



Hassocks Infant School

NEWSLETTER NO. 2 - October 2025



Dear Families,

The weeks seem to be racing by and October half term is rapidly approaching! The children have all settled in to their new classes and I have been amazed by all of the wonderful learning they have engaged with already. We are hoping that this newsletter gives a brief snapshot of some of the great learning experiences children have enjoyed in the first few weeks of term.

We do have a number of events planned over the next few weeks which are a good opportunity for parents and carers to come in to school – the Year 2 lantern workshop, 6 weeks in meeting for Reception parents, a phonics workshop for Key Stage One parents and parent consultation meetings after half term. It would be lovely to see lots of you at these events and we do hope that you can join us– further information is included in this newsletter.

Adrian Bates-Holland, Head Teacher

Celebrating Diwali at School

We are really excited to share that the children will be learning all about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. Each year group will take part in different activities to help them answer our Big Question: *Why is Diwali important to Hindus?*

- **Reception** will explore the meaning of Diwali through creative activities such as firework pictures and making colourful rangoli patterns.
- **Year 1** will learn about the tradition of lighting diyas (special oil lamps) and even make their own clay versions.
- **Year 2** will bring the story of Rama and Sita to life through dance and storytelling, and we'd love them to come in bright, comfortable clothes for moving and dancing.

This celebration is part of our wider RE curriculum, giving children rich and memorable experiences of different faiths and cultures. By the end of Year 2, every child will have enjoyed three unique Diwali experiences, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of Hinduism.

If your family celebrates Diwali, we'd be delighted to hear from you – your input would help us make this a truly special event for the whole school community.

Safeguarding Concerns

Speak to one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Stedman

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mr Bates & Mrs Green dsl@hassocksis.com



Kamilya Stedman
DSL / Deputy Head



Adrian Bates-Holland
DDSL / Head Teacher



Alison Green
DDSL / SENCO

Please be aware that the following policies can be found on our school website, [here](#):

- * Safeguarding policy, Behaviour policy, Anti-bullying policy

Pupil Premium- Is my child eligible?

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits and you apply for free school meals, our school will receive a Pupil Premium grant to support your child's education. The grant is currently £1,455 per eligible primary pupil and is paid for up to six years.

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support from National Asylum Support Service (NASS) under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit (with no working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

For more information, follow the link below:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

The FSM Eligibility Team can be contacted by e-mailing: fsm@westsussex.gov.uk

If you would like some support to find out if your child is eligible, or to complete the forms then please contact the school office or Mrs Green by emailing Senco@hassocksis.com

Helpful Reminders

We have noticed that quite a few children are arriving at school still finishing their breakfast. For safety reasons, we always make sure children are seated when eating, which can delay the start of the school day. Please could we ask that children have their breakfast at home before coming in, so they're ready to start the day with energy and focus.

We would also really appreciate your support in helping children practise getting dressed independently at home. In Year 1 especially, changing for PE can take a lot of valuable learning time, and a little extra practice makes a big difference in building their confidence and independence.

Thank you so much for your support in these small but important routines – it really helps your children, and us too!

Dear families,

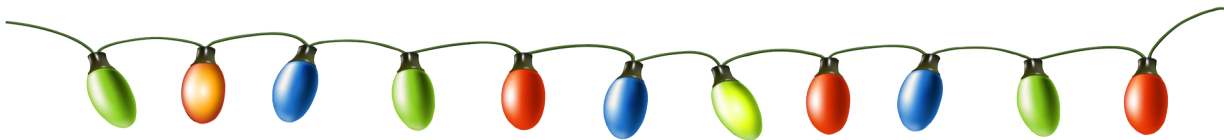
Next term we are holding a phonics and reading workshop for families new to the school and anyone that's wants a refresher. I'll be talking you through our phonics scheme and giving some helpful hints about how to support your child at home.

The workshop will be held just after drop off and last about 30 minutes. A date will be sent out before half term.

Hope to see you there.

