

SEPTEMBER
2024

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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Dear families, parents and carers,

Welcome to the September edition of our monthly newsletter, which aims to give you a flavour of what exciting learning the children have been under-taking. It was lovely to see many of you attending our 'Welcome to the Year Group' meetings where you got to meet the teachers and learn about the year group's learning/events and homework. We hope you found these meetings useful. Copies of the presentations have been sent out and can be found in our year group pages on our website - <https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/classpages/>

Harvest Donations

Thank you to those who have sent in Harvest donations already. We are collecting for two worthwhile causes, the 'East Grinstead Foodbank' and 'Crawley Open House'. The Foodbank provides food for families with a low income, or who are victims of a sudden crisis, who may be struggling to put food on the table. Crawley Open House is an organisation we have supported in the past and they provide support and services for those suffering the effects of homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, discrimination, or other forms of exclusion. Items that the Foodbank and Crawley Open House are currently asking for, include:

Items that the Foodbank and Crawley Open House are currently asking for include:

- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned soup
- Fruit Juice Long Life 1ltr
- Small washing powder/ liquid for clothes
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Boxes of biscuits
- Tubes of crisps
- Tinned meat
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned custard
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned produce
- Bottles of squash
- Tubs of chocolates

All items must be un-opened, in their original packaging and undamaged, otherwise they cannot be used. Items should also have a use by date of 2025 or longer. We are collecting until Friday 11th October.

Quick Links

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[Whole School Overview](#)

[The Halsford 100](#)

[Homework Guide](#)

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[Attendance & Sickness
Information](#)



Early Years

What a great start to Early Years we have had. We have been so busy exploring resources inside and outside... making concoctions in the mud kitchen, exploring colours with resources and paints and working together in the sand pit, are definitely some of our favourite activities so far! We have been getting to know each other by sharing our 'My Journey' booklets. We have been working hard to learn school routines such as showing Respect through good listening on the carpet and Responsibility by remembering how we line up. We have enjoyed singing nursery rhymes and listening to stories.

We are looking forward to going on a listening walk around the school grounds, and painting self-portraits.

Please be sure to label each of your child's belongings as it is very easy for jumpers, shoes, etc. to get muddled especially when they are coming on and off as the weather changes and when we use wellies for outside activities such as the mud kitchen. If we could please ask that scooters (and bicycles) are not used whilst on the school grounds, to help keep everyone safe.

Year 1

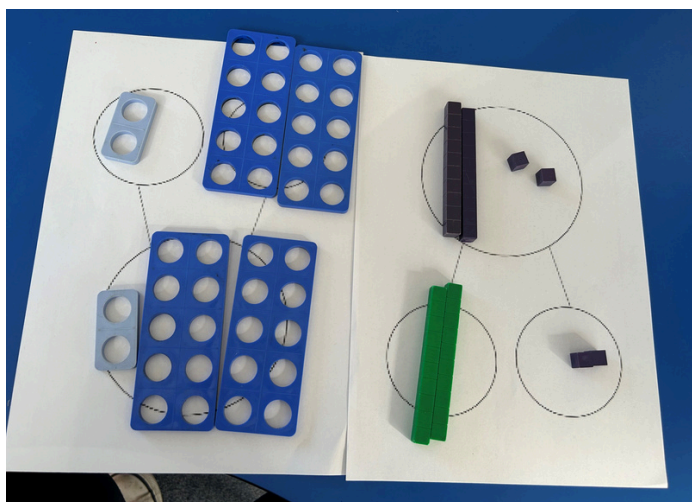
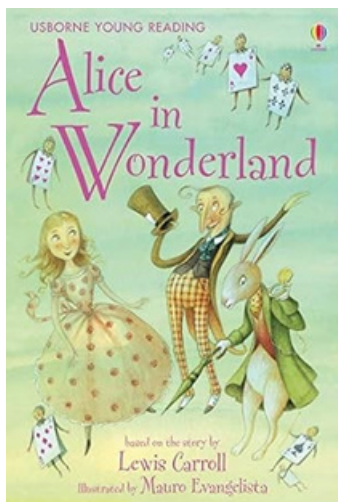


What a busy start the children have had to year 1. They had a special visitor, a cuddly teddy who came to tell them about our new experience, Toy Town. We thought of questions to ask the bear. We are going to find out how toys are made and where they come from. If you have any photos of toys that you had, we would love to share these with the children. The children have been listening to the story of Everywhere Bear. They even had a visit from two Steiff bears! They drew their own bear and wrote adventures for it to go on.

