



Hassocks Infant School

NEWSLETTER NO. 5 - March 2026



Dear Parents / Carers

We are once again approaching the end of term and about to begin the summer term. We are all very much hoping that the summer term brings some warmer weather and plenty of sunshine!

The spring term seems to have by gone very quickly. Even though it has been a short term, it has once again been busy and we hope that this newsletter provides an insight into all of the learning and wonderful experiences which have taken place since the last newsletter.

Adrian Bates-Holland, Head Teacher

Annual Parent Survey

Each year we share a parent survey for all of our families to complete. This is now available online and can be accessed via this link or the QR Code below:

[Parent Survey 20256 – Fill out form](#)

Last year we received 91 responses to this survey. The feedback from this survey is incredibly valuable to us and greatly supports our School Improvement Planning for the next academic year. If you are able to spare a few minutes to complete this survey, we would be very grateful. If we're doing something well, then we would love to know about this and will share the responses with the team. If there is something that we can improve, then please do let us know! Some key changes which have been implemented over the past year, based on parent feedback include:

- A return to face-to-face parent consultation meetings which have been incredibly successful
- A wider range of clubs run by our staff team and external providers
- Additional curriculum workshops for parents, including the wonderful maths sessions and 6 weeks in meeting for new Reception parents
- A revised communication pathway detailing who to get in touch with if you have a query

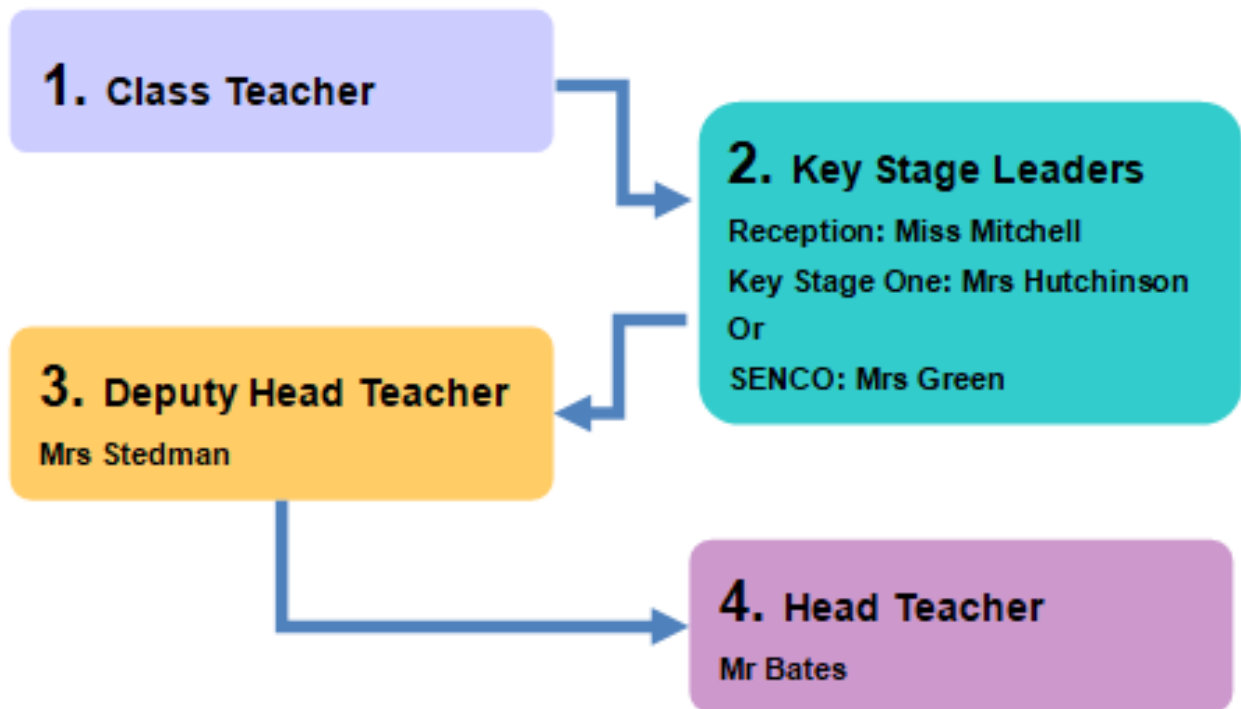
Do remember to contact us directly if you have a concern – we want to work with you to respond to any concerns which are emerging. Our communication pathway details who to contact. In most cases, this will usually be your child's class teacher.

