



Hassocks Infant School

NEWSLETTER NO. 4 - March 2025



To all our families

It is hard to believe that we are now almost two thirds of the way through the school year. The weeks are racing by very quickly!

We've had a wonderful spring term and all of the children have enjoyed some wonderful learning experiences, including a visit from the Olympic badminton player, Heather Olver, World Book Day which included a visit from the Book Nook and a whole school science week. We also hosted an inter-school sport competition for locality schools which was an incredible experience for some of the year 2 children. We were exceptionally proud of our group of children who were great ambassadors for our school. We've shared updates about some of these events in this newsletter. All of these experiences have greatly enhanced the children's learning experiences this term and I would like to say thank you to the staff team who have worked hard to organise these wonderful experiences. Our thanks, as ever go to all of our parents and carers – your support is very much appreciated.

In addition to these wonderful experiences, we have also made some changes to our provision of clubs and extra-curricular activities. This half term, we have introduced some extra clubs for the children including:

An art Club for Reception, led by Miss Barrett

A LEGO Club, led by Mr Jan

A computing club, led by Mr Bates

Over the past term, we have sent out two parent surveys. There was a safeguarding survey from Mrs Stedman and a whole school parent survey from Mr Bates (this parent survey closes 3pm Friday 14th March). Thank you to parents for taking the time to respond to these; your feedback is invaluable to us and this really supports our ongoing planning. The school's senior leadership team will review the responses to the whole school survey and we are planning to share a summary of responses in the next newsletter. Mrs Stedman has shared an update following the safeguarding survey in this newsletter.

One key theme that we have picked up is around who to speak to if you have a concern. In the majority of cases, this will usually be your child's class teacher. We have included a communication pathway in this newsletter which we do hope will be useful.

Adrian Bates-Holland, Headteacher

Safeguarding - February 2025 Questionnaire

Thank you for your feedback!

We've now had time to review the responses and reflect on how we can use them to shape our practice—while keeping you informed along the way! With over 150 responses, your engagement has been fantastic. While we aren't able to reply to every question or comment individually, if you need further clarification on something you raised, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

- **Our Focus Areas**

We've identified some key areas to prioritise, and we'll be sharing regular safeguarding updates in future newsletters. Keep an eye out for insights into what's happening in school and how we continue to strengthen our safeguarding practices.

- **School Policies**

Just a reminder—you can find a range of school policies, including our safeguarding policies, on our website: **Statutory Information > Policies**

- **Parent Support Hub**

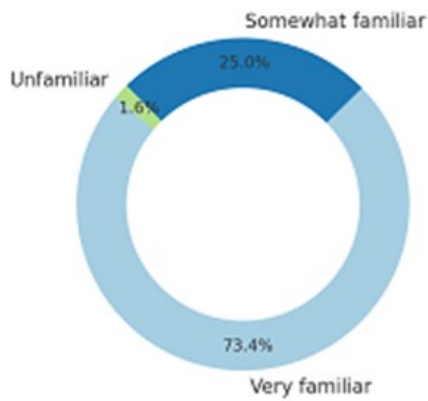
We also have a dedicated section on our website with information and resources to support parents. This includes guidance on **online safety, mental health, wellbeing, parenting, special educational needs**, and more. We're continually updating this space with new resources, so be sure to check in regularly to see what's available.

Thank you again for your input—we truly appreciate your time and engagement!

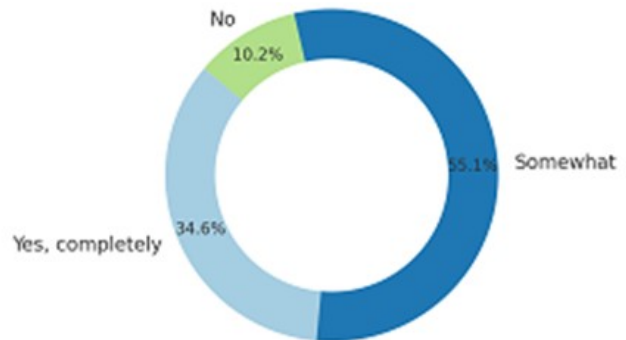
Finally, here on the following page is a snap shot of the results from the questionnaire.

