

OCTOBER
2025

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



Email- officehp@partnersinlearning.co.uk

Tel- 01342 324643



Dear families, parents and carers,

Welcome to our October newsletter which brings us to the end of our first half term.

Harvest Donations

Earlier this term, the children were asked to bring in tins and packets of food and household items for two charities we have been supporting for a few years now. The donations literally poured in for our Harvest table and the children should be proud of the compassion and responsibility they showed.



Both the East Grinstead Foodbank and Crawley Open House commented on how generous our school community have been. We would like to extend a big thank you to all parents and carers who donated. It was very much appreciated, especially during these challenging times as the cost of living rises.

Halsford Cup Results

Huge congratulations to **Fire** House team - who achieved the most Core Value awards (counted through Dojos) over the course of the first half of the Autumn term. Each team achieved an incredible amount of Core Value awards, and should all feel very proud of themselves. Well done!

Fire 9500 **Water** 8698 **Air** 8512 **Earth** 8481



Quick Links

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Parent Forum 30th September

It was lovely to see a few new faces at last month's parent forum. Please see the [minutes](#) saved on the website.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th November where we will be sharing the School Improvement Plan with you. All parents and carers welcome.

November Assembly themes

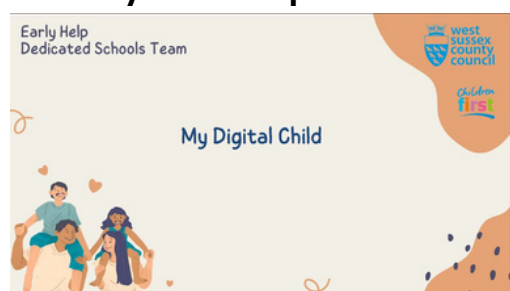
It was requested via Parent Forum that we share the upcoming themes in assemblies in our newsletters. November's include:

- Remembrance
- Mindfulness
- National Anti-bullying week (week beginning 10th November)
- National road safety (week beginning 17th November)
- Zones of regulation

Keeping Children Safe online (Internet Safety) *What Parents need to know about memes*

In each newsletter, we include an internet safety section to give parents some top tips to help support your family to stay safe online. This month's focus is on memes.

E Safety Workshop for Parents – My Digital Child 10th October



Members of the Early Help Team led a presentation on tips to keep your child safe online. Please find the link to the [presentation](#) saved on the website.

Early Years Intake 2026

Do you have, or do you know a child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022? If so, they are eligible to start school in September 2026. 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 6th October at 9am. For further advice or information please contact 03330 142 903.

The deadline is **Thursday 15th January 2026**. Please spread the word of how great our school is!

Apply online at:
westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

If so they are eligible to start school in September 2026

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 6 October 2025**. If you would like further advice or information, please call 03330 142 903.

Deadline: Thursday 15 January 2026

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



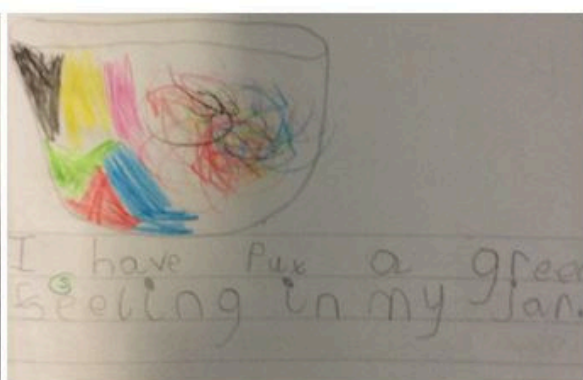
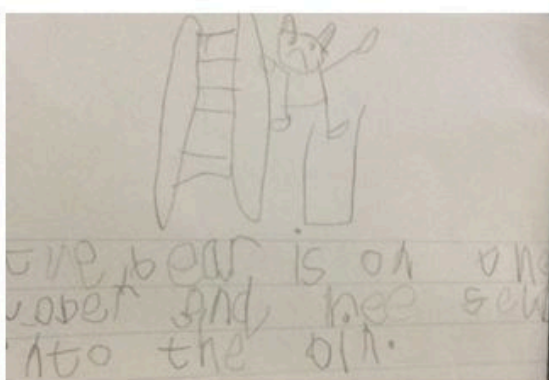
Early Years