Our survey will be open for responses until **Friday 17th April**.



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:

Mr Bates & Mrs Green dsl@hassocksis.com



Kamilya Stedman
DSL / Deputy Head



Adrian Bates-Holland
DDSL / Head Teacher

Hassocks Infants School Governors

Dear Parent/carers

The governors have been busy this year visiting classrooms, teachers and pupils during our termly monitoring visits and welcoming two new members to the governing board. Sian Diodge as our new co-opted governor and Jade Guest as our new parent Governor. We would also like to thank our Health & Safety governor, Angus Neil, who is stepping down after 5 years of support and hard work.

With Angus stepping down we are recruiting a new co-opted governor and are looking for someone with health and safety experience. All training is provided so please get in touch to learn more about the role and share with anyone who might be interested.

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch, governors can be contacted through the clerk to the governors at clerk@hassocksis.com

We wish all families, staff, and teachers a restful Easter holiday after a busy term!

Best wishes from all HIS governors

Safeguarding

Family Support & Services

We know that families sometimes need extra support and advice. If you ever need someone to talk to or guidance about services that may help, the following organisations can offer confidential support. Please remember that school staff are also here to help and support you; we can also make referrals for support alongside you – just ask the **Family Support & Advice – Early Help Services – Local Family Support**

‘Children of any age can experience problems at times, and parents or carers can’t always meet their needs by themselves. When children do require some extra support, it’s always best to put help in place as soon as it is needed. Throughout your child’s life there are people around who you can go to for advice, guidance and support’

Contact Details: <https://www.westsussexscp.org.uk/parents-carers>

Contact number: **01403 229900**

Email: WSChildrenservices@westsussex.gov.uk

Child Safety & Wellbeing

NSPCC – advice and support if you are worried about a child’s safety or wellbeing
Helpline: 0808 800 5000 | nspcc.org.uk

West Sussex Children’s Social Care / Integrated Front Door – to report a concern about a child

Phone: 01403 229900 (office hours) | Emergency: 0330 222 6664

Domestic Abuse Support

‘The best way to contact us for yourself is to complete the online self-referral form. This gives us all of the basic information we need, so when we contact you we can get straight to providing help.’

WORTH Services – support for individuals and families affected by domestic abuse.

Contact Website: worthservices.org.uk

Mental Health Support

West Sussex Mind

‘It is important to us that anyone in West Sussex is able to get support. So our work includes outreach to ensure those who most need us know about us and feel able to ask for help. We provide support for children, young people, adults, older people, parents, carers and families, and specialist support for the LGBTQIA+ and resettled refugee communities. If you are struggling with your mental wellbeing, we are here for you’.

Contact Details Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm on 0300 303 5652

or email: helppoint@westsussexmind.org

GP or Health Visitor – for health and emotional wellbeing support

Continued on next page

Safeguarding continued

Food Support

Burgess Hill Community Food Bank – emergency food parcels

Phone: 01444 247726 | Address: 85 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9BQ

Haywards Heath Foodbank – emergency food parcels via referral

Phone: 07884 106719 | Address: Unit A, 9 Delaware Rd, Haywards Heath, RH16 3UX

Burgess Hill Pantry – affordable groceries for families

Market Place Shopping Centre, Burgess Hill

Staffing Update

Mrs Joe, one of our Learning Support Assistants in Reception will shortly be starting her maternity leave. We are still recruiting for the maternity cover and will be able to provide details once we have somebody in place.

Mrs Brownjohn, our school Business Manager will be leaving us at the start of May. Many of you will have met Mrs Brownjohn when you have been into the school office or when you have called the school. Mrs Brownjohn plays an important role managing our school budget, ordering resources, managing the school building, HR and many other jobs which keep our school running smoothly. After 18 years at our school, this will be the end of an era. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs Brownjohn for everything that she has done during her time with us.