Responses from recent Safeguarding Questionnaire :

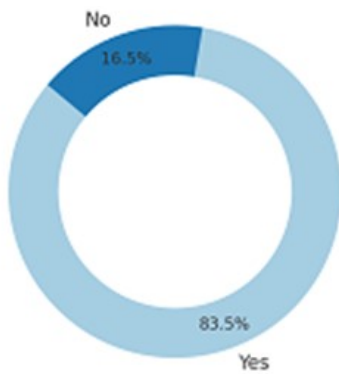
How familiar are you with the term "safeguarding"?



Do you feel informed about the safeguarding policies and practices in place at Hassocks Infant School?



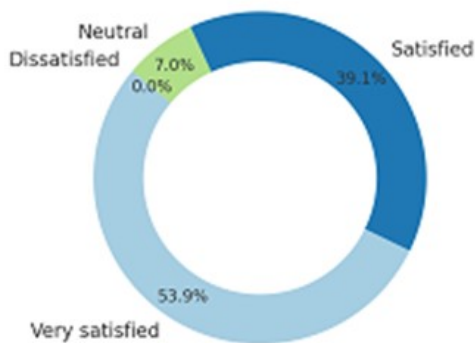
If you had a safeguarding concern and felt it needed to be shared with school, would you feel comfortable speaking to a member of staff?



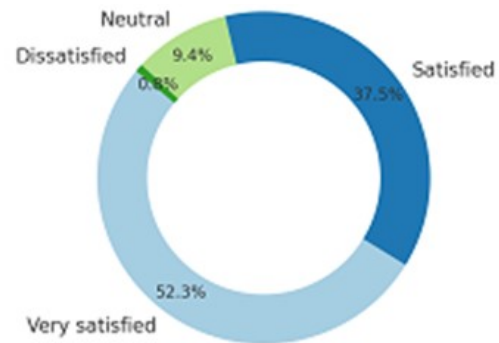
Do you feel that your child is safe and well protected in our care?



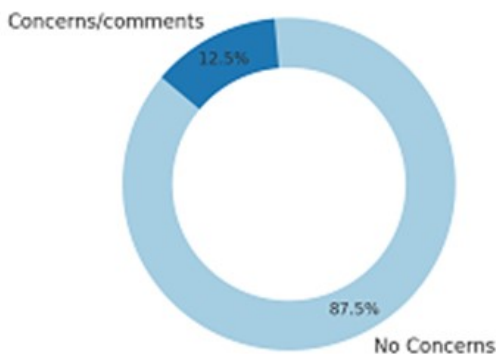
How satisfied are you with the measures we take to ensure the physical safety of children e.g. secure premises, safe play equipment?



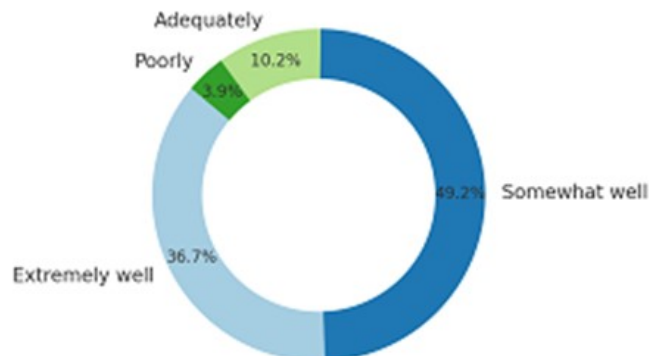
How satisfied are you with the measures we take to ensure the emotional & mental wellbeing of our children e.g. attentive staff, fostering a positive environment?



Have you had any concerns about our safeguarding practices? If yes, please elaborate below.



How well do you feel we communicate with you regarding your child's safety and well-being?



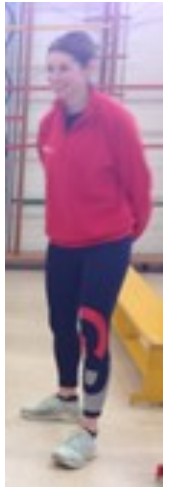
On February 14th we were so excited to welcome Olympic Athlete Heather Olver to Hassocks Infants School for our Great Athletes sporting event.