In Maths, we have been learning about one more and one less of a number.

In Science, we went on a 'senses' walk, thinking about the different things our senses had noticed. In Learning and Life Skills, the children have been thinking about ways to work together as a team; they played a game with a hoop and had to work as a team to pass the hoop around.

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for our meet the teacher meeting. We look forward to working with you all this year.



Year 2

In Year 2 we have had a great start to the year and have really been enjoying learning about Alice in Wonderland. We are very excited to be making our 'Mad Hatter' hats in DT, where we will be using our cutting and joining skills to make sure they fit our heads.

In maths, we have been using lots of resources to show tens and ones when making 2 digit numbers. We have also been working hard to start learning our 2 times tables, which we are practising each day in our maths lessons.

In our English, we have all designed our own 'Wonderlands' filled with all of our favourite things. We have then written a setting description to describe these, using all of our learning about expanded noun phrases.

In Science, we have been learning about materials and finding out about their properties. We have explored different materials in our classrooms and have been investigating which of them can be bent, stretched, twisted or squashed.

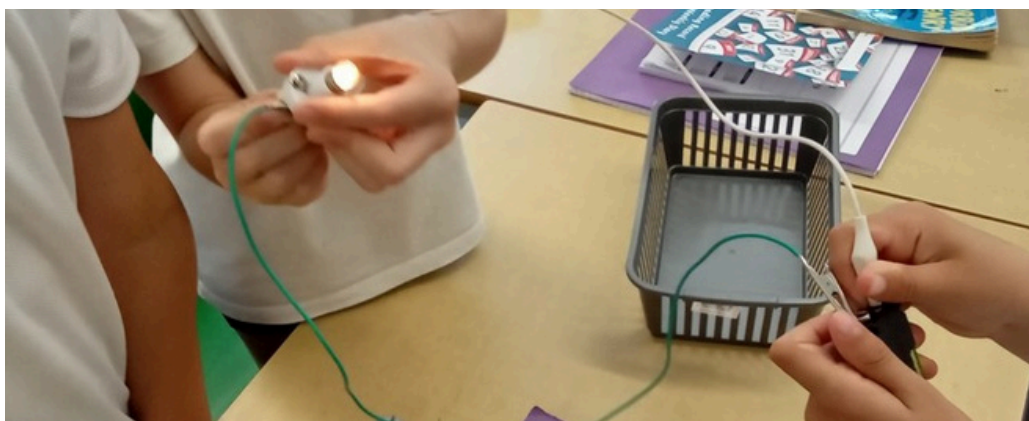
Year 3

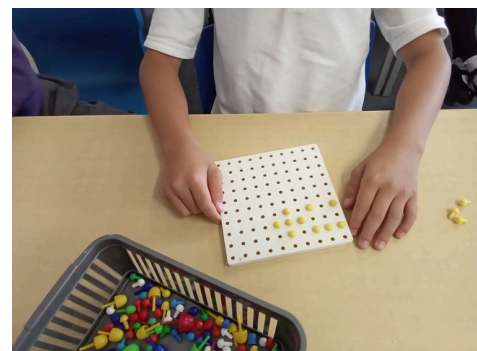
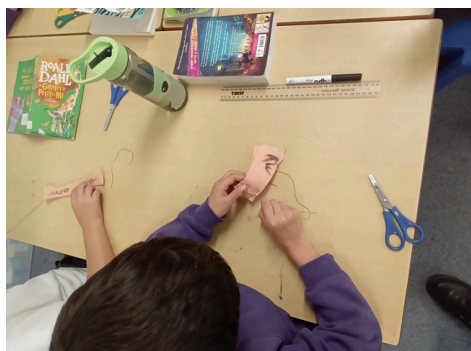
The children have settled well into Year 3 and are enjoying our first experience 'Bright Sparks. How does electricity work?' Our stunning start involved the children using circuit equipment to make a working circuit, discussing what they knew about electricity. Ask your child if they can name the parts of a circuit.