We do occasionally need to provide cover for staff who are absent due to illness and we are looking to recruit some additional midday meals supervisors to provide cover on an ad-hoc basis. Our midday meals supervisors work for an hour over lunchtime and play a valuable role supporting children as they eat their lunches and at playtime. If you are interested in a role, then please do speak to the school office and collect an application form.

Attendance

Lots of you will be aware that attendance in schools is a national priority and we are all being asked to work together to ensure that time out of school is kept to a minimum. At Hassocks Infant School, we encourage good attendance and punctuality right from the very start. This helps prepare children for their future but also ensures that children do not miss out on valuable learning experiences. When children are out of school, they do miss learning and it can be incredibly challenging to support children to catch up on these missed opportunities.

As a community, we have been hit hard by illnesses this winter. Chicken pox, flu-like illnesses, hand, foot and mouth, stomach bugs, as well as many other illnesses have been doing the rounds. We know that lots of children have been unwell.

Please remember that the school is unable to authorise absence for family holidays or special events. Further information, including our absence policy can be found on our school website [using this link](#)

	<p>Get in touch if you need any support or guidance:</p> <p>Some families may be experiencing some genuine barriers with attendance. This could be due to a medical condition or there may be exceptional circumstances. Please do get in touch if this is the case – we want to work with you to support, if we can. Our Class Teachers are always the primary contact for any queries, alternatively the school office can be contacted by telephone or email at office@hassocksis.com and will be able to signpost you to the correct person who can help.</p>
	<p>Ensure that children arrive at school on time and by 9am:</p> <p>Our gates are open by 8.50am each morning and children are expected to be in their classrooms, ready to learn at 9am. All classes take registers promptly at 9am.</p>
	<p>Is My Child Too Ill for School?</p> <p>It can sometimes be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.</p> <p>It's fine to send your child to school with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Our team can monitor children throughout the day and will always contact families if they are not well enough to be in school.</p> <p>Occasionally children may feel anxious or worried about school and this is normal. They may get a tummy ache or headache or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety worse. Do speak to your child's class teacher and they can find ways to help and support.</p> <p>The NHS website has some clear guidance which can support families: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/</p>
	<p>Contact the School Office If Your Child Is Absent</p> <p>Do remember to contact the school office by 9am if your child is absent from school. You can notify the school office by:</p> <p>Using the form on our school website Sending an email to office@hassocksis.com Telephoning: 01273 842 549 (<i>between 8.30am and 9am</i>)</p>
	<p>Avoid Taking Holidays During Term Time</p> <p>The school follows national guidance from the Department for Education and we are not able to authorise absence during term time, except in very exceptional circumstances. We do recognise the challenges around family holidays but every day in school counts – there are only 190 days in a school year, which means that there are 175 days remaining for holidays and other treats.</p> <p>We do ask, that wherever possible medical and dental appointments take place outside of the school day.</p> <p>Please refer to the guidance on our school website for further information.</p>

Reception Update

At the start of the Spring term, the children in Reception became scientists. They have taken part in lots of experiments and thought about how to work scientifically. Firstly, the children explored the concept of freezing and melting, they studied ice and even changed the shape of chocolate by melting it. They enjoyed tasting it after!

The children also explored light and dark and experimented with their shadows. They created their own shadow puppets, and noticed the closer it came to the light, the bigger the shadow became.

During the final week of term, we learnt all about Chinese New Year. The children worked very hard to create their own props to take with them on a parade around the school. The children were so excited as they walked through the school as Year One and Two cheered them on.



Year 1 Update — Pirate Day

Year 1 had a fantastic time celebrating Pirate Day! We started the day as **history detectives**, investigating clues to discover which special person from the past we would be learning about. The children solved the mystery and discovered that our historical figure is **Grace O'Malley!**

In English, the children showed great creativity by **writing persuasive reasons why they should join a pirate crew**. They used **similes** to make their writing more exciting, describing themselves as *quick as a racing car*, *as brave as a lion*, and more!

We also enjoyed fun **pirate-themed PE games with Jenny**, including *walking the plank*, *defending the pirate ship*, and playing **Pirate Attack**. To finish the day, the children **made their own pirate hats**.

It was a wonderful day full of creativity, teamwork and pirate fun!

