JANUARY 2025

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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Dear Families, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025! We have had a great start to the year with the children quickly getting back into the routines and structure of the school week after the Christmas break.

Parent Forum-28th January



The focus for our Parent Forum this half term was on our fabulous Peer Mentors. Four of which, alongside Ms Wren, gave a detailed presentation on and also answered work questions from the parent reps. Well done children! We were all so proud of the courage they have shown to present to an audience.

We also discussed the results of our Parent Survey and gained useful feedback on how we can promote how we support children's personal development and how we can further make explicit how the school has very high expectations (academically and socially) of our children.

Minutes of the meeting: https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-

content/uploads/2025/01/Parents-Forum-Minutes-28.01.25.pdf

Peer Mentors Presentation: https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/school-

councils/

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 18th March where Mr Garcia and Mrs Spencer will be presenting on how the school is working on achieving The Day 1 working on achieving The Rainbow Flag Award.

The Rainbow Flag Award encourages a whole organisation approach to LGBT+ inclusion, as well as developing strategies to effectively challenge and combat LGBT phobic bullying. All welcome.

Quick Links

Please click here

Chartwells West Sussex ParentPay

> **Brigade Uniform Ordering**

PTA Secondhand Uniform

School Gateway Payments

Register for Cool Milk

Whole School Overview

The Halsford 100

Homework Guide

Parents & Carers Code of Conduct

Attendance & Sickness Information



Safer Internet Day- 11th February

On Tuesday 11th February it is Safer Internet Day. This year's theme is 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.' During the school day, the children will take part in a key stage assembly where they will be introduced to this year's theme and take part in discussions around this. They will then carry out whole-class activities designed by the UK Safer Internet Day Centre. If you would like to discuss anything from this year's theme with your child at home, all resources can be found on the Safer Internet website here: https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/education-resources Mrs Wilcox-Computing Champion

Online safety: Horror films and age ratings

Each newsletter, I will continue to include a top tips poster around an area of online safety. This month's is an overview of what parents need to know about the horror films and age ratings. We hope you find this useful.

Personal Development

Following on from feedback from our Parent Survey and Parent Forum, it was recognised that some families may not be aware of what and how schools can develop children's 'personal development'. We are very proud that Ofsted in their last visit in November 2022 recognised we provide outstanding provision for this. We do this through:

- Developing responsible, respectful and active citizens
- · Promoting equality of opportunity
- Promoting an inclusive environment
- Developing pupils' character, giving them qualities they need to flourish in society
- Developing pupils' confidence and resilience so that they can keep themselves mentally healthy
- Preparing pupils for the next phase of education

Our School's core values and school aims, assemblies, life and learning skills, and connective curriculum as well as personalised transition activities incorporates preparing learners for life in Modern Britain.

Additional roles such as School Council, Eco Warriors, A Team, Prefects, tour guides, peer mentors, EYFS Buddies and Play Leaders develop children's character and confidence. We have a wide-ranging clubs offering, designed to allow students to explore new interests and nurture their existing talents which includes paid and free teacher led clubs which are well attended. Those pupils deemed as disadvantaged are actively encouraged and supported to attend by prioritised placing for free and paid for clubs. See also our Halsford 100 which aims to broaden our pupils' life experiences. https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-

content/uploads/2024/09/The-Halsford-One-Hundred-2024-25.pdf

Ofsted (Nov 22) recognised: "Pupils' personal development is a strength of the school. As a result, pupils show high levels of resilience. They enjoy being challenged and have a measured view about how making mistakes helps with their learning, rather than feeling demotivated. Pupils are incredibly knowledgeable and accepting about differing faiths and cultures. They are unequivocal in their belief that their school is a fair and welcoming place for all."

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGERATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and he look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.



PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – pote without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer - so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more cre case if they decide it's inappropriate.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially eas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

REMEMBER - IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for child won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.

