

FEBRUARY  
2026

# 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 and let's hope for some brighter weather!

## 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. Each team achieved an incredible amount of Core Value awards, and should all feel very proud of themselves. Well done!

Air 8032 Earth 7853 Water 7369 Fire 7255

## End of term collection

For our 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 £225.81.

## Online safety: What parents and carers need to know about Conversation starters about Online Content

This online safety guide focuses on conversation starters for parents and carers regarding online content. It considers approaches like cultivating a blame-free culture, asking children to 'be the teacher' and getting them to talk about the risks.

## 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](#)

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Online  
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#WakeUpWednesday



# Conversation starters for parents and carers: ONLINE CONTENT

Trying to start a conversation about online safety with children can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why children may not want to talk to adults about it. One might be that they don't think you'll understand or that you won't know how to help if they came to you with an online problem.

It can also be hard to start a conversation about something that you might have limited knowledge about. However, with screen time increasing during the lockdown, it's important now more than ever, to be talking to children about what they are accessing online.

## 1 ASK THEIR MOTIVATION

Sometimes it's easy to assume we know why children choose certain games or apps. It can seem obvious, like the child interested in football will be enthusiastic about the new FIFA game. But sometimes it can be more subtle than that. It could be that it's an outlet for their creativity or it might be that they like the look of the main character. Learning their motivation and knowing why they like it can help advising them on how to use it safely and help you discuss the pros and cons.



## 6 MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

When your child can't wait to tell you about their new game, always try and listen to what they say. We always have a lot on our minds, so it's easy for us to drift off onto other things which may be more important. However, try to stay involved and ask them more details about aspects of the game/app. Children will appreciate your interest and the more questions you ask, the more you can find out. If you are uninterested, then they are less likely to tell you about it again in the future.



## 2 CULTIVATE A BLAME FREE CULTURE

Children can often blame themselves if they come across something that scares them or makes them feel uncomfortable. There will be times when your child has gone against something that you have forbidden, however, most children do not intend to put themselves at risk. Therefore, it's important that your child is able to come to you with a problem and won't be blamed for it. Try to understand what happened and why and warn them of the dangers once more. Engaging in a 'told you so' dialogue or suggesting they are in trouble for not listening may deter them from reporting any future concerns.



## 7 ASK THEM TO BE THE TEACHER

Showing an interest in what children are accessing online is a great opportunity for you to learn something new as well. Children on the whole love sharing their experiences so by asking them to teach you how to use an app or play a game is not only a great way to bond, but you will also feel more empowered to talk about it. It is easy to shy away from conversations when the child perhaps knows more about the subject content than you do. This can help to turn this around.



## 3 SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Starting a conversation by sharing something that you've seen or that has made you feel uncomfortable can be a great opener. Talking about your own feelings can help children realise that it isn't just them - adults can be affected too. You can then go into how you coped with it therefore indirectly giving children advice on how they can also cope in uncomfortable situations. You can also explain that the reason that you've chosen to talk to them about it is because talking helps. Children will hopefully be able to see the parallels in the experiences and mimic your behaviour in future.



## 8 USE SCHOOL MESSAGING

It might be that your child's school has sent out a message about the Childline number or to remind children to use the CEOP button to report content. Ask the children what they learned about these at school. When would they use the Childline number? When would they need to use the CEOP button? What does it look like? Asking the children why the school thought that the information was so important that they sent out a message about it reinforces what they learnt whilst at school.



## 4 TALK ABOUT THE NEWS

Asking children what their response is to news stories around online safety can be revealing. For example, there has been a recent survey conducted by the BBFC who are currently campaigning for the application of age ratings and content warnings on video sharing platforms. What do they think about this? Can they think of a time when this would have helped themselves or someone they know? Are they against the idea? If so, why? Could they be accessing something they shouldn't be?



