

JULY
2026

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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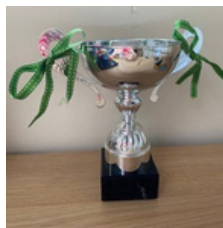
Dear Families, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to final newsletter of the academic year. We have come to the end of term with so much to be proud of: celebrating academic and personal successes across the school. The children have been tremendous all year and this last month has been no different. July's newsletter aims to celebrate all the achievements and experiences the children have enjoyed these last few weeks.

Rainbow Day- 26th June

From bright outfits to brilliant conversations, our pupils and staff fully embraced the spirit of Rainbow Day! We had a wonderful time celebrating diversity together and showing just how much our school values kindness and inclusion. Mr Garcia

Halsford House Cup



Huge congratulations Earth house team - who achieved the most Core Value awards over the course of the last term. I've been so impressed with the amount of core values earned by the children throughout the year - for academic and personal successes, both inside and outside of school.

A huge well done to all the children for being such ambassadors for our core values. We are very proud of you.

Water 9800 Air 9760 Fire 10,163 Earth 11,097

♥ Thank you from the Halsford Park PTA! ♥

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events this year. Thanks to your generosity, we've raised an amazing £10,541.99 for our school!

Every ticket bought, raffle entered, cake purchased and event attended has helped make a real difference for our children.

A special thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who have given up their time to help at events throughout the year - we couldn't do it without you.

We hope all of our families have a wonderful, safe and relaxing summer. ☀️

We look forward to seeing you all next school year for more fun fundraising events!

Quick Links

Please click here

[Chartwells West Sussex](#)

[ParentPay](#)

[Brigade Uniform
Ordering](#)

[PTA Secondhand
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[School Gateway
Payments](#)

[Register for Cool Milk](#)

[Whole School Overview](#)

[The Halsford 100](#)

[Homework Guide](#)

[Parents & Carers
Code of Conduct](#)

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concerns](#)



Online safety: Tech Free Summer for Teens

The attached online safety guide shares excellent advice on a Tech-Free Summer for teens. For many young people, the summer holidays can easily become dominated by phones, gaming, streaming and social media. This guide offers reassuring, realistic advice for parents and carers to spend more time offline without making technology feel like the enemy.

EPT Parent Online Safety Talk Recording

We hope that those of you who joined our Trust's online Safety Talk for Parents found it useful. Please find below the link to the recording for those who were unable to join.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/r4FjaN-pSEUlsOnpiE2FlgyhDYC8QqffwZRIxzc2_JyoEUeglu_t9pAvl43n7AQ.bOfj28-nEd-z8mSA

Passcode: W3%P%!x0

Eco Council

Thank you to the Eco-Council and WoW Ambassadors for all their hard work this year helping the whole school to be as Green and Sustainable as possible. They have come up with many ideas that had a positive impact on our school including the Sports Day litter pick, plastic free lunch day, turn off your taps and save energy on going projects. Thank you to our WoW Ambassadors for their hard work on this our first year of the Walk to School project. They have kept track of every pupils' school morning journey and logged it allowing us to award each pupil with their WoW badge each month. In the new term we will pick new WoW Ambassadors. The Eco-Council will stay on for a month to help with transition of our new chosen Eco-Council.

Hope you have an enjoyable and green summer holidays. Mrs Lochwood.

WellBeing

Here is a link to the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) Summer Wellbeing challenge 2026 - It is a fun and positive resource designed to help children make the most of the holidays. With 30 simple challenges and a diary page for each activity, children can reflect on their experiences and enjoy mindful, creative moments throughout the summer break.

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/holiday-wellbeing-challenge-elsa-support-2024/>

Also a link with useful information from the East Grinstead Foodbank.

<https://eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk/2025/04/04/community-cafes-and-fridges-in-and-around-east-grinstead/>



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TECH-FREE SUMMER FOR TEENS

For many 11- to 16-year-olds, summer can quickly become screen heavy, especially when socialising, entertainment, and downtime all happen via their devices. Encouraging a tech-free summer isn't about banning technology altogether, but about helping young people rediscover friendship, creativity, independence, and the great outdoors. The NHS recommends that young people aged 5 to 16 aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day across the week.