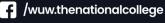




National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings







(O) @wake.up.wednesday





Year 6 Tour Guides

On the subject of children's personal development, an opportunity to develop confidence, speaking and listening skills for our children is to become a Year 6 tour guide for prospective parents. Children are trained on what they would describe as they tour in order to give prospective parents a full flavour of what we have to offer as a school. I have received a number of emails from parents and verbal feedback complimenting the children including:

"My husband and I visited today as prospective parents for next year and I just wanted to send a quick email to say thank you and well done to the Year 6 pupils Elliott and Albi who did our school tour. They did really well, gave us lots of useful information and were able to answer our questions. We were really impressed."

"Thank you for welcoming us to the open morning. I would just like to say how impressed we were by the two girls who showed us around (Lottie and Sofia). They are a fantastic representation of the school!"

School Council

School Council have continued to work hard to reduce lost property in our community, by encouraging everyone to check their belongings and see if they have their names on it. We also made posters for classrooms that have been displayed in prominent positions as a reminder to all children to be responsible.

We have now begun a new project. We are currently consulting with classes on the idea of new class names. We have discussed the reasons why this could be beneficial; educational opportunities, consistency even if there are staff changes and engagement for our children. School council put forward the theme, Brilliant Britons and we look forward to exploring this further with a particular focus on diversity. If we decide to go ahead it will be from September that the new names would be launched. Mrs Mackay

Healthy Snacks

Please can we remind parents that Key Stage 2 children should be consuming a healthy snack at break time, for example fruit, vegetables, bread or a nut free breakfast bar, such as Soreen and not crisps or chocolate.

Key Stage 1 children are offered a healthy fruit/ vegetable snack provided by the Government.









Early Years

In Early Years, we have been learning about the following Traditional Tales; 'The Three Little Pigs', 'The Gingerbread Man', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears'. The old lady who baked the Gingerbread Man visited us at the start of the term. She asked us if we wanted to bake our own Gingerbread Men. The answer was YES PLEASE! We made a bag with our Year 6 buddies to carry our Gingerbread Man in. Each week a different team will bake and take their Gingerbread Man home.

We have enjoyed completing a range of activities, linked to the books. We have made stick puppets for the different characters, and masks so we can act out the stories. We have created wanted posters for the Big Bad Wolf and a bed for Goldilocks. Next week we are reading 'Jack and The Beanstalk' and will be planting our own bean!

Year 1

In Year 1 we have continued to write sentences in our English lessons based on something that has happened in the book we are reading. We have been focusing on using the word 'but' in our sentences to connect two sentences together.

In Maths we have been looking at numbers to 20. We have been looking at one more and one less over the next few weeks we will be comparing numbers to 20 and ordering numbers.

In DT the children have designed a puppet which we will be making over the coming weeks. We will be inviting parents in to help us with sewing. If you are available to help on the 26th February please do come along!

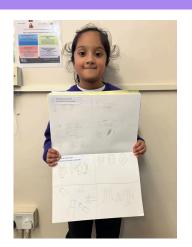
In Geography we have been looking at the British Isles as well as oceans and continents. We have been naming them and have learnt a song to help us. See if we can remember any at home by asking us about the oceans and continents. Your child may also like to sing the song to you too.















Year 2

The children in Year 2 have been loving learning about our experience 'Wacky Racers' so far! In English they have worked hard to write their own 'Mrs Armitage' story, some of their ideas were very inventive! We have also been using this key text to work on building fluency in the children's reading.

The children are particularly enjoying learning about Quentin Blake in Art and have been practising drawing their own illustrations in the same style as him.

In Maths the children have come to the end of their learning about shape and we are now moving on to looking at money over the next few weeks. The children will be identifying different coins and using their knowledge of addition and subtraction to help them to complete calculations in the context of money.

In DT, the children have been practising making prototypes of their vehicles, building a chassis and attaching wheels with an axle to find out how these work. Over the next few weeks the children will be using the skills that they have learnt to design and build their own moving vehicle. A big thank you to all who have sent in cardboard to help us with making these!

