



Newsletter 29th September 2023

Learning, growing and achieving excellence together

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well, fit and happy! I say that in the knowledge that we do seem to have a bit more COVID circulating. As always, it has been a busy week in school, part of which was meeting a few more of you at our coffee afternoon and at the SEND coffee morning. It's always good to meet more parents and I will be making the coffee morning/afternoons a more regular feature, so look out for those dates. Due to the success of the choir on these occasions, we will ensure that they are there as a regular feature providing their latest song.

Some of you may have noticed that we have filled a skip at the front of the school and are filling a second one with some of the school resources which have come to the end of their life, or are really in need of renewing. We are taking a look at the school environment and putting a phased plan of improvement in place, this will include the possible redecoration of classrooms and shared areas. As I am sure you will be aware this is a costly activity and we will therefore need to spread the action over time.

Connected to this, we are hoping to book a Saturday, possibly the first one after the half term break, when we will invite parents and staff to come to a "Ground force day". This will involve designated areas of the school grounds being tidied and sorted by groups of willing helpers. As I think I mentioned before we will provide refreshments. I will send a detailed letter to all of you outlining times, tools we might need you to bring and the most likely areas for working. I hope you agree this will be real plus for our school community!

I hope you are all looking forward to a lovely weekend!

Brian Ball – Interim Headteacher



European Day of Languages: There was a real buzz around the school on Tuesday as we celebrated European Day of Languages. Across the year groups, there were so many different and wonderful activities taking place. **Early Years** found their class country on a map and learned how to Irish dance, among other wonderful activities. **Year 1 and 2** looked at a famous artist linked to their class country and create artwork inspired by them. In **Year 3**, the children enjoyed matching flags to the countries, singing a song about saying hello in different languages and doing a language quiz. In **Year 4**, the children focused on The Netherlands, planting tulips, making windmills and they learned to count to 12. The children in **Year 5** learned all about Germany, how to say some simple phrases in German and explored the German culture. **Year 6** children learned the importance of appreciating other cultures and were lucky enough to be taught some Welsh by Mr. Griffiths. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm shared by all.



Year 5 Poetry Workshop : On Tuesday, Year 5 were joined by the inspirational poet, Antosh Wojcik, for a fantastic poetry workshop. The workshop was inspired by this year's National Poetry Day theme of 'Refuge', with an emphasis on 'Refuge in Nature'. We began by exploring our school grounds, looking closely at nature and noting down ideas about what we could see, hear, smell and feel. We then created a collective poem from our ideas, which we used to inspire our own individual poems. The Year 5 children showed their creativity and curiosity throughout the workshop and were very proud of their final poems! We want to thank the **West Sussex Arts Society** for organising the workshop and the **Billingshurst and District Lions Club**, who have very generously agreed to sponsor Antosh to work with schools in the local area.



Eco Team :

We are excited to introduce our new Eco team! We have met to talk about what we would like to achieve this year and high on our agenda is to continue our important litter picking campaign as well as finding more ways to save energy in our school and develop habitats for a variety of animals. We will be giving out information shortly about the 'recycle to read' campaign, where broken toys can be rewarded for books for school at local Tesco stores!



Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala: On Tuesday, Year 5 and 6 swimmers took part in a swimming gala against other local schools. There was a mixture of individual events and relays and every single swimmer performed incredibly. The atmosphere on poolside was fantastic and it was great to see everyone cheering on for their friends. A highlight was watching both the boys' relays and the girls' relays winning their event. A huge well done to everyone that competed!



Year 5 and 6 Weald Athlete Event.

This week a Year 5 and 6 squad attended a sports event at the Weald along with other local schools. They were put through their paces in a variety of different disciplines. They started with some fitness activities and then went on to work on a variety of skills and drills. The afternoon's focus was teamwork. We were extremely proud of how well the children represented the school.

KS2 Spellings: Focus Five: In the coming weeks, we will be launching our revised, targeted approach to spellings in KS2. KS1 will continue to focus on spellings linked to their RWInc reading books, which are available through Oxford Owl. In KS2, our 'Focus Five' spellings will be 5 focus spellings for each child, identified in their writing. These will be commonly used words that may include spellings patterns and common exception words. Each child will have a target card with their current 'Focus Five' spellings on it. Once each child has demonstrated they can use the spelling correctly in their writing in context 5 times, they will have a new focus spelling. This may mean that they do not have a new set of 5 words each week but are able to understand, use and spell the word correctly in context in their writing. If you wish to practise your child's 'Focus Five' spellings in sentences at home, they will be available on a card at the back of their Reading Record books. We believe this approach will be more purposeful and impactful as it will be matched to every child's current spelling focus. Thank you for your support.

Message from BPSCA: If anyone is interested in seeing what we do, please come to our next meeting on **Friday 6th October at 2pm in the staff room.**

We are holding a **big** uniform give away under the KS1 canopy on **Friday 6th October** from 3pm. Any donations towards the BPSCA funds will always be appreciated.

Parham winninghouse !

Cowdray
449

Goodwood
485

Parham
575

Petworth
528



Upcoming dates:

w/c 2nd October Bikeability begins for Y6

3rd October Reader's workshop 9-9.30am

5th October Reader's workshop 2.30-3pm

17th and 18th October Parents' Evenings

2nd November, 7th November, 16th November, 21st November

EYFS prospective parent open days – 9:30am & 2:00pm

On the school website now!

- **year group topic webs**
- **optional homework grids**
- **parent meeting presentations**

These can be found on each Year Group page under the 'Children' tab

Action photos :

On **Thursday 5th October**, we will be taking photos for the school of the children, who have photo permission, learning and playing. We would therefore really appreciate it if they could come in with their school jumpers and looking their very best! Many thanks.

Letters home this week:

Year 6 Tile Barn payment schedule letter

Year 5 Lodge Hill payment schedule letter

Parent Consultation letter

Reading records:

Please can you ensure that children bring their reading records into school each day. Many thanks !