Heather and her colleague Courtney put the children and teachers through their paces with an incredible high energy circuits class which left us all energised - not to mention sweaty! The children were brilliant and it was so lovely to see everyone so engaged. Following the fundraiser circuits class, Heather spent some time with the children inspiring them with the story of her sporting journey. The children couldn't stop asking more and more questions! It was a fabulous morning, and thank you to all the families and friends for their sponsorship, we have raised a whopping...

£4,669.25!

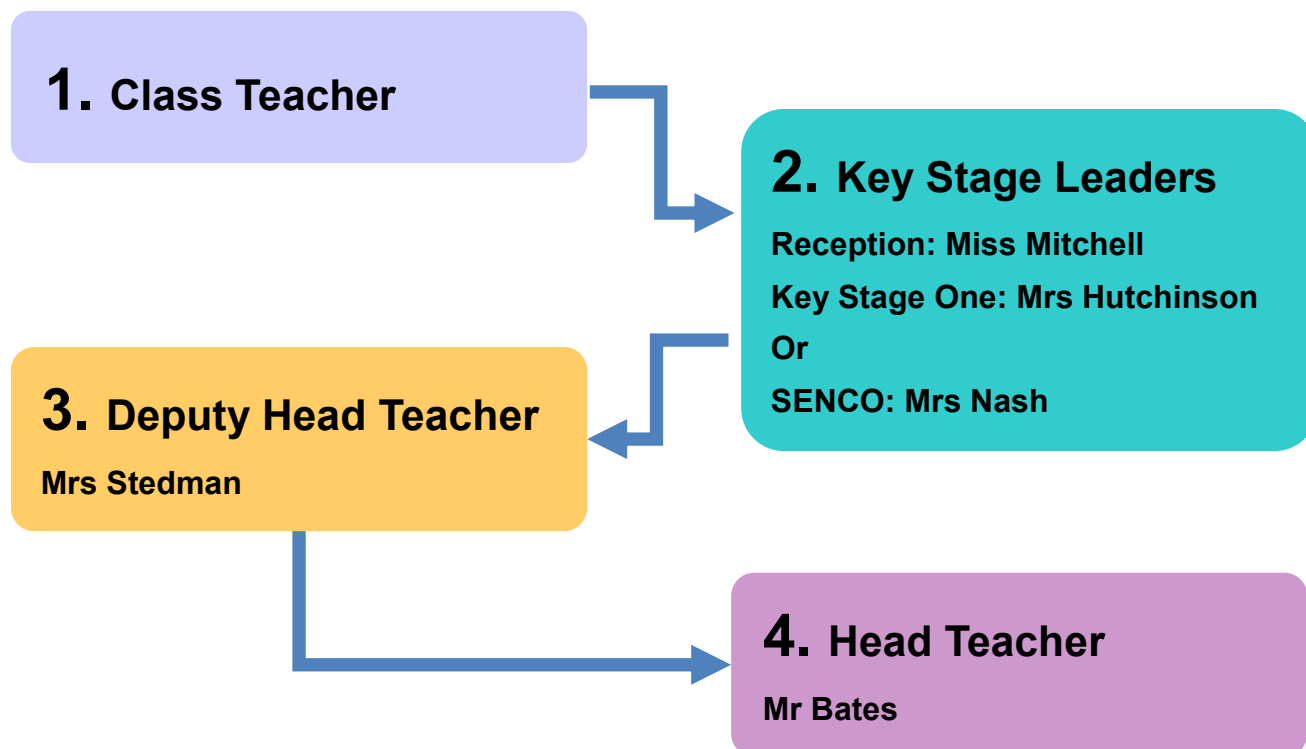
This will go towards new PE equipment for our school which we will benefit so hugely from within our teaching and learning of PE and we will update you with what we have purchased imminently. This really is a phenomenal amount of money and we are so very grateful for all your support and helping the children to be so excited about this event. The fundraising prizes have arrived and will be coming home next week.

Thank you once again, from us all!



School Contacts

Communication Pathway for Parents



Safeguarding Concerns

Speak to one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Stedman

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:



Kamilya Stedman
DSL / Deputy Head

Adrian Bates-Holland
DDSL / Head Teacher

Sara Nash
DDSL / SENCO

If you'd like to feedback concerns or would like advice or support then please follow this pathway.

