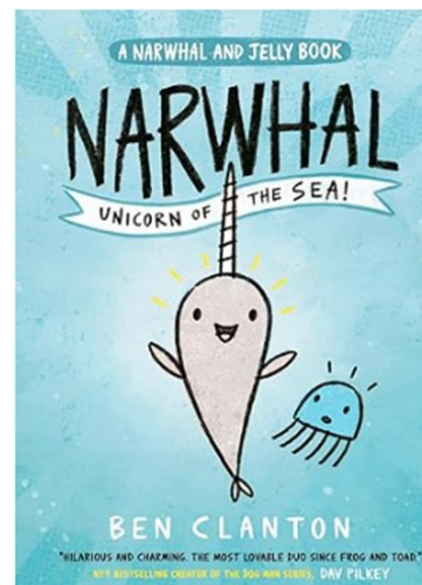
### Teacher book recommendation

At Hassocks we love reading. Each term we will be sharing a book recommendation from a teacher that you can share with your child at home.

This book is a perfect longer read for children. It focuses on an unlikely friendship between a narwhal and a jellyfish. The stories are lovely and are all about working together and using our imaginations.

I love the comic book style in this book and the fact that the 3 stories are interspersed with facts and jokes. This was a favourite with my daughter and as a reluctant reader it gave her a way into reading and built up a love for books.

Mrs. Hutchinson (Chestnut Class)



### Plea for Parent Readers!

**Do you have a spare hour a week? Would you like a chance to come into school? We are desperate for more parent helpers to regularly listen to children read. Please pop into the office to sign up. DBS checks and safeguarding training will need to be completed.**

### Please read : Inconsiderate parking note



It is unfortunate that before Christmas the office received a complaint and photographs of one of our parents parking illegally and inconsiderately in Chancellors Park. This included a father being exceptionally rude and verbally aggressive to a resident.

Although we understand the difficulty involved in juggling pick-up and drop-off, particularly with younger siblings, we do not accept or tolerate any form of rude or aggressive behaviour.



**January 29<sup>th</sup>** will begin a two-week special focus on 'Healthy-Bodies' and 'Healthy Minds'. We will kick start this exciting fortnight with the first week focusing on keeping our bodies healthy through lots of fun and exciting activities. Do keep an eye on Parent Mail for things coming up that fortnight to find out what we are up to and how you can support your child from home.

The first two events to consider are:

★ Jan 29th "Walk To School" week.

We will be asking where possible for children to walk / ride or scoot to school.



★ Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February will be our in-school DANCE-ATHON day!

Our external sports providers from JASC coaching will be in school teaching the whole school to dance (including teachers!) and we plan to spend as many hours dancing as possible!





Working alongside FOHIS - The DANCE-ATHON will be a school fundraiser, raising funds for an exciting new project on our Year Two Playground.

A separate parent mail with more details will be coming very soon, however, in brief.....



We are very lucky that our school still retains so many of its beautiful original features from the Victorian Era, however, it is time to spruce some areas up so the children can enjoy them even more! This year sees the start of:

## The Playground Project!

We have lots of exciting ideas and specific details are coming soon where we will be asking for the expertise from our fantastic community to see if anyone would like to get involved. However, let's begin with Stage 1:

On our front playground, which is used by Year Two children, we have a fabulous sheltered zone which we feel is currently looking a little tired and is underused. Stage 1 of the playground project is to revamp this area so that it becomes a well loved, versatile space which can be used for imaginative and calm play, as well as providing us with an exciting new outdoor learning zone.



We aim to:

1. Lay comfortable ASTRO turf under the whole area.
2. Build an exciting new stage area for role play and performances.
3. Buy comfortable seating including benches and tables as well as beanbags
4. Create a chalkboard wall
5. Provide new storage for costumes and materials.
6. Introduce some new planters to make this space feel inviting, calm and loved.
7. Spruce up the pipework and paint work!

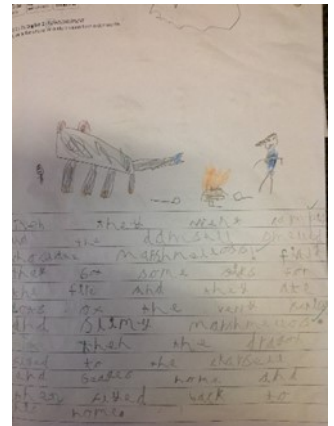
A separate mail will be coming soon with more details of how to get involved, as we will be looking for a team of volunteers who may be willing to give up a day or two during the week to help us to paint this space. We are able to provide all of the paint and equipment—we can be very flexible about dates and times! Thank you.



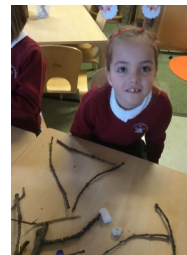
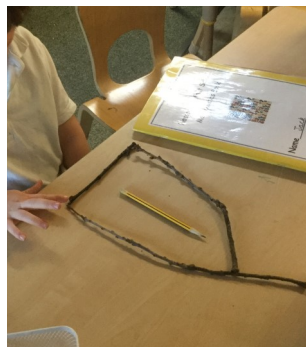
## Year 1

Last term Year 1's topic was Kingdoms, Castles and Crowns. We started the term with a strange discovery of a golden egg appearing in the classroom. Eventually, this hatched into a dragon!

