



Hassocks Infant School

NEWSLETTER NO. 4 - March 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

This half term has been a very short half term and the weeks are just racing by! Although this has been a short half term, we have managed to squeeze lots in already. Teachers enjoyed meeting with parents at the start of the half term to discuss children's learning and progress. We do hope that you all found these meetings helpful and informative. We are aware that these meetings are tight – we could easily spend hours talking about each and every child in our school! However if you ever do have any questions or concerns, please don't wait until these meetings. Our staff team are always happy to speak to you at the end of the day or will organise a phone call / appointment.

We've also had lots of wonderful events in school – we celebrated World Book Day by holding a book week. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing lots of you at the book fairs, as well as meeting authors and celebrating reading.

The summer term is an equally busy term and we have lots of events planned. Do keep an eye on ParentMail and our school website as we will soon be sharing dates and times for key events.

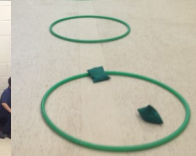
Adrian Bates-Holland, Headteacher

Interschool Multi Sports

On Tuesday 12th March, we were very proud and excited to host an interschool multi-sport event for the second year running! After the success of last year, when Albourne CofE primary brought all of their Year Twos to compete against 30 of our Year Twos, we were keen to repeat this wonderful afternoon, only this time invite even more schools from our locality.



The Gattons Infants (Burgess Hill), Albourne CofE Primary and Ditchling CofE Primary School, all attended which was very exciting for everyone involved! Each school brought 12 children for an afternoon of non-competitive sporting games, activities and fun. Despite the rain, we managed to still go ahead in our school hall. We played a variety of games and races including relays, hurdles, targets, balancing and even the egg and spoon race! All the children behaved beautifully, showed great sportsmanship, put in 100% effort and it has to be noted that the smiles on their faces were joyful. It was fantastic to welcome different children and staff to our very special school. The pupils of Hassocks Infants did us proud. Well done everyone!



Madagascar Update

We are please to share information we have received from Brian Donaldson, Founder and Patron of the Madagascar Development Fund.



"I am pleased to tell you that the classroom furniture has been delivered and installed at Antanimarina Primary School, and the children are now enjoying the benefits of your generosity.

It is hard to over-state the improvement you have made to the lives and educational opportunities of these children from communities living in extreme poverty. My colleagues and I and the population of Antanimarina are very grateful for your continued support.



It is the rainy/cyclone season in Madagascar, and access to Antanimarina is difficult at present due to widespread flooding and deep, slippery and potentially dangerous muddy tracks. The carpenter who has made the age-appropriate tables and chairs for the pre-school children has not yet been able to deliver them to the school, but hopes to do so as soon as we have a dry spell. Similarly the books and educational games you authorised us to buy for the children also await delivery.



There is great excitement among the villagers whose Chief told MDF's project manager that the new pre-primary classroom is the biggest and most important development in the history of Antanimarina. They (and we) greatly look forward to the inauguration which is being arranged for 24 April. A full report with photos and video clips will follow shortly thereafter.

With renewed thanks for your support."



Safety Gang!

This term two children from each class in years 1 and 2 are taking part in a new safety club! Our first session was all about road safety; whilst this is something covered with all children in school. Road safety is worth recapping with all children regularly.

There are lots of websites with fun games and ideas to help your child develop their awareness of road safety here are a few suggestions:

ZEBRA's <https://www.brake.org.uk/zebras#:~:text=Welcome%20to%20Brake%20Zebras%2C%20a,healthy%20journeys%20where%20we%20live>.

Road Wise <https://www.roadwise.co.uk/schools/using-the-road/>



Parenting anxiety in primary-aged children.

Is your child showing signs of anxiety? If so, the following videos may help you to support your child.

Please find below links to videos which have been put together by educational psychologists and advisory teachers from the Thought-Full team, which is the West Sussex mental health support team for schools. These videos are free to access and are uploaded to YouTube.

Session 1: Understanding anxiety for parents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6cAfcuarGI>

Session 2: Supporting your child with anxiety, fears and worries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4KI8f-kg0o>

Session 3: PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20rLpUbkdUU>

Session 4: Introduction to emotion coaching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNccF5LMYwA>

Session 5: Building Resilience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvhuvlezvKA>



Parenting Support

To follow are links to websites that offer free practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour. They cover a wide variety of scenarios including:

- meltdowns
- talking about feelings
- supporting healthy gaming habits for children
- understanding sibling rivalry
- ignoring irritating behaviours effectively
- parenting after separation or divorce

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

Request for volunteers to paint outdoor area

Thank you to all of our families for all of your incredible support during our recent Danceathon. This event was held to raise funds to continue developing our school grounds, with the support from FoHIS. We are currently focussing on refurbishing the covered area on the front playground and plan to refresh this space, as well as adding new furniture and a small stage to create an exciting space to be used at playtimes and by all classes.