In English, we have been learning the different word classes which will be used to write a description about the children's own dragons. This is based around the book, 'Tell Me a Dragon'. In art, the children used their sketching skills to learn how to draw the eyes and skin of a dragon, combining these skills, and their imagination, to draw a dragon of their own.

For Maths, we have been learning about place value, introducing hundreds and 3-digit numbers. Using their times tables knowledge, the children have been recapping their 2, 5 and 10 times tables before moving onto the 3 times tables.

We are really looking forward to using our science knowledge and D&T skills to build a dragon cave with a working light.





Year 4

We have had a fabulous start to the term in Year 4! We have started our learning with our Experience topic of Light and Sound and have been investigating our enquiry questions: 'How do we see? How do we hear?'. For our Stunning Start, we placed beads on a board to represent Braille lettering, as invented by Louis Braille, using the Braille alphabet to spell our names! We have been looking at light and dark in Science and we even conducted our own experiment, to see what materials would be best for making an eye mask. We used shoe boxes and torches to record if the fabrics were opaque, translucent, or transparent. We are looking forward to designing and creating our very own eye masks in DT this term! In Maths, we have been working on place value, and have been ordering numbers to 10,000 on a number line. We have also been using practical resources such as cubes and Dienes to help us. In English, we have been investigating our key text 'The Firework Makers Daughter' and identifying key word groups such as fronted adverbials and imperative verbs. We will be using our new words later in the term to create our character descriptions and diary entries. In PE this term we are already mastering how to hold a badminton racket correctly as well as a hockey stick! We have also been practising serving in badminton and passing in hockey.

Year 5



Year 5 kicked off their stunning start to Mysterious Materials with a morning of scientific experiments that looked at reversible and irreversible changes. The children then wrote up their investigations in their own format. Some chose instructions others' chose a simple diagram with labels. We crated rainbows from skittles, gloop from cornflour and vegetable oil lava lamps. We will continue to look at how materials are fit for purpose and their properties throughout the half term.

In English, we have dived into Ted Hughes' The Iron Man. This short story tells of a metal giant and the destruction and devastation he brings to a small community. Pupils have been looking at the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and answering questions based on their comprehension of the text.

We are about to start newspaper reports based around this story. We will look at the features of a good newspaper report and how they are laid out.

In Maths, we have revised place value and looked for the first time at Roman Numerals. We have been looking at numbers up to a million , and coming up with mental strategies to add thousands , hundred , tens etc. to these large numbers simply by altering the place value of the digits. Incidentally, this topic in maths also lends itself to problem solving.

Please remind children that homework is posted on Google Classroom and we are happy to give children a paper copy if they are unable to access the technology or unable to print it off. In addition to this, we have also reminded children of their usernames and passwords for Rockstar maths, which can be undertaken at home. It just keeps those multiplication tables fresh and will really help in maths this year.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every evening and fill in their reading diary and these are checked on a Friday by their class teacher.



Year 6

Year 6 have had a great start to the Autumn Term and their final year at Halsford Park.

Year 6 started their space topic by making papier mache planets and the sun and learning all about the planets in our solar system.

We have been working hard in English writing our non-chronological reports about planets. The children have worked hard to include factual information and structure this into relevant, organised paragraphs. They have now all been published and look fantastic!

In maths we have been perfecting our place value skills with numbers up to 10,000,000! This week we have focused on counting through 0 and adding and subtracting negative numbers.

We have also enjoyed outdoor learning so far this term and have cleared a large area around the compost piles. Some of the children have already made their campfire doughnuts! In reading, we have been enjoying 'Cosmic' by Frank Cottrell-Boyce - a story in which a boy ends up (by accident) floating through space in a rocket. Will he make it back to Earth safely?