It has been another exciting month in Early Years! The children have really settled into the rhythm and routines of Early Years. Every week, we put on our wellies and explore the school grounds. We have picked a tree that we are going to keep an eye on over the year, and spot how it changes! We have explored more in Drawing Club - This is our house, Christopher Pumpkin and Bananaman, where we created our own superheroes! The adults became superheroes too. Not only that but we have put on a talent show, played musical chairs and even been on a journey around the world. With all of these exciting adventures, our listening and concentration skills are improving too. Last week, we got to learn with Year 6 and now have new buddies. We can't wait to see what learning happens next term.

Year 1

Year 1 have been continuing to work very hard in all lessons; we are so proud of how well they have settled in to the new routines. We have been focusing a lot on phonics and the children are using their robot arms and blending hands in lessons to sound out words as well as learn some harder to read and spell words by sight.

In English we have been continuing to work on drawing club and we have been looking at a range of books; drawing pictures and writing about something to go with the picture we have drawn. We have been focusing on making sure our letters are correctly formed and using resources such as a sound mat to help us with our writing. Have a look at some of our fantastic efforts.



In Maths we have been looking at the greater than and less than symbol ($>$ $<$) and have written number sentences with these in.

In science lessons we have been looking at parts of our bodies particular the ones to do with the senses and which part is related to each sense. We look forward to the coming weeks which we go on a senses walk.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break.



Year 2

In Year 2 we have continued to enjoy our recent party experience. The children have loved making their party hats and have written some fantastic instructions in English all about how to make these. The children have all worked hard to include time conjunctions and imperative verbs to make sure their instructions are really clear. In maths, we have been using lots of resources to show tens and ones when making 2 digit numbers and have moved on to begin our learning about addition. This week we have been finding 10 more and 10 less than different numbers.

In Science, the children really enjoyed carrying out an experiment about how to strengthen different materials. They made different bridges and explored how many cubes their bridges could hold.

The children have had a fantastic start to Year 2 and have enjoyed celebrating this afternoon with a party for the Fabulous Finish.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great first half term with our experience 'Bright Sparks- How does electricity work?' In science we have explored the different components that make up an electrical circuit for example: batteries, light bulbs and wires. Using this knowledge groups worked together to make a working electrical circuit making the light bulb work.

In Design and Technology, the children have worked in pairs to create a cave for their dragons. They designed a cave and then combined ideas with a partner to create one together. This helps team building and learning to share ideas. In order for the caves to have light, the children needed to make sure that a working circuit could be attached.

We have then linked both of these ideas in History to what life was like before electricity. No TV, no game consoles and no electric ovens. The children had to think about what games could be played without electricity and what a day would look like living in the past. The children also investigated what would provide people with a source of light and turned our classrooms dark to see what it would be like to learn in a room without it.

In Maths, we have been learning how to use the column method of addition and subtraction. We will be going back over addition and then moving onto subtraction after half term. The children have used their knowledge from year 2 in order to complete questions in class.

We look forward to a new half term. Our trip of Butser Ancient Farm is coming up so if you haven't done so already, please sign your child up to go on a fantastic day out to explore the past.





Year 4

We have really enjoyed our Experience topic of Light and Sound this term. After researching eye masks and practicing different stitching techniques, we designed and made our very own eye masks. We thought about our science learning around light to help us to make the eye mask opaque. In Maths, we have been learning column addition and subtraction using the expanded method compact method as well as thinking about the most efficient method for subtraction. In English, we have been investigating our key text 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' and have been focusing around the events that take place in chapter 5 to write a diary entry as Lila the main character in the story. We need to use a lot of our working on words to help us such as past tense verbs, informal language and feelings and emotions vocabulary. To end our term, we were able to use sparklers for our fabulous finish, becoming Lila from our focus text; 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' we really enjoyed twirling the sparklers and hearing the sounds that they made.