## 9 ASK ABOUT THE RISKS

Many children may know what online risks are and will happily explain the potential dangers. Listen and try not to be overly shocked if they tell you something that disturbs you. This can then lead nicely into you asking the question about what steps they are taking to look after themselves or what help they could seek if something goes wrong. Sometimes it's just nice to know that your children know the dangers and have taken steps to help reduce the risk for themselves - this is the ultimate goal.



## 5 ASK FOR ADVICE

It could be that you really do have a friend at work who is debating whether or not to let their child do something online, or it could be that you're bending the truth slightly, but hopefully the outcome would be the same. Don't be afraid to ask others for advice. Not only why they should let the child use it, but also what would they tell the child to be aware of. What are the risks? This will help you understand the risks yourself and what to look out for in future.



## 10 ASK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES

Try asking open ended questions about roles and responsibilities online. Who is in control of the internet? Who is looking after you whilst you are online? Who decides what is appropriate for children to see? This can reveal a lot about a child's perception about who is responsible for their online safety. If they believe that it is up to everyone else to keep them safe, then you know you need to have a conversation about how they can reduce their own risk.



## 11 ASK ABOUT SCHOOL ADVICE

Sometimes it's hard to know what to warn children about. If there is a new app or game that your child has come across recently, ask them what they think their teacher would say about it. What advice would school give them? What have they been told about trusting people online or about fake news? Finding this out would be a good way to hear what advice they were given at school and help you reiterate the same message. Quick reminders about what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or who their trusted adults are can make all the difference.



## Meet our expert

Heather Carlwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding children online and educating them around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.



**Duncan Edwards visit 9<sup>th</sup> February:**

We had a visit from Duncan Edwards, Link Advisor from West Sussex as part of our termly monitoring programme. Whilst undertaking a learning walk across the whole school, Duncan noted that:

*Pupils in the Early Years were engaged in a range of purposeful learning activities both in the indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Many pupils demonstrated sustained focus, not only enjoying their chosen activity but keen to build and develop their ideas. Pupils spoke about their class book with genuine enthusiasm and could make links between the story and their chosen activity. Pupils were happy, confident and keen to share their learning. Adults in the Early Years were providing impactful interaction which was adding value to the learning. Language was modelled effectively with carefully crafted questions used to gauge pupils' understanding and extend thinking.*

*Across KS1 and KS2, lessons were calm and purposeful underpinned by clear learning outcomes. Behaviour for learning was strong with almost no low-level distraction or disruption.*

*Learning environments have been further refined and are more consistent across the school which is supporting greater levels of pupil independence. When talking to pupils, "working walls", "vocabulary banks" and "shared success criteria" were referenced as sources of help. A range of adaptations and adjustments including visual prompts, widgets, wobble cushions, workspaces and concrete, hands-on manipulatives were supporting pupils to access, engage and achieve success."*

We always greatly benefit from external advice and monitoring. Many thanks to Duncan for providing us with challenge on our School Improvement focus and for giving us the opportunity to reflect on the hard work of the children and staff.

**Trust Safeguarding Peer Review 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

As part of ongoing support and challenge for all schools in our Academy Trust, we have our annual Safeguarding Peer Review next Tuesday afternoon. Please note that as part of this review, our Director of Education, Mark Rivers, Head of Trust Inclusion Emily Webster and Katrina Turvey, Deputy Headteacher and DSL at Burstow Primary will be on the playgrounds at the end of the day to gain some parental voice. Last year a few parents were worried we had Ofsted so I wanted to prepare you in advance! I am looking forward to undertaking the same review at Sandcross as part of our school to school support strategy.

**Celebrating our Heritage**

As part of our ongoing commitment to inclusion and cultural awareness, we have a "My Heritage Board". This special display highlights the different countries, cultures, and backgrounds that our children and staff come from, allowing us to recognise and celebrate the rich heritage that makes our community so unique. I am mindful we have had a few new families join since the start of the year so you may not be aware of this.



If your child or family has links to a country outside of the UK – whether through birth, family heritage, or cultural traditions – we invite you to share this with us.

