

NORTH HEATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ERICA WAY HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12 5XL



NEWSLETTER 2

October 2025

Dear Parent/s and Carer/s,

It's hard to believe it's already October and the autumn weather is settling in! Though, when I see everything that has been achieved at school in the last month, maybe I'm surprised it's only October! Our amazing Reception classes have settled in beautifully and seem to know their way round the school like they've been here for years! The children are already used to the new class names (and occasionally put us adults to shame!) and have enjoyed hunting for replica animals around the school site. Year 6 have been on their residential trip and we are almost ready to wave Year 5 off for their 3 days at Sayers Croft. Our first ever football team have played their first tournament and represented us brilliantly, especially considering they'd played together as a team only once before!

School Values

Your children are becoming more and more familiar with our new school values and it has been lovely to see so many of them proudly sporting stickers for demonstrating one or other of the values. We have had assemblies focusing on each value and it is amazing how quickly all our children have learnt to recognise each value in different situations.



Be Kind, Be Creative, Be Courageous



Shakespeare

Years 4,5 and 6 enjoyed an interactive performance of Macbeth from the Young Shakespeare Company earlier this term.

Here is a review from some of our Year 5 pupils:

We really enjoyed the Young Shakespeare Company production of Macbeth. They do brilliant plays and they even let some children act with them! They got some children to stand up and say lines from the play with the actors. They made us have a good understanding of what happened and also encouraged us to make predictions.

Macbeth was really exciting because there was a lot of fighting and action. I enjoyed being able to watch a murder-mystery play. It was very dramatic. We would really like to see more

Shakespeare plays in the future. by Rafa & Reece



Reading



It was fantastic to recognise the reading achievements of so many children in our recent Summer Reading Challenge assembly. So many children had enjoyed reading books over the summer and were still able to remember and share their favourites with us – I think we all came away from the assembly with several recommendations! Reading is such a vital skill for our pupils so it is always a pleasure to see so many embrace their opportunities to read.

This term, we have decided to focus on the joy of books and reading even more in school. So, your children should be enjoying a class story of some sort each day while eating their fresh fruit snack. I'm sure they'd love to tell you about their class book/s!



Uniform



A reminder that pupils should be wearing their house coloured T-shirts for PE with black shorts (mid-thigh length) or tracksuit/jogging trousers (not wide legged at the ankles). As the weather is becoming cooler, pupils are able to wear the PE kit appropriate for colder weather, pupils should wear a plain black hoodie or sweatshirt or, failing that, their school cardigan or sweatshirt. We would also expect all pupils to wear black trainers that they can put on and do up themselves. They are welcome to wear black trainers with their usual uniform as well if they find them more comfortable.



Be Kind, Be Creative, Be Courageous

Playground Opening

On Friday, 3rd October, we were joined at school by Chelsea Football Club, school Governors, Friends of North Heath, our Y6 ambassadors and School Council representatives from Y1 and Y2 for the official opening of our new KS1 outdoor physical development area. The weather stayed fine for us and it was lovely to be able to officially open the facility and see the pleasure that children of different ages took in exploring the apparatus again. We would like to thank Friends of North Heath for supporting us with the payment of three of the pieces of equipment, all due to the money raised through their wide-ranging events.



HOME START
Crawley, Horsham & Mid-Sussex

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AT HOME-START CRAWLEY, HORSHAM AND MID-SUSSEX

- Are you passionate about helping children have the best possible start in life?
- Do you have parenting experience and want to make a difference in your local community?
- Do you want to gain new skills and improve the lives of young children?
- Do you have 2-3 hours a week to gift to families who may need a little bit of extra support?

If this is you - please give us a call on 01293 416327 or email info@homestartchams.org.uk - we would love to chat with you about our current volunteering and training opportunities.

"I love volunteering with Home-Start - I thoroughly recommend it - brilliant training and support plus a really fulfilling way of spending a couple of hours a week"

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Home-Start CHAMS provides training for people interested in supporting families in a voluntary capacity.

For those looking to support our families and young children in groups, the Group Volunteer Induction training runs in: **March, July and December.**

For those looking to support our families and young children in their home, the Home Visiting Preparation Course runs in: **February/March and October/November.**

Courses are typically run from our office, or another venue, in Crawley.

Our friendly coordinators are on hand to help you explore our volunteering opportunities, please call us on 01293 416327.