Year 5

Adding and subtracting larger numbers has been the focus for our maths over the last two weeks and children have been solving problems using these skills. We still encourage the children to practise their timetables at home using their Times Table Rock stars login especially as this forms the foundation for our work on fractions later this term. In Year 5, we have been developing our typing skills. Pupils have been learning how to use all their fingers correctly when typing and practising correct keyboard technique to build speed and accuracy.



In Science, we continue to look at the changes of state and materials and their properties. We have been filtering; dissolving and rusting (irreversible changes) in class experiments and the children planned and carried out an investigation to create crystals.

We have had a big focus on reading this half term and in particular encouraging children to answer comprehension questions from class texts. This involves retrieving information and making inferences from the ideas in the text.

These are not easy skills to master so we would urge that you encourage your child to read as much as possible over the half term break as reading for pleasure will really help with spelling, sentence structure and a give them a greater understanding of grammar.

The children have also looked at the use of single use plastics and how other materials could replace these. In English, they wrote to Sir Keir Starmer to share their concerns for the planet and try to persuade the government to do more to encourage recycling in the UK.

Well done to all those of you who did the creative project this half term, there were some fabulous handbags made from recycled materials and a great deal of effort obviously went into them.

Please could year 5 parents source and send in an empty plastic one litre bottles for our stunning start after half term.



Year 6

The Year 6 pupils made the teachers proud in the week beginning the 13th October 2025 as they represented the school beautifully on their residential trip to Windmill Hill.

Behaviour was phenomenal and they even allowed the teachers to get some sleep at night time!



Below is a selection of quotes from some of the children about their time at Windmill Hill:

"My favourite activity at Windmill Hill was The Jacob's Ladder because it was a mix between challenging, scary and fun. We used a rope (named Barry) to help us climb a ladder made of nine logs - with each gap getting bigger between logs." Oscar

"Windmill Hill was one of the best experiences I have ever had. We did so many things, I can't remember half of them (good thing!). If I could, I would 100% do it again." Olivia

"My favourite activity was archery. We played a game called 'cutlery'. We were told that, if we missed, we couldn't use cutlery at lunchtime. We had to hit different colours to earn our cutlery. It was fun, difficult and silly all at the same time." Mia (Editor's note - all the children were allowed cutlery, regardless of the outcome of the game!)

"I liked the zip wire because it was very long and fast. If you wanted, you could go again so I went twice." Amelia F

"My favourite activity was climbing because I got to the top. An instructor, Alice, made sure all our harnesses were tight enough. Before going, we had to say, "climbing", so she knew that we were starting to climb. It was very fun." Isla

"My favourite activity was Giant-Swing because I've never been on a swing that high before and we got to have two goes, which was so cool. I literally screamed on the second go, but my friend was fine!" Amelia W

"My favourite was rock climbing. Not only because I got to the top, but also because everyone was supportive and you could race your friends." India



Year 3 and 4 Netball Festival- 1st October

On Wednesday 1st October a group of 11 Year 3 and Year 4 pupils went to the East Grinstead Sport Centre to take part in a Netball Festival. We were there with a number of other East Grinstead primary schools to improve our netball skills and to play mini games against the other teams. The organisers put on a number of drill exercises to start with, which helped us with the rules and skills of netball. The children were really great at these! Then came the games against other school teams. It is of course the taking part that matters, however because we had really made the most of the drill practice, I am proud to report that Halsford Park won all their games decisively. Well Done Team! Mrs Mackay



Football Event- 8th October



On the 8th October, the KS2 boys' and girls' football teams took part in the annual East Grinstead Area tournament. Both teams represented the school brilliantly – showing all the core values.

The boys won three matches, drew three matches and lost two – narrowly missing out on a top two finish on goal difference. They played well together, demonstrating some excellent passing and moving. In some of the drawn games, Halsford Park were unlucky not to come away with victories.