Year 3



This half term in Year 3, we have been working towards answering our questions, 'Where is Guatemala?' To do this, we have explored Guatemala's location and made note which other countries in Central America are close by. The culture in Central American countries is different to what most of us see in the UK so as part of our Geography learning, we spent some lessons comparing the UK to Guatemala. Ask me which country I would like to live in.

In Art this half term we have spent some lessons learning about Frida Kahlo and why she was important. We then used our sketching skills to draw her portrait and add colour using oil pastels. Frida Kahlo's artwork portrayed women as strong individuals and her artwork included vibrant colours.

In English we have been writing our own playscripts based on 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynee Cherry and have been using features like colons and brackets for speakers and stage directions.



In class, we worked in groups to perform different playscripts and everyone spoke clearly and performed beautifully.

We are looking forward to continuing our learning about Guatemala and taking part in making Guacamole as our Fab Finish. Don't forget to give permission and if you are able to help, come and speak to your class teacher.







Year 4

Year 4 have had a very busy time in Spring 1! We have really enjoyed our Outdoor Learning sessions, completing activities such as den building, Maths orienteering, wrist band weaving, sawing, drilling and scavenger hunts. We have also immersed ourselves in our Experience, learning all about chocolate and answering the question 'should we stop eating chocolate?'.

In Science, we have carried out an experiment to see the effect of different foods/ drinks on our teeth (in this case, egg shells!) and how this can impact our teeth over time.

We have also planned, designed and researched the best chocolate bar packaging in DT, ready to put our chocolate bars in, which we will be making after half term.

'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' has been a huge hit with Year 4 this term, we have been working hard to create our own chapter to go in the book based upon our own rooms we have created for the factory. We have also researched and learnt all about where chocolate comes from.

In Maths, we have continued to develop our multiplication and division methods. We even used this in our outdoor learning when completing a Maths orienteering session. Congratulations to everyone in Year 4 for taking part in the Emile competition this term. A special well done to Harrison, Elliot and Seb for giving the most correct answers! We look forward to everyone getting involved in more Emile competitions over the coming months.

Year 5

This half term we are asking children 'What lies behind the funfair? Funfairs and circus' are a great platform for getting to grips with pulleys and motors in Science. We will also be looking at forces and electrical circuits as part of this topic.

Our two key texts are 'Leon and the Place Between' and 'The London Eye Mystery'. The latter tells the story of a boy who mysteriously disappears whilst enjoying a ride and children will be writing their own version based of one of the chapters as part of a narrative unit in English.

We have also been looking at the persuasive features and devices used in letter writing. Causal conjunctions and fronted adverbials feature heavily in this genre as do modal verbs. Why not ask your child about them? We have written to Mrs Spencer to try and persuade her to hold a Funfair and Circus on the school field. Children have been debating the pros and cons of this idea and have written letters accordingly.

In Maths, we have continued with our work on fractions, focusing on how to turn a mixed number into an improper fraction and then back again. We also looked at adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators – quite a skill!



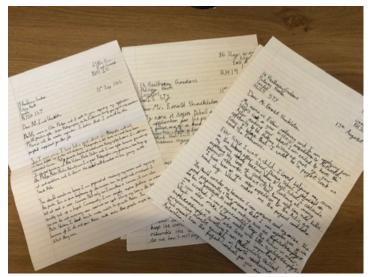
In PE, we have been getting to grips with a dance choreographed to Dua Lipa's 'Physical'.

Incidentally, most of the children are brilliant at completing their home school reading diaries daily, but if you could please remind children. It just gives us a picture of how much independent reading a child is doing, which will in turn feeds into their writing.



Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about Shackleton's Journey to Antarctica and the resulting mission for survival after their ship, The Endurance, became trapped in pack ice. Benjamin created a model of his ship The Endurance. The model is historically accurate as it shows the endurance with a wedge shape keel that got stuck in the ice, as opposed to a bowl shape (like Roald Amundsen's Fram).



The children wrote letters to Ernest Shackleton applying for various jobs on board as if they had seen his advert for crew members in the newspaper. Year 6 worked hard to include lots of formal vocabulary and structured their writing well.

Cross Country- MSA Final 22nd January

On the 22nd January we had several children invited to take part in the MSA Cross Country finals at East Court. Well done to all of the children who took part, here is a quote from Ewan on how much he enjoyed it. Mr Garcia



It is great to have the chance to do this cross country. I am very proud of my self. I am also happy about getting through to the countrys race and I hope more people will do it in the many near guture because its is a really great expinence. Erron M challern



Basketball Competition-29th January

Halsford Park took two teams of Year 5 and 6 children to Sackville School on Wednesday 29th January for an evening of Basketball matches. Each of the two teams faced seven other schools – scoring many points in the process. Games were 5 minutes long each and were extremely fast paced. Our teams both picked up at least one victory and many of the other games were exceptionally close. Our teams may not have ranked in the top teams on the points board, but they certainly would have been at the top for showing those core values of respect and compassion. Well done to our basketballers! Mr Stepney.





Thank you to Storm Basketball Club who provide all Girls, all Boys and mixed sessions in Crawley, Horsham, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath. 5–18 Years old – Basketball in a friendly and fun environment.

www.stormbasketballclub.com

Email - office@stormbasketballclub.com

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?
<a href="mailto:ref=wl] share

We open each package with a sense of excitement and are extremely grateful for every donation.

Goodbye and thank you

We want to thank Miss Langton, who has been a long-term supply Teaching Assistant working predominately in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 when we have had staff absence. Her next challenge is to gain more experience working in secondary schools before undertaking her teaching qualification so we wish her good luck and a huge thank you for all her support with our pupils. As she is a supply, it might be that she comes back every so often in any time of need!

Thank you for your on-going support in ensuring our children 'Soar to Success'. We look forward to seeing you at our Family Learning Conferences next week.

Claire Spencer Headteacher

Sporting Events Calendar - Spring Term 2025

https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/PE-Events-Spring-Term-2025.pdf Dates for your Diary

<u>Dates for your Diary</u>			
February		April	
4th	Family Learning Conferences 3.30-6.30pm	5th- 21st	Easter Holidays
5th	SAFs Information Meeting- 9.30am	22nd	Return to School
6th	Family Learning Conferences 4-7pm	Мау	
14th	Early Years- Find Out Friday 2.40pm	2nd	2BG Class Assembly
14th	Last Day of Term	5th	Bank Holiday- School Closed
15th- 23rd	Half Term	6th	Parent Forum 9.05am
24th	INSET Day- School Closed to Children	9th	2LS Class Assembly
25th	Children Return to School	23rd	INSET Day- School Closed to Children
26th	Year 1- Sewing Workshop 2.15pm	24th- 1st	Half Term
28th	3RD Class Assembly	June	
	March	2nd	Children Return to School
7th	1GS Class Assembly	13th	6CB Class Assembly
10th-14th	Year 6- Bikeability	17th	Parent Forum 9.05am
14th	1MS Class Assembly	20th	4DN Class Assembly
18th	Parent Forum 9.05am	24th	Class Photographs
18th	Early Years- Maths Workshop 2.30pm	27th	4JW Class Assembly
19th- 21st	Year 4- Hindleap Warren Residential	July	
28th	5IG Class Assembly	4th	Early Years Class Assembly
April		11th	Early Years Class Assembly
4th	3WR Class Assembly	22nd	Last Day of Term
4th	Last Day of Term	23rd- 31st	Summer Holidays
4th	April 3WR Class Assembly	11th 22nd	Early Years Class Assembly Last Day of Term

Community Events