WWW.HOMESTARTCHAMS.ORG.UK

HOME START CHAMPS, HORSHAM AND MID-SUSSEX IS A REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND (1195950). THE BEDFORDS & HUNTERDONS SOCIETY, BRIMSTON ROAD, CRAWLEY, WEST SUSSEX, BN10 5AD

Home Start Horsham are still recruiting for new volunteers. Take a look at their website and see if you could offer some time to support other parents. They are still recruiting for their upcoming October volunteer prep course. <https://homestartchams.org.uk/volunteers-needed-2025/>

Language

Unfortunately, we have recently seen an increase in the number of pupils who use swear words or inappropriate language either casually or when frustrated. These are dealt with when overheard but we would like to ask all parents to be mindful of language that pupils can hear at home, particularly through older siblings or through age-inappropriate websites, television programmes or social media. As ever, we appreciate your efforts and thank you for your support with this.



Year 5 & 6 Football Tournament Debut



For the first time ever, Year 5 and 6 pupils came together to form a team and represent North Heath in the local Horsham Schools Football Tournament at Tanbridge School. Despite being newcomers to the tournament, our team, made up of enthusiastic and determined players, battled hard against some very established local school sides. Although we didn't win any matches, we were really proud of the two draws we achieved and how we played. We had an absolute blast and can't wait for the next round!

(Lily C, Freddie L, Henrique F)

I'm sure you'll all join in with me to wish them the best of luck for their next outing!

Safety



We know that, as they get older, children become more independent and that, as parents, you are keen to enable small steps on this journey. As a school, we ask that if pupils are going to walk home by themselves at the end of the school day, their class teacher has been informed of your permission in writing or email. This way, there will be no confusion in expectations.

If your child is going to walk all or part of the way home, it is important that they feel safe. They should, however, know that they need to be vigilant and stick to agreed routes and timings. As we cannot control the many different types of people from the community that they could encounter on their journeys home, they do need to know what to do should they feel uncomfortable in any way.



Financial Support



For anyone who may be struggling with the never-ending bills and financial pressures on parents, West Sussex support and information service have published the following set of numbers and websites that may be able to offer support or advice.

Energy Support

- West Sussex Energy: <https://www.westsussexenergy.co.uk>
- LEAP Energy Support: <https://applyforleap.org.uk> or call 0800 060 7567
- For energy related queries, advice on reducing energy costs, accessing grants & financial and improving home efficiency call Citizens Advice on 0800 145 6879 and press 2 for West Sussex

Priority Services Register (PSR)

- Free UK-wide service for vulnerable individuals
- Provides extra support during utility interruptions
- Apply at <https://www.thepsr.co.uk>

Childcare and Family Services

- Free School Meals: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>
- Tax-Free Childcare: Up to £2,000/year - <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
- Help available via Citizens Advice: 0808 278 7969

Pension Credit

- Call 0800 99 1234 or visit <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit>
- If you get Pension Credit, you'll automatically get cold weather payments
- You are also eligible to apply for a free TV licence
- Need help? Call Citizens Advice at 0808 278 7969

Harvest Festival



This year, we would like to again support Horsham Foodbank for our Harvest Festival. Please find below a list of items that they would particularly appreciate. If you have the available funds and would like to make a financial contribution, please use the QR code on the flyer. Thank-you



This Harvest Festival, the Horsham District Foodbank is asking for donations of surplus home grown produce and our much needed general items:

- Tinned meat
- Long life milk
- Coffee
- Toilet rolls
- Long life custard
- Hot chocolate
- Jar cooking sauces
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned vegetables
- Savoury snacks

If you wish to make a financial donation to the Foodbank, please scan the code below.

HorshamMatters **Horsham District Foodbank**
Supporting Health and Improving Lives Together with Trussell

Telephone: 0300 124 0204
Email: info@horsham-matters.org.uk

Charity Number: 1116253

SmartPhone Free!



Like many schools, we sometimes experience issues with pupils' use of mobile phones, online chat-based apps and gaming. There is also increasing research to show that smartphones could be contributing to health issues in children.

Like other schools in Horsham, we are currently exploring the option of being a Smartphone-free school in support of the Smartphone Free Childhood organisation. <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

It would be interesting to know how parents feel about this possibility. We know some secondary schools are considering being Smartphone free in years 7&8, and that some primary schools have already worked with parents to become smartphone free. We felt you'd appreciate the heads-up now before you are persuaded to buy smartphones for Christmas presents!



Dogs

Please remember that no dogs are permitted on the school site. If you have your dog with you when coming to collect your child, they must be left securely outside the gate – we ask that they are sufficiently far away from the gate entrance so that pupils who are concerned about dogs do not need to pass them too closely.

Thank-you for your consideration.



Cleaners Needed

Due to the retirement of 2 of our cleaners, we are looking to recruit new cleaners to join our hardworking, friendly staff. The hours are variable but will be between 3:15pm and 6:15pm on weekdays during term-time.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in the role, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email the school office for further details or an application form.