For the second year in a row, our girls' team finished in first place – winning 8-0, 5-0, 4-0, 7-0 and 5-0 – and qualifying for the area finals. It was a tremendous team effort from the girls who did not concede a single goal in the tournament. Anya has now scored over 50 goals in fixtures for Halsford Park. Others added to their already impressive totals as well and some girls scored their first goals for our team.

The girls will now compete at the Area Finals on the 12th November. Mr Busse and Mr Stepney



Cross Country- 12th October



On Sunday 12th October, I took a group of 36 children along to East Court in East Grinstead to participate in the annual Cross Country event. This is organised each year by the East Grinstead Athletics club and is a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience distance running. Thankfully, it was a dry day. As always, the children participating showed all of their Core Values. We had some fantastic finishes from the Halsford Park runners and they were a credit to the school. Jean Luc finished 2nd in the boys' year 5 and 6 race and Anya finished 5th in the girls' year 5 and 6 race. Anya, Florence, Lily and Saskia came first in the first school to have 4 runners over the finish line.

A huge thank you to Mr Stepney for training the children in school in the lead up to the event and to the parents that came along to support on the day. Mrs Gibbons



Eco Council

As we approach the end of the first half term, we need to say goodbye to the old Eco Council and hello to the new members. The old team stayed on to help settle in our new members and now it's time to hand over the reins. We welcome; Ivy Robyn & Stan, Amna & Millie, Amelia & Beau, Herbie, Oakley & Theo, Neorah & Phoebe.

We look forward to building upon the work achieved by the old team as we take steps into the new term. The Eco Council will be busy doing their environmental surveys and the Year 4 and 5 members will have the opportunity to attend OMETS (East Grinstead school councils group) this year at Imberhorne Lower.

Top Tips



Close your curtains at night

In the day it's important to try to use as much natural - and free - heat (in the form of sunlight) as possible. But when dusk falls, closing your curtains will help your home retain that heat. This helps keep warmth in the room - but try not to drape them over radiators.



Do you have a leaky loo?

A single leaking toilet wastes an average of between 215 and 400 litres of water per day! You can easily check if you have water leaking from the cistern to the pan. Add a few drops of food colouring into your toilet cistern, leave it for an hour and if the water has changed colour in the pan you have a leak! The good news is that your water company may be able to fix it for free but if not it's a simple fix for a plumber.

Outdoor Learning Day

Every year there are two outdoor learning days celebrated across the UK, one in November and one in May. As a school we have always done our outdoor learning day in November. However, this year we have decided that it would be good to allow the children to experience a different season and therefore will be having our outdoor learning day later in the academic year than usual, in May. Look out for more information to come in the Spring term. Mrs Sears.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 4th November** which is the first date of our two Family Learning Conferences. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you for your on-going support,

Claire Spencer - Headteacher

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

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The National College®

Dates for your Diary

October	
24th	Last Day of Term
27th - 2nd	Half Term Holiday

November	
3rd	INSET Day- School Closed
4th	Return to School
4th & 6th	Family Learning Conferences
7th	Early Years- Find Out Friday 2.40pm
12th	Year 5- CEMA School Trip
19th	Year 3- Butser Farm Trip
20th	Early Years- Writing Workshop 2.30pm
25th	Parent Forum 9.05am- <i>all welcome</i>

December	
3rd	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert- <i>details to follow</i>
5th	Early Years- Find Out Friday 2.40pm
17th	Chartwells Christmas Lunch- <i>to be booked on ParentPay</i>
19th	Last Day of Term
20th	Christmas Holidays

Class Assemblies - 9.00- 9.30am	
23rd Jan	5 Attenborough Class Assembly
30th Jan	6 Franklin Class Assembly
6th Feb	5 Anning Class Assembly
13th Feb	6 Turing Class Assembly
13th March	3 Farah Class Assembly
27th March	3 Simmonds Class Assembly
17th April	4 Elton Class Assembly
24th April	4 Elgar Class Assembly
1st May	2 Knight Class Assembly
19th June	1 Hart Class Assembly
26 th June	1 Sharratt Class Assembly
3rd July	2 Blake Class Assembly
10th July	EYs Floella Class Assembly
17th July	EYs Donaldson Class Assembly

Sporting Events Calendar - Autumn Term 2025

https://www.halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/parents/CF42A9D8D86C0D68E5A051B6E5BB2F7D.pdf

Community Events

PIONEER CHILDREN For 4-11 year olds

HOLIDAY HQ KIDS FEST

Strap in for October Half Term!