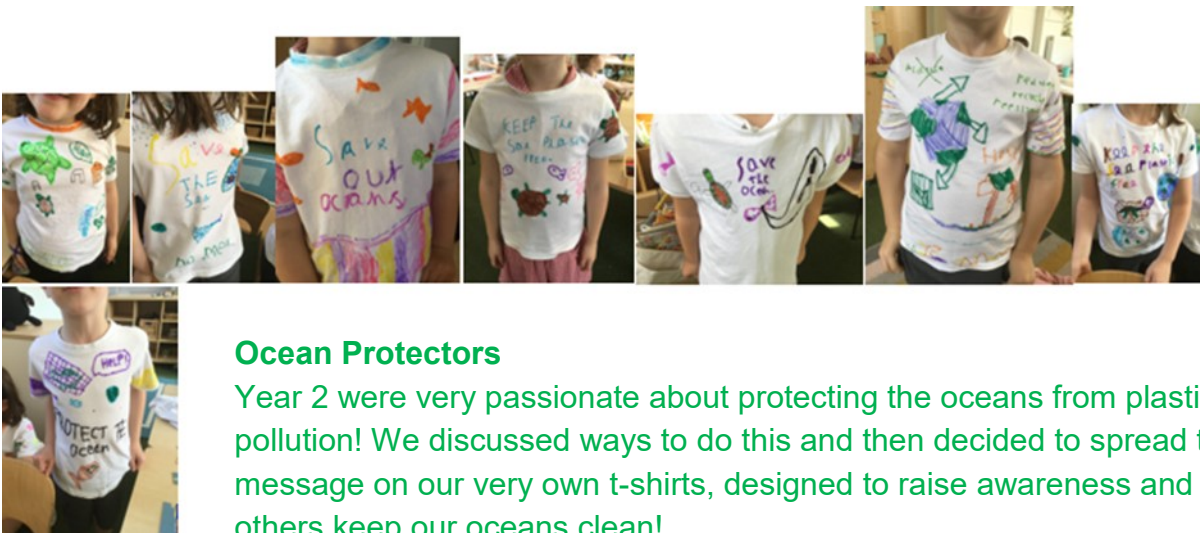
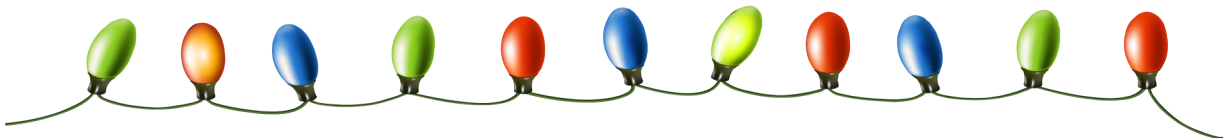
Mary Hutchinson KS1 and literacy lead.

Update from Year Two



Light up Hassocks!

Please come and join our lantern making workshops on Tuesday 25th November 4.15 to 5.15 and Thursday 27th November 3.30-4.30. During the workshop we will provide everything you need to make your lantern and give step-by-step instructions so that you and your child can make something special together and be parade ready!



Ocean Protectors

Year 2 were very passionate about protecting the oceans from plastic pollution! We discussed ways to do this and then decided to spread the message on our very own t-shirts, designed to raise awareness and help others keep our oceans clean!

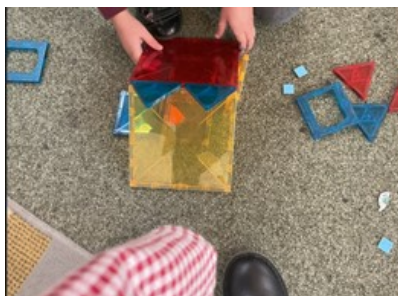
Update from Year One

Year 1 Artists:

In Art this term, Year One have been exploring *mark making* through shapes, lines, textures, and colours. Inspired by the artist Molly Haslund, the children experimented with different media and surfaces to create large, collaborative artworks filled with spirals and circles. They discovered how emotions and even music can influence the marks we make, helping them to explore how art can tell stories and share feelings. The children also developed their drawing skills through observation, using snail shells to inspire their final collaborative pieces. Throughout, we focused on key vocabulary such as *line, shape, texture, colour, and collaborative*.



In Geography, Year One have been learning to think like geographers by exploring our school environment. The children studied aerial photographs to understand how they help us see places from above and began creating their own maps and models of the school. They even took their own aerial photos, developing their understanding of why these are useful in real life.



We have been using the block area to think carefully about what we want to build and the purpose of our designs. The children have worked with focus and imagination, creating some real masterpieces, just like the one below from Ash Class!



Reception Update

We are so proud of how well the Reception children have settled into life at Hassocks Infant School. They have enjoyed exploring their classrooms and outdoor areas, and it is lovely to see them getting to know each other.



We have started our 'People Who Help Us' topic and have enjoyed some exciting visitors. Please keep an eye out for our 'Weekly Wonders' that provide an overview of our learning each week. Tapestry is now up and running, and you can view observations made by school staff as well as adding your own.

Don't forget the "6 week in" meeting:

6 WEEKS IN!

We would like to invite you to our 6 weeks in meeting. We'll share how the children have settled in, introduce you to some key members of staff and their school roles, and answer any questions you may have. Please come and join us if you can. Biscuits and drinks provided!

kamilya Stedman

**THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER
AFTER DROP OFF
09.00 AM - 09:40AM**