As we get ready for Windmill Hill, please remember to complete the Code of Conduct Google form that has previously been sent.

Amazon Wish List



If you would like to make a donation via the Halsford Park Amazon wish list the link is https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1W92U15ZTOXUK?ref_=wl_share
We open each package with a sense of excitement and are extremely grateful for every donation.

Early Years Intake 2024

Apply online at:
[westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)



**Was your child born
between 1 September 2020
and 31 August 2021?**

If so they are eligible to start school
in September 2025

Apply online!

It's simple, convenient and time-saving.
If your application is received after the deadline,
your chance of securing a place at one of your
preference schools could be seriously affected.

You can apply online from
Monday 7 October 2024.
If you would like further advice or
information, phone: 03330 142 903.

Deadline: Wednesday 15 January 2025

Free internet access to apply online is available at all West Sussex Libraries.



Do you have, or do you know a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021? If so, they are eligible to start school in September 2025. We have set the dates for our Early Years tours - please see our website for details about booking in a visit.

Early Years Prospective Parents - Halsford Park Primary School Applications can be made online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions from Monday 7th October at 9am. For further advice or information please contact 03330 142 903.

The deadline is Wednesday 15th January 2025. Please spread the word of how great our school is!





Tag Rugby- Year 3 and 4

On Wednesday 25th September, children from year 3 and 4 attended a Tag Rugby Festival where they took part in some amazing activities in preparation for some games. All the children who went participated fantastically and enjoyed their time learning new skills. Mrs Durrant



Tag Rugby- Year 5 and 6



We recently took part in a tag-rugby festival hosted by East Grinstead Rugby Club. It was a fantastic afternoon where those new to the sport were able to learn new skills and participate in some games against other schools.

As always, our children represented the school brilliantly and were true ambassadors. Mr Busse

How to become a volunteer at Halsford Park

We are always looking for members of our school community to come and volunteer at school to help our children. Volunteering is a great way to give back to the local community and we have seen the benefits of having volunteers coming into school to help with reading, gardening etc. It can also be a great way to gain experience of working with children if this is a career you are considering. Most of our volunteers currently work to support children with reading; however, if you have a passion for outdoor learning and gardening, and you are free on a Friday afternoon, then helping out with outdoor learning may be for you! We will provide safeguarding training to all volunteers.

For more information, please see our website: <https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/guide-for-volunteers/>

parents forum

Parent Forum 19th September

For our first Parent Forum of the year, we focused on the purpose of these meetings through generating a set of terms of reference as well as an opportunity to provide an update on our new School Improvement Plan for 2024-2025. In any other business, parents raised a concern with some adults vaping near to children and adults whilst waiting for the gates to open and also that some dogs near the gates are scaring the children. As a result, we will update our Parents Code of Conduct to respectfully request that adults refrain from vaping near others and that dogs are kept a reasonable distance away from others. Thank you for your understanding in advance. Minutes from the meeting will be available by the end of next week. We are also looking for a volunteer from our Early Years Parents to be a year group rep. We hold meetings once a half term (although any parents/carers are welcome). Please see either Mrs Spencer or Miss Loftus for more details. The next Parent Forum will be on Tuesday 26th November where Mrs Durrant will be consulting with the forum on a Induction checklist for families joining our community during the school year i.e. creating an overview of what we can do to ensure the best possible transitions when joining our school.

Online safety: Back to school online safety tips for children

Each newsletter, I will continue to include a top tips poster around an area of online safety. This month's is a top tips overview for online safety when back to school. We hope you find this useful.

Update from Ms Davies- SENCO

Over the summer holidays, we were delighted to hear that we have been awarded a silver award in the West Sussex Autism Awareness Award demonstrating the achievement of consistency of good support across the school.

The following strengths were identified:

- Consistent use of visual timetables and regulating visuals across school.
- Consistent autism affirming ethos and practice including celebration and acceptance of autistic pupils.
- Consistent gaining of pupil voice and including parent carers in CARMS.
- Consistent working with parent carers to share knowledge and work together to support autistic children.
- Consistent use of checklists and varying pupil voice resources to create clear understanding of autistic pupils' strengths and needs. Staff use this to adapt practice.