You can provide:

- The name of the country your child has a connection with
- A photo (optional)
- A short sentence about something special from that country – such as a tradition, food, or celebration

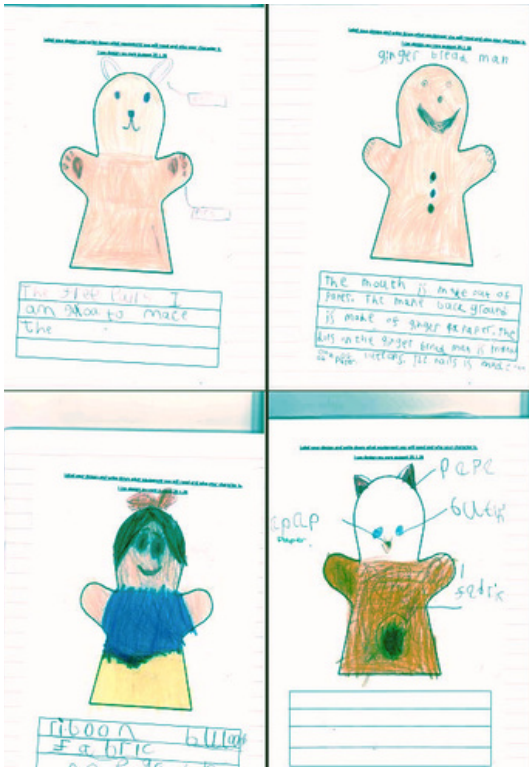
All of this will be displayed on our My Heritage Board outside the school office for everyone in the school to see and learn from. If you would like to take part, please send the information in with your child or send to the school office.



## Early Years

It's been another busy month in Early Years. We have been exploring new texts including Hedgehog's balloon and The 100 decker bus. We also had some hedgehogs come into visit us, where we learnt many facts. The children then spent a significant amount of time building hedgehog homes in the outdoor area. As well as this, we have been developing the children's physical skills in PE - using songs such as Heigh Ho from Snow White and You've got a friend in me from Toy Story. The children have worked well in partners and explored using their bodies to change their expressions. They have also started Bikeability using balance bikes. We are excited for the rest of Spring 2 and all of the learning that is coming up next!

## Year 1



Year 1 have been working hard in their phonics lessons and have been using new sounds as well as previously taught sounds to write sentences in their English work. We have been thinking about how to structure a sentence and have made sure our sentences include: who we are talking about, what the person is doing as well as where they are.

In Maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction to 20 and over the next few weeks we will be looking at numbers to 50 as well as how to measure the length and height of objects.

The children have really enjoyed their recent DT and Art lessons. In Art we have been learning to sketch and in DT we have been designing and will very shortly be making a fairytale puppet. Have a look at some of our DT designs and see if you can work out the fairytale characters we will be creating.

Last half term we learnt a dance about animals in the jungle and in the last week of the half term we performed it to a Year 6 class. They enjoyed watching us and we showed great courage to show them our dance.

Just a reminder that Year 1 have Outdoor Learning this half term. Please see previous letters about clothing and forms to fill out.



## Year 2

In year 2, the children have really enjoyed finishing off their DT and making their cars this week. They all worked hard to add their axle holders to their chassis to make sure their wheels could spin.

In English, the children have been enthusiastic in their learning about lions. We are working towards writing fact files about different big cats and the children have really impressed us with their knowledge so far!

In Maths, we are finishing off our learning about money and have been practising adding and subtracting amounts. Next week we will be starting to move on to multiplication.

The children are really enjoying our 'cats' experience so far and have also enjoyed exploring artwork by Paul Klee this week.

## Year 3



In year 3 we have finished our wonderful experience "Golly Guacamole- Where is Guatemala?" by making and erupting volcanos as our Fab Finish. Earlier in the week, the children worked in pairs to make and then paint their volcano. On Friday we mixed together washing up liquid, bicarbonate of soda and water with vinegar and food colouring to make the volcano erupt. This comes from the learning we have done around Guatemala and the active volcanos still there.

