

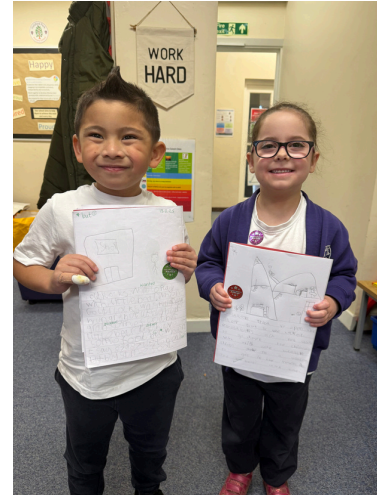
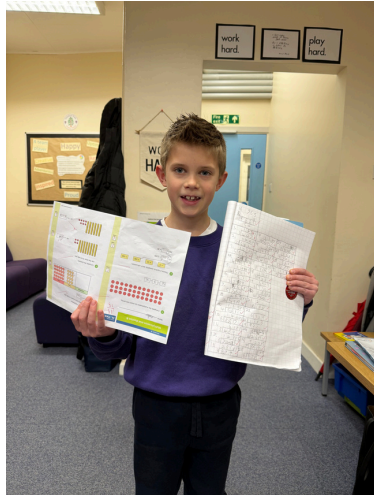
FEBRUARY
2025

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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Dear Families, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter. The children have returned from their half term break with their usual enthusiasm for learning as they complete their learning experiences from last term.

The children's new parent web with related vocabulary will be emailed out in a couple of weeks.

Halsford Cup Results



Huge congratulations to **AIR** House team - who achieved the most Core Value awards (counted through Dojos) over the course of the first half of the Spring term. **AIR** 7901 **EARTH** 7883 **FIRE** 6460 **WATER** 7205 Each team achieved an incredible amount of Core Value awards, and should all feel very proud of themselves. Well done!

End of term collection

On last Non Uniform Day, the PTA asked parents for voluntary donations in support of our new fundraising project - the Learning Labyrinth. Thanks to your generosity we raised £215.

Healthy Snacks

Please can we remind parents to send in a healthy snack for their Key Stage 2 children to be consumed 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.



Quick Links

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[Ordering](#)

[PTA Secondhand](#)
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Online safety: What parents and carers need to know about WhatsApp

This online safety guide is an examination of WhatsApp (age rating 13+) – the globally popular messaging platform which contains both old and new hazards for young users. We are aware that some of our children are using WhatsApp to communicate with each other and therefore I would urge you to ensure you read this guide which is why I am sending it out again.

Duncan Edwards visit:

We had a visit from Duncan Edwards, Link Advisor from West Sussex as part of our termly monitoring programme. As we have been focusing on the teaching of mathematics, he undertook a learning walk with one of our Governors and Mrs Barlow. Duncan noted: *"In both KS1 and KS2, the school's agreed 'I do, we do, you do' approach is being embedded. This was evident in all lessons visited as part of the learning walk."*

Duncan stated: *"Based on the evidence gathered during lesson visits, staff training and focused CPD has been impactful with greater consistency in the teaching of mathematics seen across the school. Where teaching and learning was highly effective:*

- A range of carefully selected manipulatives were supporting pupils to engage and achieve success. Manipulatives were appropriately matched to the intended learning. Pupils were able to visualise the mathematical concept being taught and talk about their learning with greater confidence and clarity.*
- Teachers made frequent links to prior learning. Overt connections with previous knowledge helped pupils to build new knowledge.*
- Learning outcomes were clear, as were adult instructions and/or explanations.*
- At the start of lessons, pupils were explicitly taught the essential vocabulary that they would require to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. Throughout lessons, adults modelled and promoted technical language and encouraged pupils to apply subject-specific vocabulary in their explanations or answers.*
- A range of scaffolds were widely available providing pupils with easy and quick access should they require prompts or support.*
- Working walls reflected current learning; low arousal learning environments were consistent throughout. Where particularly effective, adults referenced working walls in lessons giving pupils another scaffold to draw upon if required.*
- Formative assessment strategies helped teachers to identify what pupils had retained whilst also identifying misconceptions/gaps in learning. Using this knowledge, teachers responded appropriately, using flexible grouping and additional adults dynamically to ensure those pupils who were less secure in their learning received focused support."*

We are continuing to focus on fully embedding our 'I do, we do, you do' approach as well as focusing on targeted scaffolds to support all groups of learners but especially those with EAL and SEND. Do ask your children about this approach!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except.... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>



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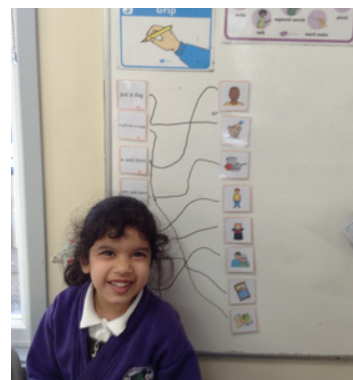


@wake.up.wednesday



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.02.2024



Early Years

At the end of last term, we received some magic beans from Jack. We planted them before half term and were very excited to see that they had started to grow. The children will be bringing them home later this term so they can continue watching them grow. We will be continuing to look at how our environment changes as we move into Spring. This term we are enjoying reading The 'Supertato' books which feature the superhero Supertato, the Evil Pea, and the Super Veggies.

During Drawing Club, we have enjoyed drawing Superhero characters, settings and thinking of different adventures that could happen in the story. In maths we have been practising counting numbers beyond 20, ordering amounts and finding one more and one less.

For our Fabulous Finish on **Tuesday 1st April**, we are asking the children to dress up as their favourite Superhero or real-life Superhero such as a doctor or police officer. We have a number of spare costumes in Early Years if you wish to borrow one for the day. Please see a member of the Early Years team to arrange this.

Year 1

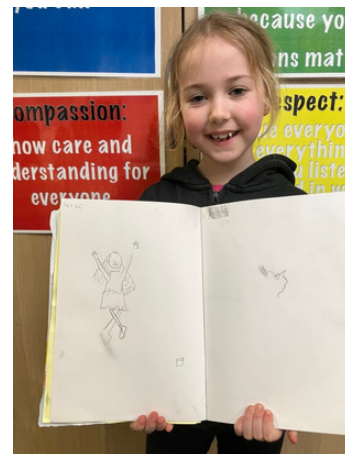
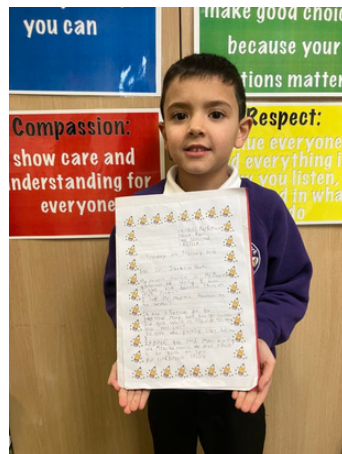
Year 1 have had a fantastic start to Spring term 2. We have been finishing of our experience of "Stories from around the world". We have been looking at a range of Fairy tales in our English and Professor Klunk has challenged us to use a capital letter for names and include these in our writing.

In Maths we have been working on larger numbers, numbers to 50. We have been looking at how to make these numbers using apparatus such as dienes and Numicon and have tried to find out where they would be on a numberline. You could challenge us by asking us how many tens and how many ones are in a number e.g 43 has 4 tens and 3 ones.

Thank you to all the parents who came to help us create our puppets. Have a look at what we have made. We are so proud and could not have done it without your help. It was a fabulous end to this experience.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be practising our assemblies. We hope you are able to make it. We are also going to be continuing with the outdoor learning on Fridays. So far we have enjoyed playing games and making number lines out of natural materials. If you are able to help on Friday 28th March when we make our porridge, please can you let your child's class teacher know.





Year 2

As we are coming to the end of our 'Wacky Racers' experience the children have lots of amazing learning to showcase.

In English the children have written letters to Quentin Blake discussing their favourite parts of his stories and illustrations, questions they have for him and new ideas for stories he can write next. The children's interest in Quentin Blake continued to grow in art where their final Matilda sketches showed how hard they had been working on their sketching skills.

In Maths, the children completed learning about money and have now moved on to multiplication and division.

In DT, the children have made their vehicles using all they have learnt about chassis, axles and axle holders. Thank you to everyone who sent in cardboard to make this possible. Over the next few weeks, the children will be evaluating and testing their vehicles as well as learning about Lewis Hamilton.

Year 3

We have continued to enjoy our latest Experience, learning all about Guatemala and are looking forward to our Fabulous Finish when we will be making and eating Guacamole!

In Maths, we have now finished our length and perimeter work, which was very exciting, as we found out how to measure the perimeter of objects using our prior measuring length knowledge. What maths superstars we have been! We are now moving on to our unit on fractions, starting with unit fractions and how to write them, focussing on the denominator and numerator and what they both represent.

In English, we have now finished writing our persuasive letters and have done a brilliant job persuading our reader to give up buying unsustainable palm oil. I wonder if your children have managed to use some of the arguments in their letters to persuade you!



In Design and Technology, we have designed our animal puppets, complete with moving body parts, and are now in the process of making and evaluating them. We have found this great fun!



Year 4

This term has begun with our continuation around our Choco-Lotta Learning. We completed our packaging and chocolate bars and have moved onto writing our very own persuasive speeches, in the hopes that we can convince other children in school to purchase our chocolate bars.