We were given some useful feedback and we are already working towards Gold with Jane Crawford from West Sussex and her team as part of the Autism in Schools Project.

I have really enjoyed my first couple of weeks as SENCO - please do get in touch with me (or your class teacher in the first instance) if you have any concerns/worries that we can help with. Ms Davies-SENCO.



Marathon Litter Pick



This week Oscar and Cain were invited to a Mayoral Reception to recognise community contributions to the town following their marathon litter pick they did in June.

Mayor Steve Ody was very kind and asked to join them on their next litter pick. Another councillor Julie Mockford was very impressed with them and told them that she arranges local litter picks around the town and she would be keen to get more people involved. Well done boys!

School, Eco Council and A-Team 2024-2025

We are currently in the process of recruiting our new members, and these will be announced very shortly. I know many of the children worked hard to prepare a persuasive speech in order to get voted in. Our Councils will start to include updates in our newsletters to keep you informed of their important work alongside Ms Davies, Mrs McKay and Mrs Lochwood.

Prefects 2024-2025

I am delighted to share with you that we have a wonderful new set of year 6 prefects for this academic year. Congratulations to Emily, Aaradhya, Ava, Mia H, Mahum, Waniya, Freddie, Joshua, Grace, Abigail, Meadow, Jack, Isla, Stanley, Mia M, Kaelah-Rae, Ella, Lucia, Tyler-Storm, Alexander, Bella, Amber, Esther, Orla and Santiago who all wrote very thoughtful, persuasive letters to explain why they thought they would fit the job description. I will be meeting with them monthly to discuss what is going well and even better ifs. They have already shown themselves to be compassionate role models to the rest of the school. Well done to these inspirational children.

We are extremely proud of your children and I continue to look forward to celebrating their personal and academic successes over the year whilst working in partnership with you. Thank you for your continued support.

With very kind regards

Mrs Claire Spencer – Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

October

4th	Welcome to Early Years Meeting
14th- 16th	Year 6- Windmill Hill Residential
25th	Last Day of Term
21st- 29th	Half Term Holiday

November

4th	INSET Day- School Closed
5th	Return to School
5th & 7th	Family Learning Conferences
8th	Early Years- Find Out Friday 2.40pm
13th	Year 5- CEMA School Trip
14th	Year 3- Butser Farm Trip
20th	Early Years- Writing Workshop 2.30pm
26th	Parent Forum 9.05am- <i>all welcome</i>
27th	Flu Vaccines- Whole School
30th	PTA Christmas Fair

December

4th	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert
6th	Early Years- Find Out Friday 2.40pm

December

15th	Last Day of Term
16th- 1st	Christmas Holidays

Class Assemblies - 9.00- 9.30am

17th Jan	6DS Class Assembly
24th Jan	5JM Class Assembly
31st Jan	6CB Class Assembly
28th Feb	3RD Class Assembly
7th March	1GS Class Assembly
14th March	1MS Class Assembly
28th March	5IG Class Assembly
4th April	3WR Class Assembly
2nd May	2BG Class Assembly
9th May	2LS Class Assembly
20th June	4DN Class Assembly
27th June	4JW Class Assembly
4th July	Early Years Class Assembly
11th July	Early Years Class Assembly

Sporting Events Calendar - Autumn Term 2024

<https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/PE-events-Autumn-term-2024.pdf>

Community Events

4-11 year olds

OFSTED REGISTERED

Join us for

PIONEER CHILDCARE

OCTOBER HALF TERM HALLOWEEN DETECTIVES

An assortment of themed Arts, Multi-Sports, Group Challenges & Performance activities!

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2024

Freshly made Lunch Grab Bags £4.50 Available to pre-order

HALSFORD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

8.30am - 5.00pm

FRI-YAY-DAYS! Includes Party Games & Disco FUN! (see website for details)

BOOK TODAY!