All admin issues, such as ordering school meals, medical issues, ParentMail, Tapestry or PurpleMash login issues, updates to collection arrangements or contact details, volunteering queries, copies of letters, library book queries or attendance updates are dealt with by our school office team.

Our class teachers are responsible for **all** children in their class, including those with additional needs and therefore they should always be the first point of contact if you have a concern or query. Class teachers can be approached at the start or end of the school day, or contacted through the school office at office@hassocksis.com or phone 01273 842549.

Please be aware that class teachers are teaching and may not be able to respond straight away. If you send an email via the school office, you can expect to receive a reply within 48 working hours. Email inboxes are not monitored outside of the school office hours, weekends or school holidays.

This pathway will continue to be followed if concerns are not resolved or if either party feels that it needs to be escalated.

We do recognise that there are some concerns / incidents that are of a more serious nature that may be dealt with by Key Stage Leaders, the school's Deputy Headteacher, or in the most serious circumstances the Headteacher. It is most likely, even in these circumstances that the class teacher will be involved.



This half term the Year Ones are embarking upon their forest school journey!

The sun was shining brightly for Ash Class this week, and the children were just brilliant, they got stuck into their first session like ducks to water! We explored the space and thought about who else might share this area with us, including mammals, and mini beasts.

We then brought the old pond back to life, cleaning it, adding different levels for the pond life we hope to attract, adding gravel and aquatic plants (thank you Tabby for your generous donations!). At the end of the day Mabel's family made our dreams come true by donating some frogspawn which we are so excited to see develop over the coming weeks. Fingers crossed we will get some tadpoles!

In the afternoon the children lovingly built a new bug hotel too. Ash class are certainly fascinated by minibeasts! One child named our resident Oak tree, and the children also enjoyed the mud kitchen, creating clay woodland animals, bug hunting, relaxing in the hammock and using the watercolour paints to paint detailed pictures of the flora and fauna. Such a wonderful beginning to their journey. Thank you and well-done Ash Class!



***** We are looking for regular volunteers who can help us with forest school sessions. Please get in touch with Claire Daniel via the school office. Your support means everything to us and ensures these sessions can go ahead. Thank you. *****

Year 2 Interschool's Multi-sports competition

On Tuesday 4th February we were very excited to welcome children from The Gatton's Primary, Ditchling Primary School and Albourne Primary School to Hassocks Infant School for the afternoon.

The children took part in an interschools multi -sports competition with some of our Year Two children. 10 children from Hassocks Infants represented us beautifully, demonstrating amazing sportsmanship, understanding of rules and skills in different PE events. It was a wonderful enrichment opportunity for all the children, experiencing sporting activities with children from other schools with an added element of competition in a safe environment.

Ditchling Primary took 1st place and we came a healthy 2nd! We would like to congratulate our children on being so fantastic, they made us very proud and we look forward to running more events such as this later in the school year.



Snacks, Lunches and Food in School

Just a polite reminder about the school's position on snacks, lunches and birthday treats.

- All year groups are provided with a fresh piece of fruit or vegetable each day as part of the Free Fruit for Schools Scheme. There is also always spare fruit available if a child does not like the choice of the day. Snack time is a great opportunity for children to try different fruits and vegetables with their peers around them. **Children should not be bringing their own snacks into school.**
- Water bottles should be brought into class so the children can stay hydrated throughout the day - plain, unflavoured water in a named reusable bottle please.
- Birthdays and celebrations: please do not send children into school with sweets or cakes for birthdays.
- Packed lunches should also be healthy so please no sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks. For further information and ideas for healthy packed lunches please see the NHS website [here](#)
- We are a nut free school. This is to safeguard children with severe allergies. Please see the attached letter, at the end of this newsletter, that contains guidance on avoiding nuts in lunches, which includes avoiding pesto and hummus.

Number Day

The children had a fantastic time taking part in Number Day. They enjoyed becoming entrepreneurs, by carefully budgeting for and creating a product, which they took home for a donation.

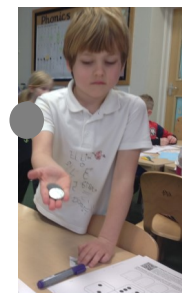
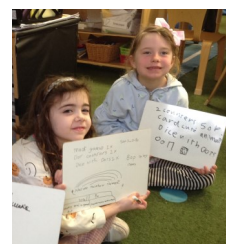
In **Reception**, the children created slime. They loved following the recipe to measure out each ingredient.