Holiday Camp at Halsford Park Primary School
27th - 30th October 2025

www.pioneerchildcare.co.uk

Scan to secure your spot!

OPENING CEREMONY
STEM & SPARKS
MONSTERS & MISCHIEF

A roarsome outdoor adventure this autumn!

18 October – 2 November 2025

ZOG™

Wakehurst

Book now at kew.org/wakehurst

Royal Botanic Kew

LINGFIELD COLTS FOOTBALL CAMP
"Excellence through Enjoyment"

Holiday football

Hosted at Imberhorne Upper School
09:30 - 15:00

• 28th, 29th & 30th OCTOBER 2025.
£35 per day

Come along and improve your all round game. Work with professional coaches.

Game and match based activities to develop the FA's 6 core capabilities of:-
Scanning,
Timing,
Movement,
Positioning,
Deception,
Technique.

For girls and boys of all abilities from year 2 to year 8

Contact : John 07970 029074, or Greg 07724 223780

Visit our website for full info and sign up:
<https://sites.google.com/view/lingfieldcolts/home>

LINGFIELD COLLEGE SPOOKY SCHOOL TRAIL

31ST OCTOBER 16:30 - 18:30

KIDS HAUNTED TRAIL, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS & FANCY DRESS

DRESS TO IMPRESS AND EXPLORE OUR SPOOKY TRAIL WITH YOUR FAMILY IN THIS EVENT CREATED FOR KIDS BY THE LINGFIELD COLLEGE STUDENTS

Tickets are £1 for Adults and Kids (Perfect for children under 8 and their families)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK

All money raised goes to our school Bursary Fund

EAST GRINSTEAD

GIRLS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Every Saturday

Sackville School, East Grinstead

7-12 Year Olds - 12:30pm-1:30pm

FREE TASTER CLASS

Indoor + Outdoor Facilities
FA Qualified Coaches
Drills, Fun games & Matches
Weekly Awards

Text: 07969669153
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CHARTHAM PARK

FIREWORKS NIGHT

STILT WALKER
FIRE EATER
CHILDREN'S GOODY BAGS

disco at 6pm

Open: 17.30
Fireworks: 19.30
Close: 22.00

DRESS UP FOR HALLOWEEN!

POP UP FOOD STALLS

Raging Bull Paella
Event 33 Catering - Pulled Pork
Cortado Coffee
Dirty Mac
The Pizza Post
Zoe's Waffles On A Stick
Mack's Ices
Licensed bar

25 OCT
FAMILY TICKET £32

Scan the QR code to book now!

KINGS HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

SAT 25TH OCTOBER & FRI 31ST OCTOBER

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKY SIP - GAMES OPTIONAL

POOYACULAR CARNIVAL - JUST FOR KIDS	AFTER LIFE CARNIVAL - JUST FOR ADULTS
11AM - 6PM	7PM - 12AM
CRAZY GOLF, TREASURE HUNT, HOT DOG, CRISPS & SOFT DRINK ADULT £17 CHILD £13	CRAZY GOLF, TREASURE HUNT & HALLOWEEN PUNCH ADULT £12

ST FLOOR, THE ATRIUM, KING ST, EAST GRINSTEAD RH19 3DJ
KINGSENTERTAINMENT.CO.UK

Places Leisure
Part of Places for People

Because Community Matters

Kings Centre - October Holiday Club

Dates:
Monday 27th October
Tuesday 28th October
Wednesday 29th October
Thursday 30th October
Friday 31st October

Please enquire at reception for more information.
01342 32861

For more information, please speak to a member of the team

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL