



**NEWSLETTER 3**

**18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

The term is flying by! It is impressive how settled and engaged all the children are within the school: they are confident about routines, expectations and, as you will have seen at Parents' Evening, have already made progress and are producing some really high-quality work. So far this term, we have had 2 residential trips, 2 school day-trips, a visiting theatre company, 2 class assemblies, 1 year group evening performance, computer workshops for 2 year groups, a fire drill (the children were brilliant and cleared the building in well under 2 minutes), an open evening for Reception 2025 and lots of interesting learning opportunities – we are certainly keeping the pace up! Thank-you for your support and ensuring the children are ready for school each day.



**Parking**



We have received a few complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking around the school at the beginning and end of the day. We understand that many parents/carers have to drive and that most drivers are extremely conscientious, However, it does get busy in the roads surrounding the school so please take care not to block any driveways, reverse onto people's property and make sure that you drive slowly and carefully. Your help with this is much appreciated – thank-you.



**Parents Evenings**



We were pleased to see so many parents and pupils attending our Parents Evenings last week. There was a lovely buzz around the school and it was good to see so many children proud to share their achievements. If, for some reason, you were unable to make an appointment, teachers will be contacting you before half term to make an alternative appointment.

**Harvest**

This year our Harvest Festival Assembly will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Please bring donations for the Horsham Food Bank to the hall on Friday morning. They are particularly asking for donations of:

- Toilet rolls
- Long life custard
- Hot chocolate
- Jars of cooking sauces
- Long life fruit juices
- Instant coffee
- Savoury snacks



If you wish to make a financial contribution, please scan the QR code above.



**Year Six Ambassadors**



Congratulations to

Linus R, Felicity D, Millie D and Omer K

who have been selected as ambassadors this year. They have got off to a great start with some very positive feedback about their tours for YR 2025 parents, so we are delighted with our choices. We look forward to seeing how they rise to other opportunities that will occur during the school year.



**Reception Welcome Meeting**



Reception parents are invited to a welcome meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm. Similar to other year groups, there will be an overview of the year, expectations of the pupils and key ideas to support their learning and development. It is a good chance to mix with other parents and share your thoughts on how the start of term has been. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible for the evening.

**Staffing**

We sadly said goodbye to two of our classroom assistants earlier this term. Mrs Taheri has had a career change and is settling back into an office environment and Miss Sweeney has begun her teacher training course. Following recruitment, we will welcome two new members of staff after half term. Mrs H Sanders & Mrs C Goddard will join us as Classroom assistants to take us back up to our usual staffing levels.

All staff have been very supportive and flexible in the interim and we thank them for their positive attitudes and hard work!



## Reception 2025



If your child is due to start school next September, you should have heard from West Sussex about applying for a school place. The deadline for this is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Here, we held a well-attended Open Evening for next year's Reception parents at the beginning of October and we have begun our schedule of school tours. If you are interested, please contact the office for dates. On the tours you will be: shown around the school site by our Y6 Ambassadors who can answer many questions about the school; join Mrs Smith (EYFS lead) in EYFS for a tour and chat about Reception provision at North Heath; have a cup of tea and a biscuit (other drinks are available!) with me and Mrs Smith to ask any more questions and have a chat about our school. We look forward to seeing you soon!

### Autumn Leaves

We do love our trees at North Heath but, as ever, we are battling with the autumn deluge! This is particularly true on the front playground where leaves become very slippery if the ground is wet. I will be in school from 11am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November to sweep up and clear as many as possible. I'd be very grateful for any help from anyone who has a spare half hour or so that day. Even better if you can come armed with a broom, a leaf blower and thick gloves. If you also have a garden waste bin within wheelable distance of the school, we'd love to fill it for you that day!

### Christmas Cards



Your children have been working hard this week to design their Christmas Cards. Friends of North Heath will be collecting their designs on Friday to organise proofs of the cards. They will be sent home and you will then have the chance to order your own copies so that they are ready for Christmas. This is a lovely way of having personalised cards and, hopefully, raising a little bit of money for the school as well.



### Year 5 Residential

Year 5 have been to Sayers Croft for 3 days. They have returned safely and *relatively* clean! They represented our school brilliantly, as we knew they would, and have engaged well with all the different experiences. It is a big step to go away with teachers and friends for the first time; we are very proud of them and grateful to our staff for enabling the trip. Now they can feel even more confident about their Year 6 Fairthorne trip.