We wrote descriptions and thought about the adventures the dragon might go on using verbs in our sentences.



In maths we looked at shapes and used sticks to make 2D shapes, this helped us think about how many sides each shape had.



We made castles as part of DT and had to think about the features to defend them from pesky knights.



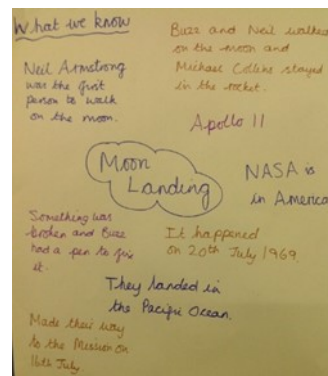
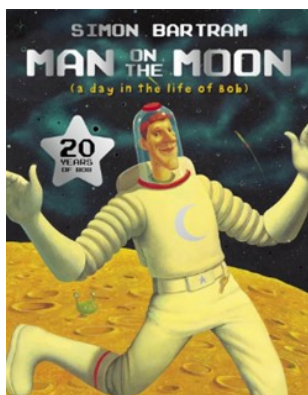
In geography we learned about the 4 countries of the UK and their capital cities. We made landmarks— can you guess which capital city they are from?





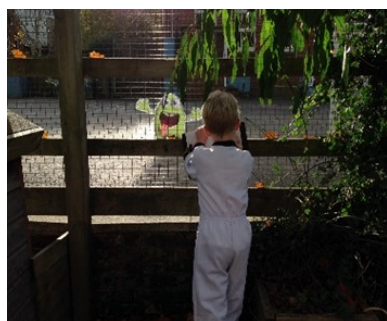
## Year 2

Last term Year 2 were learning all about the moon landing. In history they learnt about Neil Armstrong and answered the big question: Why was the moon landing a significant event?



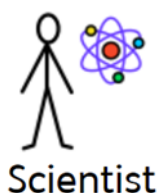
In English they retold the story of Bob the man on the moon.

The term culminated with a very strange occurrence – a space ship had crash landed on the Year 2 playground! The children investigated what had happened and searched for aliens around the school, finishing the day with creating spaceships in teams to send the aliens home.



## Reception

Thank you to the parent helpers that supported during our post box walk! It was lovely to take the children out of the school to deliver the Christmas lists they had written.



This half term, we will be learning about how to be a scientist. We would love to have some real-life scientists come to talk to the children about their roles. If you, or somebody you know would be able to do this, please contact the school office.



# A happy and healthy 2024!

*The NHS Website has some fantastic ideas for healthy options for children's meals. And snacks. It's definitely worth a look—inspiration around snack times can be challenging! Here are some top tips for healthy snacks too. There are lots of packed lunch ideas on the site so if your child is a fussy eater; or has a limited diet due to a medical or sensory need it's definitely worth taking a look.*

Please do remember however in school we have a no nuts, seeds or soy rule to keep all children with allergies safe. This includes foods like hummus, pesto, Nutella and soy sauce.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families>



## 1. After-school ideas

Swap biscuits, sweets and chocolate muffins for healthier snacks like fruit and chopped veggies, plain rice cakes, toast with lower-fat spread or a fruited teacake.



## 3. Cut and colour

Offer kids a range of brightly coloured fruit and veg cut into different shapes, or draw funny faces on a banana or satsuma.



## 5. Get the kids involved

Try making snack time exciting and more hands-on. Get your child involved by getting them to prep what they're going to eat. They'll love chopping it up themselves!



## 7. Pack a snack

Save money and time when you're out and about by taking bananas, apples or chopped-up vegetables with you.



## 9. Watch the teeth!

Dried fruit counts towards your 5 A Day – but it can stick to teeth so should only be eaten at mealtimes to reduce the risk of tooth decay.



## 2. Fill the fridge

Have chopped and ready-to-eat fruit and veg, like apple, carrot, cucumber, celery, peppers, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, halved grapes, tinned pineapple or melon slices pre-prepared for an easy snack kids can eat with their fingers.

**NO NUTS OR SEEDS IN SCHOOL PLEASE  
THIS ONE IS JUST FOR HOME**



## 4. Nuts and seeds

Nuts and seeds are a healthier snack, but they're high in energy, so remember to keep an eye on the amount you eat and do not give whole nuts to kids under 5.



## 6. Have it to hand

Have a fruit bowl in the house so fruity snacks are nearby when your kids are peckish.



## 8. Leave it on the shelf

The simplest trick in the book: if you don't have sweets in the house, you cannot eat them. You will save money, too!



## 10. Liquid sugar

A drink with a snack can be a double sugar overload. A chocolate bar and juice pouch together can contain around 8 cubes of sugar – that's more than the maximum daily amount of added sugar in 1 snack session! So swap sugary and fizzy drinks for diet or no added sugar drinks, lower-fat milks or water.