



Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

Welcome back from half term! Thank-you to all those who made it to our Parent Consultation Evenings; it is always great to see such a huge turnout of parents and pupils and it is a good reminder of how we all work together in the best interests of the children.

Kindness

Kindness continues to be a focus for us in school. It is so rewarding to see so many pupils being recognised with our superhero stickers for their kind behaviour. I gather a few parents were also treated to a rendition of the kindness song we learnt in assembly on Tuesday – it's readily available on YouTube! I'd also like to thank all of you for continuing to emphasise the importance of kindness within our community. It all makes such a difference 😊



Playgrounds



Can I please remind everyone that there should be no ball games before or after school. There are too many people on the site for it to be safe at those times of day, especially as responsibilities for supervision can easily become muddled. There are also often other demands for our space with a range of after-school clubs and Rocketeers on the premises. Thank-you for continuing to support us in this endeavour to ensure that our site is safe for all users at these busy times of day.



Cross Country Success



Some Year 6 pupils represented the school in a Horsham Cross Country event recently. They have written a quick review of their experience to share with you. We are very proud of their effort, perseverance and success!

Our experience at Cross Country was great! On a Tuesday afternoon we went to, Christ's Hospital school where it was being held. All of the girls lined up as they would be going first. In each race there were 72 children that would have to run a total of 2.5km. The top eight in each race were selected to go to the county race held in Crawley and two of our North Heath children have qualified to go!

At the end, North Heath girls were awarded 3rd place overall and the boys received 4th place. We all had an amazing time and were all proud of our achievements. We are also thankful for our teachers who organised for us to go and our parents who supported us, as well as Christ Hospital for providing both the field to run on and the students who guided us along the course!

Superheroes!

Reception and Year 1 had a brilliant week to end the half term, learning about 'real life superheroes' in our community. The pupils enjoyed visits from the police, the ambulance service, the fire service, the RAC and the Royal Mail. During each visit, the children learnt interesting facts about these amazing jobs and also took part in important discussions about safety and what to do in an emergency.

It was been an invaluable and fun-filled week and we wish to send a huge thanks to all our visitors who gave up their valuable time to come into school and who help support our community every day. Special thanks also go out to Marvin the police dog who was a real hit!



Bikeability

Congratulations to our Year 6 pupils who braved rain and wind to tackle the Bikeability course. They soldiered on despite the very wet, cold weather on some days and all achieved their Level 1 Bikeability award with a large proportion of the cohort also achieving Level 2. These pupils are now qualified to ride on roads safely – well done to them all!





Gallery Council



Gallery Council has changed a little.

We still have representatives from each KS2 year group to select the work chosen from across the school but this is now run by Mrs Rowlands. The council met for the first time last term and looked at some work from each class. After careful consideration and much discussion, they chose the following pupils' work for display.

Gallery Council	Selected art work
Y3 Mia G, Lilah P	YR – Madeline M
Y4 Mayar Q, Isabel A	Y1 – Amelia H
Y5 Osker V, Yumi C	Y2 – Safa Z
Y6 Alice C, Ryan K	Y3 – Tyler J
	Y4 – Oscar L
	Y5 – Jessica H
	Y6 – Millie D

This work will be displayed on a particular wall in school, rather than being spread around the school as in previous years. The plan is that it will change termly so that we will be able to display a whole range of work across the year. We will let you know when it is all installed and, if you have a few spare minutes, feel free to pop in to admire the work of some of our talented pupils.



World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March and all classes will be engaged with book-themed work for the day.

Being aware of the difficulties and costs involved in dressing up (particularly as a specific character), the English Team have put together a different plan this year. Pupils will, instead, be creating a book or character themed headband to wear on that day. Staff have given out card for the headband so that each pupil can create something unique to wear and share on the day. We are looking forward to learning a lot about their favourite books and characters.



Teaching

Have you ever wanted to teach? Tanbridge School run a teacher training programme. The SCITT training largely takes place in local schools where trainees are supported in their journey to become a qualified teacher. If this appeals to you, there is an information event at Tanbridge on Tuesday 18th March.

Tanbridge Teacher Training
Information Event

Tuesday 18 March

4pm - 5pm
Tanbridge House School

Scan the QR code for further details
and to book your place.



tanbridge-house-sch.co.uk/Teacher-Training/



Lost Property



We still have large quantities of lost property in school. We are hoping, depending on the weather, to display it for you to look through after school during the first week in March – watch out for details nearer the time.

Please could you take a few minutes to make sure that your child's uniform and coat are clearly labelled. It helps us hugely in returning lost items to their rightful owners. There is no need to buy expensive labels but if you do write children's names on labels, please check them regularly as they definitely fade over time!