### Readers



We have a big plea from some year groups, particularly Year One, for parent readers. If you can spare a regular 20mins-1 hour in school each week, it would be much appreciated. Regular reading makes such a difference to children's progress and we know it is the gateway to so much other learning. If you can spare the time and have already been DBS checked, please let the office know and we will get you booked in asap. If you have not yet been DBS checked, please ask to speak to Mrs Crane in the office who will make an appointment for you as soon as possible. Thank-you in advance for the difference we know it will make to the children's learning.



### School Christmas Card Competition

Thank-you to all the children who took part in the Christmas Card competition. There were some amazing entries. Due to the high number and the quality of many of the designs, we decided to select 3 designs and wish we could have made some others – your children are just so talented! Congratulations to Alice S (Y4), Arianna B (Y4) and Jack K (Y1) for creating the winning designs. All entries have also been appreciated in our honour book assembly.



### School Council

School Council have some exciting plans for pupils for Children in Need on Friday 15 November. Watch out for a ParentMail coming soon with further details for the day.



## Upcoming Dates

<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Tuesday	22	Individual Pupil Photos	
Thursday	24	FoNH + parents	Friends of North Heath AGM
Friday	25	Harvest Festival	Donations to the hall from 8:30 please
Half Term			
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Sunday	3	11am	Leaf collection on the playground
Monday	4	8:40am Pupils return	All pupils back in school
Wednesday	6	Y3 trip	Y3 + staff to Butser Ancient Farm
Thursday	7	YR parents 6pm-7pm	YR parents and staff
Wednesday	13	5:30-7:30pm Parents	+ and – Mathematics evening
Thursday	14	Y3 9am	Year group assembly to parents
		Y5/6 4-5:30pm	Netball tournament at The Bridge
Friday	15	Whole School	Children In Need Day
		Y6 4pm-6pm	Hockey tournament
Tuesday	19	Y3 12:15-2:15pm	Badminton competition at Collyers
Wednesday	20	YR/Y1 5:30pm-6:15pm	Phonics Evening for Parents
Thursday	21	Y5 children + parents 6pm	Sayers Croft performance for parents
Monday	25	YR -Y6 am	NHS Nasal spray
Wednesday	27	Y4 9:30am-12pm	Team Games Event at The Bridge
		5:30-7:30pm Parents	x and ÷ Mathematics evening
Thursday	28	YR-Y6	FoNH Non-uniform Day – donations for house raffle
		Y5/6 4-5:30pm	Netball tournament at The Bridge
Friday	29	Y6 4pm-6pm	Hockey Tournament
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Tuesday	3	Y3/4 Christmas rehearsal performance for grandparents and siblings 1:45pm	
Wednesday	4	YR Christmas rehearsal performance to grandparents 9:30am	
		Y3/4 Christmas performance to parents (Hazel and Lime) 6pm	
Thursday	5	YR Christmas performance to parents 9:30am	
		Y3/4 Christmas performance to parents (Willow and Larch) 6pm	
Tuesday	10	Y1/2 Christmas rehearsal performance for grandparents and siblings 1:45pm	
Wednesday	11	Y1/2 Christmas performance for parents (Elder/Chestnut) 9:30am	
Thursday	12	Y1/2 Christmas performance for parents (Silver Birch/Cherry) 9:30am	
Friday	13	KS1, Y3/4, Y5/6	FoNH Christmas disco (see FoNH newsletter)
		Parents	FoNH Christmas raffle draw
Monday	16	Rocksteady Performance 9:30am	
Wednesday	18	Y5/6 1:30pm performance to grandparents at St Marks Church	
Thursday	19	Rocksteady Performance 9:30am	
		Y5/6 6:30pm Christmas performance for parents at St Marks Church	
Friday	20	END OF TERM	

As always, we are grateful for the dedicated and hard-working staff at North Heath, who make all these things possible. It has been a long half term and children are starting to get tired, so try to take it easy this weekend, stay positive and help us to support our pupils through the last week of this half term. Well done to our new Apple and Cherry pupils who have very nearly completed their first half term at school – always a big achievement!

Yours sincerely  
*Nicky Chesshire*  
 Interim Headteacher