We have really enjoyed moving onto length and perimeter in maths and have enjoyed the challenges.

PE this term is hockey and tennis where we look forward to mini tennis games and practising our techniques in golfing.

In Art, we are focusing on the style of impressionism. We really enjoyed learning about the impressionist Augustus Egg. We are going to be incorporating this art style in our perspective work, using techniques learnt to create our own perspective drawing out of a train window.

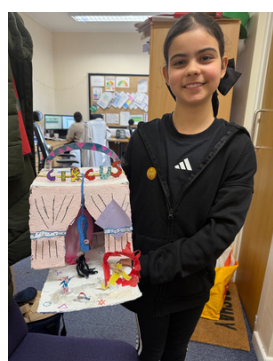
Year 5

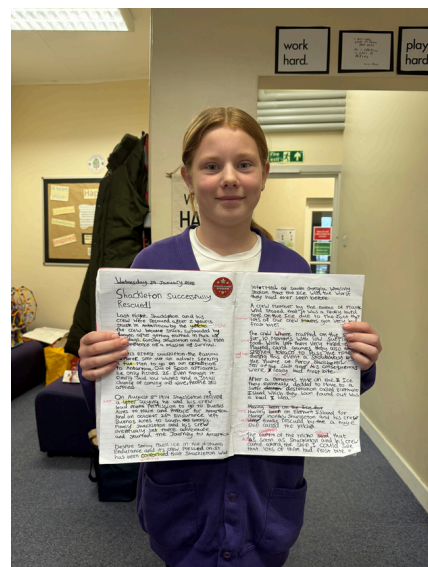
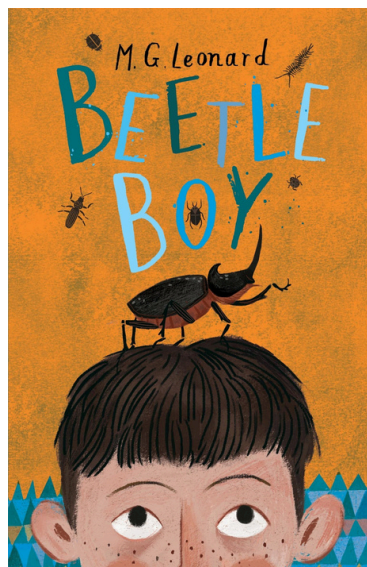
Year 5, have started to learn about Castles and are basing our English around - 'The Last Firefox' by Lee Needham. The children will now look at the figurative language the author uses. With our grammar, the focus will be on similes, metaphors, and dashes.

The illustrator uses highly stylised techniques and this is a style we will look at in Art. The children will learn how to create texture using line and shape. These final pieces of art will illustrate their own version of part of the story.

In Maths this week, we have started to look at decimals and their relationship to fractions. Please encourage your child to complete the homework linked to this as it will help cement their understanding of this new skill.

In RE, we are looking at the concept of Salvation and in particular, its relevance to the story of the arrest of Jesus and subsequent events that led to Good Friday. We will be learning about the importance of the Easter festival to Christians, the difference between a cross and a crucifix and what 'sacrifice' really means.





Year 6

Year 6 have been working on the equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages; including how to convert between them. We have also started reading a new class text - 'Beetle Boy', by M.G. Leonard. This is a book we will be using for our reading lessons and also to inspire some of our writing later on this term. In dance, the Year 6 pupils have been showing us their moves as they have actively taken part in learning a routine to the Fleur East song 'Play That Sax'.

Key Stage 1- Inclusion Festival- 5th February



The children and I had a wonderful morning at Imberhorne Upper school taking part in an inclusion event. The purpose was to grow the children's confidence and allow them to try new sports and above all to have fun! It was so well organised, the children tried Boccia and New Age Kurling. We were given hints and tips on how to play and then we had friendly games against other East Grinstead schools. Everyone tried their best and had fun and they all really improved and were able to score points for their team. Well done HP! Mrs Mackay

Year 5 and 6 Football League

The Year 5/6 Boys' football teams competed in the latest round of league fixtures at EGSC this week and, once again, some excellent football was on display. The A team lost their match to Copthorne, but had plenty of attacking opportunities of their own throughout the game. They continued to play well, despite going a couple of goals down and showed great determination. The B team played two fixtures, beating Crawley Down B and The Meads B. The B team scored many goals in their two fixtures and maintained their 100% winning record in the B division. Mr Stepney



Year 5 and 6 Netball Tournament- 12th February

On the 12th of February, the Halsford Park netball teams competed in the league at East Grinstead Sports Centre. Both teams competed brilliantly. The A team won two of their three matches and the B team won one of their matches as well. The netball league remains closely contested and some good results in our final round of fixtures could result in positive final positions for our teams. Mrs Manville



Eco Council



Our Year 4 and 5 Eco Council representatives went to OMLETs, the East Grinstead Group of School councils meeting held at Imberhorne Lower School recently for their first of 4 project meetings. This year the project is Wildlife Warriors; looking after wildlife in our school grounds and local community. This fits in wonderfully with the Biodiversity section of our action plan.