In Maths the children have been working incredibly hard on their multiplication and division skills. Using resources and different methods we have been successful in multiplying and dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number. We are looking forward to moving onto our next topic- Length and Perimeter.

Over the last few weeks, both classes have used their research skills to find facts on the use of sustainable palm oil to write a persuasive letter to Aldi, convincing them to make sure they use sustainable palm oil in all of their products. All of the letters are beautifully written, supported by facts and have used all of our success criteria steps.

For Spring 2 we are looking forward to start our Experience "A Picture Paints a 1000 Words" and exploring different artists and mediums. The art and writing will be based on the book "Seal Surfer" which has beautiful illustrations that will hopefully inspire the children with their artwork. Look out for an invite to the Year 3 Seasonal Art Gallery which will display the artwork they have created over the half term.



#### 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 continuing our use of place value grids to support us with dividing 2 and 3 digit numbers as well as part whole models.

PE this term is cricket and tennis where we look forward to mini tennis games and practicing our techniques in cricket with a cricket coach.

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, linked to our class texts from the view of Jim climbing a beanstalk.

#### 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 of the book 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.



As part of our funfair topic we created funfair rides as part of our DT work.

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 made an exciting start to their new science topic on evolution, inheritance and adaptation. To launch the topic, the children took part in a stunning start, creating beautiful artwork based on endangered animals. They focused carefully on developing their sketching techniques, experimenting with colour blending and accurately recreating intricate animal patterns. The results were truly impressive! Alongside their science learning, pupils have also begun writing persuasive brochures advertising their very own 'Cruises to Antarctica', using powerful language and persuasive techniques to entice adventurous travellers.

## KS1 Boccia and New Age Curling- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

I had the absolute pleasure of taking 8 year 2's to an inclusion event at Imberhorne Upper school. The children met me at the school gates and I think it's fair to say some of them were unsure about what was coming. These events are really well planned and there are a great many students that support from the Upper School. The children loved both events, Boccia which is similar to bowling and New Age Kurling which feels like the curling we see at the Olympics now, albeit without the ice! It was so lovely watching the children grow in confidence and skills. They were fantastic ambassadors for Halsford Park and I hope they may bring this confidence into future learning. Mrs Mackay

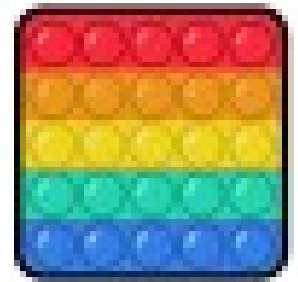
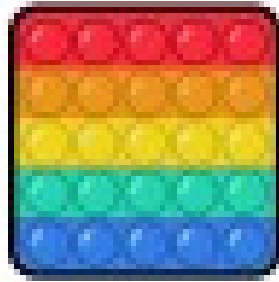


## Netball- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February



On Wednesday 11th February we took a team to compete in the Netball League. The team played two matches. They lost the first match and, after a much stronger performance, won the second game 6-0! In the second game, the team improved their passing and shooting and did not concede any goals. The team showed courage and compassion towards our own team and members of other teams. Well done to everyone who competed!

Written by Edie (Year 6).



### **Focus Aids Amnesty**

It is great to see the children using the focus aids, so generously provided by the PTA last year. They really support our children with their concentration and regulation. Some of the children have found them so helpful that they have taken them home... please could we ask that any focus aids which you find at home which belong to school are returned as soon as possible - no questions asked!

If you have any other focus aids that are taking up space at home that would like a new home, please do send them into school; they will always be gratefully received!