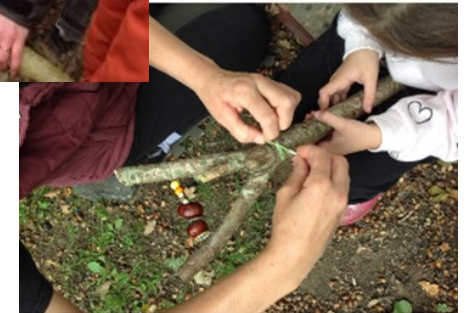
Forest School Update

Throughout the Autumn and Spring terms to date, the children of Oak, Holly and Elm Class have been progressing their skills and learning more about the wonders of the natural world. The children have been experiencing a difference in seasons from their previous experiences! Some weeks have been wetter and colder than others! The children have risen to every challenge, embraced the elements and enjoyed being able to just relax without the worry of getting 'dirty'. In fact, some have truly revelled in it! Skills learned in Year Two have been: Fire lighting with the use of our 'Dragon Sneezers' (flint and steels), building dens, mallet use, cooking on an open fire, using the Bosaw (sawing a disk), whittling with knives and drilling using our palm drills. These hands-on skills have been interspersed with playing outdoor games, creative art, being imaginative in the mud kitchen, and enjoying stories, joke telling and sharing the shelter together with a cosy cup of hot chocolate. It has been an amazing experience for us all. If you'd like to understand more about Forest School - Principles and Practice, please refer to www.forestschoolassociation.org.

I also wanted to say a huge huge thank you to FOHIS for their incredible fundraising powers as it's down to them and everyone's kind and generous donations that we now have a permanent forest school shelter! It has meant that we are able to enjoy the area in all the weathers and it keeps us feel safe and cosy (especially whilst we enjoy a warm hot chocolate around the fire whilst it's raining outside). It's a fantastic addition to our forest school area which will be enjoyed for years to come! Thank you FOHIS!!



Forest School continued:



I would like to personally thank all the parents and volunteers who have helped at these sessions. Your support is so valuable to us and has meant the children get to experience as much as they have. We are so grateful for you giving up your own time. Thank you.

Year One are now beginning their forest school journey. We are always looking for adult support from parents and carers to help support the children. This helps these sessions to take place. If you are interested in supporting and joining us, please get in touch with Claire Daniel via the school office. Your support means everything to us and ensures these sessions are as fulfilling as they can be.

Thank you again!

Claire Daniel, Forest School Leader

A Week of Wonderful Words – Celebrating World Book Day!

We had a fantastic World Book Day celebration at school, with a whole week full of stories, books and exciting activities to inspire a love of reading.

The week began with a special assembly where Mrs Hutchinson shared all the wonderful new books we were able to buy using the commission from our last Book Fair. It was very exciting to see so many brand-new stories arriving in our school!

We were also lucky to have a visit from The Book Nook, where the children enjoyed listening to stories, choosing books and exploring lots of new titles. It was a brilliant opportunity for everyone to discover something new to read.

World Book Day wouldn't be complete without costumes, and we were amazed by the fantastic outfits across the school! The children loved sharing the books they had brought in and talking about their favourite characters.



In Year 2, the children took part in a fun Top Trumps battle using their favourite book characters to see who would come out on top. Year 1 made booktastic bookmarks to celebrate their favourite books. It was a great way to celebrate some well-loved stories!

As part of our continued focus on reading for pleasure, we have also started a lovely new partnership with Year 5 pupils from Windmills Junior School. Every Monday they visit Year 2 to listen to the children read and then share a book together. This has already become a highlight of the week and is a wonderful way to build links between the two schools.

We hope to continue and grow this special reading partnership with other year groups in the summer term.



Interschools

In the Autumn and Spring Term some of our Year 2s have taken part in two interschools events!

In the late Autumn term Hassocks Infants were the hosts and we welcomed children from The Gatton's Primary, Birchwood Grove, and London Mead Schools. Then in the first half of the Spring term, 12 more children went to take part in a multi sports event hosted by The Gattons Infants School in Burgess Hill.

Both events were a huge success, the children did us so proud! Not only was their behaviour absolutely beautiful, but their sporting abilities, understanding of rules and skills shone, and we were able to take first place in both events! The children won graciously and were just so happy to take part and compete in a friendly environment against other children.

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 in the summer term.