The project will focus on understanding wildlife and their habitats how we can help support it. The Eco Council will be deliberating how we can help expand everyone's knowledge and support of our local wildlife.

Meanwhile, here is a handy website to understand what you may see in your local community: <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/go-wild-at-home> Mrs Lochwood

Staffing update

On Monday 3rd March we will be saying goodbye and thank you to Mrs Martin who has worked as a Teaching Assistant with us since last Summer. We wish Mrs Martin well in her future endeavours.

Miss Mariella Deadman will be working in Year 3 for the rest of the academic year, having previously supported in Year 1.



Congratulations

Congratulations to both Mr Cook and Mr Busse on the recent births of their daughters.

Mr Cook welcomed Ivy in January and Mr Busse welcomed Maeve over half term. Huge thanks to Mrs Lucas and Miss Reeves for supporting 6CB while Mr Busse is on paternity leave.

Uniform Reminder

If I can take this opportunity to please remind parents that all children should only be wearing PE kit on PE days, or if they are attending a sporting event or club after school (D&D, Kicks or Outdoor Learning). On any other day children should be wearing their school uniform. If there are any exceptional circumstances please ensure you speak to your child's class teacher. Link to school uniform requirements- <https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/School-Uniform-Requirements-November-2024.pdf>

We have had a very positive start to Spring 2 half term with lots to look forward to including - World Book Day celebrations, Bikeability training for Year 6 and Hindleap Warren Residential for Year 4.

Please do keep updated with our calendar which includes new dates such as our next Celebration of Learning on Thursday 27th March.

Thank you for your on-going support which enable our children to 'Soar to Success'.

Claire Spencer - Headteacher

Dates for your Diary**March**

7th World Book Day

7th 1GS Class Assembly

10th-14th Year 6- Bikeability

10th-13th Book Fair in School

14th 1MS Class Assembly

18th Parent Forum 9.05am

18th Early Years- Maths Workshop 2.30pm

19th- 21st Year 4- Hindleap Warren Residential

27th Celebration of Learning- *details to follow*

28th 5IG Class Assembly

April

1st Early Years- Dress Up as Super Hero

4th 3WR Class Assembly

4th Last Day of Term

22nd Return to School

23rd Year 4- Multiplication Check Meeting

29th Year 1- Trip to Wakehurst Place

May

2nd 2BG Class Assembly

5th Bank Holiday- School Closed

6th Parent Forum 9.05am

9th 2LS Class Assembly

12th KS2 SATs Week for Year 6

23rd INSET Day- School Closed to Children

24th- 1st Half Term Holidays

June

2nd Children Return to School

6th Sports Day- AM

13th 6CB Class Assembly

17th Parent Forum 9.05am

19th 4DN Class Assembly- *change of date*

20th Reserve Sports Day- AM

24th Class Photographs

27th 4JW Class Assembly

July

4th Early Years Class Assembly

11th Early Years Class Assembly

22nd Last Day of Term

23rd- 31st Summer Holidays

Sporting Events Calendar - Spring Term 2025
<https://halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/PE-Events-Spring-Term-2025.pdf>

Community Events

FREE! HAF Adventures for children aged 6-16 on benefit related free school meals

Adventure activities from Archery to Zorb with games sitting in the sun.

SAC SummerAdventureCamp.co.uk

JUNIOR Adventures for children aged 6-16 with parents paying by **EMILY PERRE VOUCHERS** / card / bags.

BOOK NOW

- Cardinal Newman School - Hove
- Deers Leap Park - East Grinstead
- The Mill Academy - Crawley
- Hailsham Community College - Hailsham

SummerAdventureCamp.co.uk

Visit our website to book your Adventure this Easter and Summer 2025

EASTER

BOOK NOW

EASTER TREATS

Thursday 3rd April 2025

MAINS

Beef Burger
Chilli No Carne
Jacket Potato & Beans

SIDES

Spring Vegetables
Seasonal Salad

DESSERT

Lemon Easter Cupcake

Order via ParentPay no later than Thursday 20th March 2025

BOOK NOW

PIONEER CHILDCARE

HOLIDAY HQ

WORLD EXPLORERS

Easter Holiday 2025

Halsford Park Holiday Camp

Book online at pioneerchildcare.co.uk

FREE HAF Places Available

Book online at <https://bit.ly/free-haf-pioneer>

Free for children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals

AFRICAN SAFARI

EUROPEAN EXPEDITION

POLAR EXPRESS