We desperately need a small team of volunteers to help us to paint this space. We will provide all of the paints and resources. In the past, some parents have been able to organise some volunteers through workplace corporate volunteering programmes. If any parents are able to volunteer some time or put us in touch with an organisation that may be able to help, then please do let us know.



Immunisation Reminder

With the importance of keeping immunisations up to date, we would ask if you could kindly circulate the following to parents/carers within your setting.

Please make sure that your child is up to date with all their routine immunisations before joining school. If you are not sure if your child has had all their routine vaccinations, check their personal health record (Red Book) or contact the GP surgery. The pre-school immunisations – often called pre-school boosters – will update or top up your child's level of antibodies (which their bodies produce to fight off disease and infection) and help to keep them protected.

Protection (immunity) against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio from the immunisations given to babies can fade over time. Sometimes, complete immunity to measles, mumps or rubella does not develop after a single dose of the MMR vaccine – so this gives them a second chance. Measles cases are rising in England – all children starting or returning to school are at risk of catching measles if they are not fully protected.

For more information, please see [this guide to pre-school immunisations](#) and [this complete routine immunisation schedule from September 2023](#).

Hassocks Reading Week.

We had a wonderful reading week with lots of lovely activities. It all started with Hannah Peckham leading a workshop with children. We listened to the story of Conker and Hannah gave us some great tips on how we can get our bodies and minds calm.



Thank you to all the parents that came in to share books in our school library. It was great to see so many books being enjoyed.



Anthony Groves came into Year 1 and reception to tell us about the life of a librarian.

The children loved seeing Sussex University library and had lots of questions for Anthony.

We rounded our week off with a visit from Jane Hissey. We found out how books are made and Jane shared her beautiful illustrations with us.



Teacher book recommendation

This term's book recommendation is from Miss Barrett in Cherry Class and she has chosen "Press Here" by Herve Tullet.

"I love this book because it's great fun to share, it is really interactive. I love how you have to move the pages around. It's great for everyone and



School Values

Our value this half term is **be yourself**. This half term, we have explored this value and all of the things which make us individual and unique, as well as celebrating diversity.

Promoting Tax Free Childcare to parents and carers

Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) is a childcare top-up for working parents. It can be used to help pay for accredited holiday clubs, childminders, or sports activities. TFC enables parents and carers to access childcare during the school holidays, saving them money. It is estimated that there are 1.3 million working families who are eligible for TFC in the UK, however only a small percentage are making use of the scheme. Around **75% of families are losing out** on this support.

TFC is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. You can signpost families to [Childcare Choices](#), so they can see if they are eligible. You can find out more about the scheme [here](#).

Many parents don't realise that TFC can be saved up on their accounts. Even if childcare is not required throughout the school terms, there is still the option to save up funds which could be used for holiday clubs or out of school care. As half term approaches, it is a good opportunity to remind families of these schemes so they can plan for the upcoming holidays.

Please check out Childcare Choices and their catalogue of [guidance and promotional resources](#), that you can display in your school to promote this scheme.

Useful links and additional information:

[Tax Free Childcare can help towards the cost of children's summer holiday activities | GOV.UK.](#)

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK.](#)

[Get Tax-Free Childcare: step by step - GOV.UK.](#)

www.westsussex.gov.uk/FIS - to help parents search for childcare.

Update from Reception

Chinese New Year

As part of our learning about Chinese New Year, Reception enjoyed food tasting, having a 'great race' as well as taking part in their own parade. They worked very hard to create decorations to carry and were very excited when the rest of the school came out to cheer them on!



Scientist visits

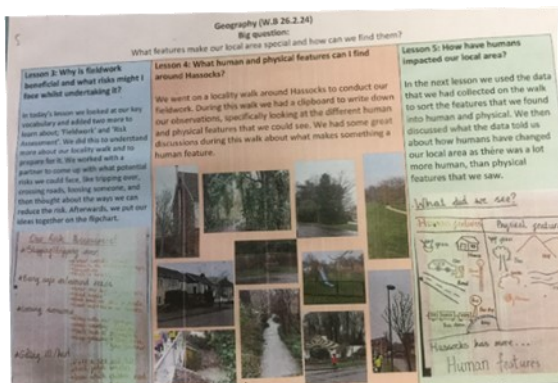
Last half term, Reception were lucky enough to have visits from some scientists. They loved finding out all about their roles and the different equipment that scientists use.



Update from Year Two

Year 2 found out more about our local area by going on a walk and looking at human and physical features. Unfortunately, it was such a soggy day there were no photos!

We also have been learning about the artist xgaoc'o x'are and creating mono prints based on his work.



Update from Year One

All things pirate!

This term we have been learning about a special pirate - Grace O'Malley. We learned that she was from the distant past and that this is before anyone alive now can remember.



In art we have been learning about J.M.W. Turner. We have loved creating water effects using paint and collage.