We have also added some ideas to the Amazon wish list if you wanted to donate- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1W92U15ZTOXUK?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1W92U15ZTOXUK?ref=wl_share)

Thank you for the donations received so far. We are all very grateful. Ms Davies

### **One Island. Two bikes. 4,900 feet of elevation**

Arthur 12 and Walter 9 are cycling around the Isle of Wight to raise money for their schools.

This isn't just a flat ride by the seaside; it's a grueling test of endurance with more ups and downs than a yo-yo!

They are pushing their pedals to the limit tackling over 18 hills and climbing over 4900ft in elevation to hit their fundraising goal.

If you can spare a few pounds to support their schools, they would be incredibly grateful. Let's help them conquer the hills! Walter's will go to Halsford Park for the Learning Labyrinth and Arthur's will go to Sackville- [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/one-island-two-bikes?utm\\_medium=CF&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/one-island-two-bikes?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL)

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 5 and 6, a visit from Steel the Gladiator and Hindleap Warren Residential for Year 4.

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

Claire Spencer - Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

March	
5th	World Book Day
6th	INSET Day- School Closed to Pupils
17th	Parent Forum 9.05am
18th-20th	Year 4- Hindleap Residential
20th	Comic Relief 2026
23rd- 26th	Year 6- Bikeability
27th	Last Day of Term
28th-12th April	Easter Holidays
April	
13th	Return to School
May	
4th	Bank Holiday- School Closed
5th	Parent Forum 9.05am
6th	Early Years- School Trip
11th-14th	Year 6 SATs Week
21st	Sports Day- AM
22nd	Last Day of Term
23rd-31st	Half Term

June	
1st	Return to School
8th	Year 2 School Trip
18th	Reserve Sports Day
19th	Transition to Year 1- EYs Parent Workshop 2.30pm
23rd	Parent Forum 9.05am
23rd	Class Photographs
July	
22nd	Year 6 Leavers Assembly- PM
22nd	Last Day of Term

**Sporting Events Calendar - Spring Term 2026**  
<https://halsfordparkprimary.ovw6.devwebsite.co.uk/site/data/files/users/parents/149113AAFDBD11DD5D8E0A361612817E.pdf>

**Coming to Halsford Park Primary School on Monday, 9 March...**

# STEEL

(AKA Zack George)  
from the BBC's  
Gladiators TV series



Inspiring children to become more active, eat more healthily, and grow in confidence!



## Class Assemblies - 9.00- 9.30am

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 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Sharratt Class Assembly
3rd July	2 Blake Class Assembly
10th July	EYs Floella Class Assembly
17th July	EYs Donaldson Class Assembly



**LINGFIELD COLTS**  
**FOOTBALL CAMP**  
**EASTER HOLIDAYS**

**9:30AM TO 3:00PM**  
**ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**


- ✓ TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH
- ✓ WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL
- ✓ THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL
- ✓ TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL
- ✓ WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL
- ✓ THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL

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Visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/lingfieldcolts/home>



**Holiday Activities – Monday 30 March to Wednesday 1 April**  
Covering Bognor Regis, Crawley, Horsham and Worthing, we have a wide selection of exciting workshops lined up for young people aged 8-16 year olds including **Rap & Lyric Writing, Play In A Band, Music Production & DJ-ing,** and **The Enchanted Cinema Interactive Soundtrack.** **FREE** places area available for those in receipt of free school meals and everyone gets a **free meal** at lunchtime. Find out more [here](#).



Meridian Rotary   
**Rotary Colour Run**

Raising Funds for  
**Cut out Cancer**

Sunday 19th April 2026  
East Grinstead Sports Club, St Hill Road, RH19 4JU  
Starts 10:00am  
Adults £18 Children 5-15 £12, Family of four £50.00  
Ticket includes white T shirt and novelty sunglasses  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/meridian-rotary-colour-run](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/meridian-rotary-colour-run)  
[meridianrotary.co.uk](http://meridianrotary.co.uk)

East Grinstead Sports Club is proud to be the location of the Colour Run  
Come and join the fun for a great cause

Scan the QR Code for your tickets