Join an inclusive SEND music group

West Sussex Music are providing a **free** creative music group for children ages 8yrs+, with special educational needs or disabilities, and their parents or carers. Join them at Horsham Music Centre on Saturdays in November, 12:30-13:30, and explore music through a range of instruments in a fun and creative way. No experience necessary.

For more information and to sign up, visit: <https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/orchestras-inc/>



It was lovely to see so many of you in school for parents evening, though I feel that the guinea-pigs possibly got more than their fair share of attention! We have a busy couple of weeks to carry us through to half term but your children seem to revel in all the activities and continue to do us proud. Our Year 5 pupils are off on their science and geography themed residential this week where they will learn about plants, rivers and how to read a compass accurately. Next week, we have a big trip for Year 3 to the Natural History museum while Year 6 have visitors into school for some Black History Month drama workshops. It feels like this term has flown by and I'm sure it will be half-term before we know it.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Chesshire (Headteacher)

Dates for 2025-2026

(new dates in blue)

OCTOBER			
Tuesday	14	2:15pm Volunteers' Safeguarding training in the hall 5:30-6:15pm – YR + Y1 Phonics Evening	Parent Volunteers (invitation) All Reception + Y1 parents
Wednesday	15	9:30am Y5 pupils to Sayers Croft	Y5 pupils + parents
Friday	17	2:30pm Y5 pupils return from Sayers Croft	Y5 pupils + parents
Monday	20	FoNH AGM	FoNH + any interested parents
Tuesday	21	Individual School Photographs	All pupils
Wednesday	22	Y3 trip to Natural History Museum	Y3 pupils + volunteers
Wednesday	22	2:15pm Volunteers' Safeguarding training in the hall	Parent Volunteers (invitation)
Thursday	23	Black History Month Drama Workshops	Y6 pupils
Friday	24	Harvest Assembly END OF HALF TERM	All pupils All pupils
NOVEMBER			
Tuesday	4	6-7:00pm YR parents Welcome Evening	Reception Parents
Thursday	6	9:00am Y3 Assembly for all Year 3 parents and siblings	Year 3 year group assembly
	6	Maths Evening for Parents +- (More details to follow)	Y2-5 parents
Tuesday	11	Y6 Remembrance memorial service in Horsham	Y6 pupils
Thursday	13	9:15am Sayers Croft Assembly	Y5 Parents + pupils

	13	FoNH Quiz Night	Parents
Friday	14	Children in Need Day (details to follow)	All pupils
	14	Y6 Hockey tournament at Tanbridge Sports pitches	Y6 hockey team + parents
Mon-Fri	17	2:15pm Volunteers' Safeguarding training in the hall	Parent Volunteers (invitation)
		3:15-4:00 Book Fair	All parents + pupils
Tuesday	18	Y3 Badminton Challenge at Collyers	Selected Y3 pupils
Wednesday	19	Y6 Health Check (NHS) (More details to follow)	Year 6 pupils
Thursday	20	9:00am Y2 Assembly for all Year 2 parents and siblings	Year 2 year group assembly
Thursday	27	9:00am Y4 Assembly for all Year 4 parents and siblings	Year 4 year group assembly
	27	Maths Evening for Parents $\times \div$ (More details to follow)	Y2-5 parents
Friday	28	Y6 Hockey tournament at Tanbridge Sports pitches	Y6 hockey team + parents
DECEMBER			
Tuesday	2	9:30am YR Christmas performance for Grandparents	Reception Grandparents
Wednesday	3	9:30am YR Christmas performance for Parents	Reception Parents
Thursday	4	FoNH non-uniform day – Colour Hampers	All pupils
Monday	8	2:15pm Y1/2 Christmas performance for Grandparents	KS1 Grandparents
Tuesday	9	9:30am Y1/2 Christmas Performance for Parents	Y1/2 Parents
Thursday	11	9:30am Y1/2 Christmas Performance for Parents	Y1/2 Parents
Monday	15	Rocksteady Concert (time tbc)	Rocksteady pupils' parents
	15	2pm – Y3/4 Christmas Performance for Grandparents	Y3/4 Grandparents
Tuesday	16	9:30am – Y3/4 Christmas Performance for Parents	Y3/4 Parents-Robin & Kestrel
Wednesday	17	9:30am – Y3/4 Christmas Performance for Parents	Y3/4 Parents-Starling & Red Kite
	17	1:30pm–Y5/6 Carol Concert for Grandparents at St Marks	Y5/6 Grandparents
Thursday	18	pm – Christmas Parties	All pupils
	18	FoNH Pop-Up stall – lucky bags	Pupils + Parents
	18	6:30pm – Y5/6 Carol Concert at St Marks for Parents	Y5/6 parents + community
Friday	19	LAST DAY OF TERM	