Online at pioneerchildcare.co.uk
For more information call us on 01444 411388 or email enquiries@pioneerchildcare.co.uk

WE ACCEPT Childcare Vouchers & Tax-Free Childcare

£35 per day (Siblings & Multiple Day Discounts Available)

Champion for the day

Score your victory moment by taking your photo with the **Premier League** and **Barclays Women's Super League** trophies

Come along to **Barclays Local, Kings Centre, Moat Road, East Grinstead, RH19 3LN**
This is a cashless site.

Monday 28 October
10am to 3.30pm

BARCLAYS | **BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE** | **Premier League**

COS MUSICAL THEATRE PRESENTS

noda Be inspired by musical theatre

SISTER ACT

Music by **ALAN MENKEN** Book by **CHERI STEINKELLNER & BILL STEINKELLNER** Lyrics by **GLENN SLATER**

Featuring Mrs Gander as Nun Number 7!

16-19 OCTOBER 2024

CHEQUER MEAD THEATRE

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk
Originally Production Developed in Association with Peter Schneider & Michael Reno and Produced by Stage Entertainment World Premiere Produced by Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena CA and Alliance Theatre, Atlanta GA Sheldon Epps, Artistic Director Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director Lyla White, Executive Director Tom Pechar, Managing Director Tom Ware, Producing Director

Apply online at: westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

west sussex county council

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You can apply online from **Monday 7 October 2024**. If you would like further advice or information, phone: 03330 142 903.

Deadline: Wednesday 15 January 2025

Free internet access to apply online is available at all West Sussex libraries.





WEST SUSSEX COUNCIL

BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you online. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on: it keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep: losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).

What impact does Spurgeons parent support have?

Spurgeons' parent support provides deep, long lasting positive change for families

I was such a mess and so low at the beginning. I now have hope and both myself and my son have made significant improvements in our relationship and our emotional health
- Mum, Kent



Of the families we worked with:

90%

felt their family communication had improved

77%

felt their children respected boundaries better

84%

felt their parenting confidence was improved.

When would a family need support?

Parenting isn't about perfection, but it is about much more than just the basics. In order to protect the mental wellbeing of a generation of children, focussing on the quality of the relationship between parent and child is vital.

The Government's Social Mobility Commission reports that parenting interventions like ours that explore parenting styles, the home environment and parental stress can be successful.

Parents who understand child development have more confidence in their role, enabling them to be actively involved in a child's upbringing.

To learn more:
spurgeons.org/parenting



Scan the QR code for more details.



Spurgeons
Together with families

Parenting
doesn't need perfection

spurgeons.org

How does Spurgeons' support parents?

Our flexible, individualised parent support programme helps parents feel more confident, and children grow their resilience.

Positive parenting can lead to:



Happier children with higher chances of good mental health

Parents and carers who feel confident and emotionally healthier



Long-lasting positive effect on future generations.

For more specialised support

- We offer National Autistic Society courses for parents with children on the autism spectrum. (Early Bird Plus and Teen Life.)
- The Phoenix course - working with survivors of domestic abuse.

How do our parent support programmes work?

Our trained Parent Support Workers or volunteers lead the sessions. They receive ongoing professional development and clinical supervision.

How flexible is the programme?

We tailor our support, offering 3-8 sessions based on family need. The programme is available 1-1 at home, or for groups of parents & carers in a school or faith setting.

What do the sessions cover?

Our sessions focus on building relationships, identifying challenges, and providing families with solutions and strategies to improve their current situation.

How do I refer a family?

Parents can self-refer, or referrals can be made by any agency involved with a family. To make a referral, please visit spurgeons.org/referral.

Scan the QR code for more details.



Key benefits for families

Our parent support programmes:

- Build confidence and self-esteem in all family members
- Improve family relationships
- Develop abilities to understand and manage emotions
- Find practical solutions through tailored support
- Enable parents to use a tool kit of techniques to manage family life now and into the future

Parenting programmes have increasingly come to be seen as a matter of public health. Improving the quality of parent-child relationships can be expected to have positive effects on individual children, families and society as a whole

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation

For more information

spurgeons.org/parent-support

Scan the QR code for more details.