In **Year One**, the children used colourful beads to create patterned bracelets.



In **Year Two**, the children visited the 'board game shop'. They had to carefully consider which materials to buy for their board games, and got to make up their own rules!

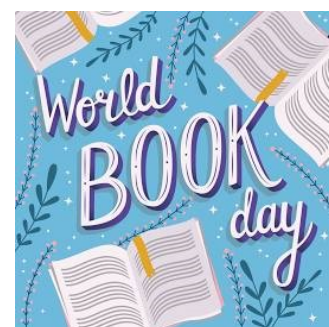


World Book Day—A Cosy Celebration of Reading!

We had a truly wonderful Book Day here at Hassocks Infant School! The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as children and teachers alike donned their cosiest pyjamas and gathered to celebrate our love of reading. It was fantastic to see everyone fully embracing the day, with favourite books clutched tightly and characters coming to life through stories and discussions.

One of the day's highlights was undoubtedly the **Book Nook**. From picture books to thrilling adventures and fascinating non-fiction, there was something to captivate every reader. Children enjoyed browsing through the new additions, sharing recommendations with their friends, and listening to captivating stories read aloud by Julie, the lovely Book Nook lady.

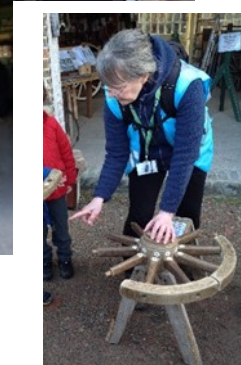
Book Day was not just about reading but also about fostering a love for literature and storytelling. It was heart warming to see the children so enthusiastic about their books and to witness them discussing characters with such passion. Thank you to all families who supported the day and helped make it so special.



Year One's First School Trip—A Journey to Remember!

Our Year 1 children recently embarked on their **first-ever school trip on a coach**, and what an adventure it was! They visited **Amberley Museum**, where they got to experience history and technology first hand. The excitement was palpable as we boarded the **steam train**, with clouds of steam billowing and the rhythmic chugging creating a real sense of adventure. Not only did the children love the train ride, but they also got to travel on an **open-topped bus**, feeling the breeze as they took in the sights around them.

One of the most memorable parts of the day was our visit to the **Electricity Hall**. The children were absolutely fascinated by the exhibits and couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the old **dial-up phones** and learned how people used to connect calls. There were plenty of gasps and giggles as they discovered just how far technology has come. The hands-on displays were a brilliant way to make history come alive, and it was wonderful to see the children so engaged and curious.



We are so proud of our young adventurers for their fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. The adults who accompanied them couldn't have been prouder of our **Hassocks Heroes!**

Year Two - Stones and Bones Adventure

Year 2 recently had an exciting visitor to support their **Stones and Bones** topic – an expert **palaeontologist!** The children were captivated as they learned all about dinosaurs, fossils, and ancient life on Earth. They asked thoughtful questions and showed a keen interest in the different bones and artefacts on display.

Inspired by their experiences, the children went on to create some truly **amazing writing** about their discoveries and adventures in the prehistoric world. We were so impressed with their creativity and how they brought the ancient past to life through words.

Our superstar learners really shone throughout this topic, rewriting the story of *Tyrannosaurus Drip* by Julia Donaldson and writing exciting and descriptive dinosaur poems. A huge thank you to the visiting palaeontologist for making this learning experience so memorable!





Headteacher: Adrian Bates-Holland

Hassocks Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just having contact with someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties). First aid staff in the school are trained to use the Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens.

We cannot have nuts in school in any form. Please can we ask that you have no nut products in lunch boxes or brought into school as treats. This includes:

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Peanut butter cakes
- Some Asian food, including satay
- Sauces that contain nuts
- Products containing Tahini such as Hummus
- Products containing Pine Nuts such as Pesto



This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely. We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check but we are sure that you recognise the importance of checking. We do have to insist we are a nut free school. I know if this was your child you would expect that we all help, especially as it is a life-threatening condition.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Yours Faithfully,

Adrian Bates-Holland
Headteacher