Thank-you



Parking



We are still having some issues with drivers and parking before and after school. Unfortunately, the school is located in a dead-end which means that when people get as close as they can to school, they become stuck or have to complete very tight turns. This is leading to dangerous driving and we have had a number of close calls where either children or adults have nearly been injured. Wherever possible, we would urge you to park further away and walk the last part of the journey. With 3 access gates, there are a number of safe, possible routes.

Support

The registered charity, Spurgeons, has sent us a flyer and some information about a free supportive service they are running for parents who are separating or who have gone through a separation or divorce. It is understandable that this is a very difficult time in anyone's life, especially when children are involved and it is never easy to ask for help. Spurgeons is offering a free online course for parents - "Parenting After Separation". The following smart code or link will take you to the 6-session online course. [Parenting after separation course | Separated parents course](#)



Pupil Premium Funding

There are changes coming to the way in which families can apply for Pupil Premium Funding. This is funding that is paid to the school to support your child if you are in receipt of certain benefits. This is important even if your child is in KS1 and already receives Infant Free School Meals - it is used to: contribute to staffing; support with attending of clubs and trips; help you in buying uniform. It also gives access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme, which includes supermarket vouchers during the school holidays and free places on a variety of holiday activity clubs. **If you think your child is eligible we urge you to apply before 28 March 2025** as from 1 April 2025, the Government's transitional protection arrangements for means tested Free School Meals (FSM) will end. Any eligible claims confirmed from this date will no longer be protected. This means any child confirmed as eligible for free school meals from 1 April 2025 will be subject to ongoing checks to confirm continued eligibility. This will not impact any children who are already confirmed as eligible. Those already confirmed as eligible will maintain their eligibility until the end of their current phase of education.

It is a quick and easy process to make an application, by clicking on the link below

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

As we move on with our term, we look forward to a wide range of events from class assemblies, trips and visitors, to family and parent events run by FONH. We are also looking forward to brighter, hopefully drier, longer days as we move towards spring.

Thank-you for the continued support you offer the children, staff and school as we work together to help the children flourish in every way.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Chesshire (Headteacher)

Upcoming dates

New dates in blue

MARCH			
Monday	3	All day – Y3 Hazel	Y3 Hazel visit to Horsham Park
Tuesday	4	All day – Y3 Willow	Y3 Willow visit to Horsham Park
Wednesday	5	All day – Y2 9:30-12:00pm – Y5 racquet sports 12:40-3:00pm – Y5 cross country	Y2 Australia Day Y5 team at the Bridge (selected pupils) Y5 team at the Forest School (selected pupils)
Thursday	6	All day	World Book day – Pupils to wear headbands
Friday	7	9:00-9:30am Y5 Hawthorn	Assembly for parents/carers Please note that this is a Friday assembly, not Thursday as usual
Tuesday	11	All day – Y4 6:15-7:00pm – Current Y5	Y4 Viking Day Y5 parents – Fairthorne Information Evening
Thursday	13	9:00-10:00 Y1 Cherry + Chestnut 3:50-5:30pm Y5/6 Netball team	Assembly for parents/carers + Reading Café Netball League matches at The Bridge
Tuesday	18	1:30-3:15pm – Y3 Hazel	Y3 Hazel parents invited for sewing activity
Wednesday	19	10:00am-1:00pm – Selected Y4	Indoor athletics at the Bridge
Thursday	20	9:00-9:30am Y2 Elder + S.Birch	Y2 Assembly for parents/carers
Friday	21	9:00 - Whole School 3:20 – School Council + families	Comic Relief - Red Nose Day Comic Relief Cake sale
Monday	24	9:45am – Rock Steady Groups 2:00pm –Y5 pupils	Rock Steady Concert for performer’s parents The Forest School to visit Year 5 pupils
Tuesday	25	All day – Y6 1:30-3:15pm – Y3 Willow	Trip to the Natural History Museum Y3 Willow parents invited for sewing activity
Wednesday	26	2:00pm –Y5 pupils	Millais School to visit Year 5 pupils
Thursday	27	9:00-9:30 Y5 Rowan 3:50–5:50pm Y5/6 netball team	Assembly for parents/carers Netball League matches at The Bridge

		Pm – FONH + parents	FONH Adult BINGO in school hall
Friday	28	9:00-11:00 – YR Apple + Cherry	Mothers' Day Assembly for parents/carers
Monday	31	9:45am - Rock Steady Groups	Rock Steady Concert for performer's parents
APRIL			
Tuesday	1	11:30-3:15pm Y6 rugby team	Y6 Tag Rugby competition at HRFC
Thursday	3	9:00-9:30 – Y4 Larch & Lime	Assembly for parents/carers
Thursday	3	Pupils' last day	
Friday	4	EASTER Holiday begins for pupils + INSET DAY for all teaching staff	
Tuesday	22	All Pupils back to school	