1 BUILD OUTDOOR CHOICE



Teens are more likely to engage when they feel they have a level of control. Create a simple 'summer outdoors menu' with options such as cycling to a favourite café, playing rounders, visiting a skatepark, dog walking, photography walks, geocaching, or helping around the garden. Parents and educators can then ask young people to choose two or three activities each week that interest them.

2 PREPARE THE KIT

Small barriers can stop teenagers going outside, especially if they feel uncomfortable, too hot, or unprepared. Keep a grab bag with sun cream, water, snacks, plasters, a cap, period products, and a lightweight waterproof. During hot weather, plan shade, water breaks, and calmer activities, as vigorous exercise is not advised on very hot days.

3 TRY MICRO-ADVENTURES

Outdoor activities don't need to be expensive or complicated. A micro-adventure could be as simple as watching the sunrise, walking to a local viewpoint, making breakfast outside, visiting a new green space, or planning a bus journey to a nearby nature trail. Encourage teens to plan the route, snacks, and timings themselves to help build their independence.

4 LINK TO REAL INTERESTS



A young person who dislikes sport may still enjoy being outside if the activity connects with something they already care about. Link outdoor time to music, art, animals, fashion, cooking, photography, or social interaction. Ideas include sketching in a park, making a nature playlist, filming a wildlife vlog script, or designing posters for a community garden.

5 CREATE SOCIAL PULL



For many teenagers, friends are the strongest motivator in various areas of life. Parents can invite one or two friends on walks, picnics, or garden games, while schools can promote lunchtime leagues, outdoor clubs, or summer meet-ups linked to existing interests. Make these activities feel social rather than supervised, with adults nearby for safety but not dominating the experience.

6 MAKE TRAVEL ACTIVE



Active travel is a practical way to build outdoor time into everyday routines. Encourage young people to walk, cycle, or scoot short journeys where it's safe to do so, such as to school, the library, a friend's house, or a sports club. Educators could run a summer 'active miles' challenge, with pupils logging their journeys completed on foot or by pedal.

7 USE PHONE-FREE CHALLENGES



Rather than simply saying, 'Put your phone away', turn time spent offline into a shared challenge. Try a two-hour phone-free park visit, a family evening walk, or a tutor-group challenge where pupils track their screen-free outdoor hours and share what they've been doing. You could all agree to keep devices in a box, bag, or classroom drawer, and allow for check-in time afterwards.

8 OFFER REAL RESPONSIBILITY



Teens often respond well when outdoor activities feel purposeful. Give them the responsibility for setting up a garden get-together, planning a picnic budget, leading a warm-up routine, mapping a walking route, or organising outdoor equipment. Schools could ask pupils to design an outdoor wellbeing trail, manage a sports rota, or support younger pupils during activity sessions.

9 REPLACE, DON'T REMOVE



If screens are taken away without an appealing alternative, young people may see outdoor time as a punishment. Replace gaming sessions with football drills, dance practice, basketball shots, treasure hunts, or card games outside. Replace screen scrolling with a 'boredom box' containing items like chalk, a frisbee, skipping ropes, playing cards, seed packets, or a disposable-style camera.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS



Not every teenager will suddenly love the outdoors, so recognise their gradual progress. Celebrate a 10-minute walk, an hour at the park, a phone-free picnic lunch, or choosing to cycle instead of being driven around. Parents and educators can use praise, certificates, group displays, or simple shared reflection to show that outdoor effort matters.

Meet Our Expert

The National College provides expert-led training and resources to support schools, trusts and education settings worldwide. Its guidance helps parents and educators understand the issues affecting children and young people today, covering topics such as safeguarding, wellbeing, digital safety, and healthy development.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

For full reference list on our website

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Early Years

Wow, what a first year at school! Early Years have had an excellent Summer Term, in which they became Guardians of our Planet. They have successfully completed missions and gained many rewards. As well as this, the children have shown so much courage whilst performing in their first class assembly sharing what they have learnt throughout the year. They spoke so clearly! We have used the story Micheal Recycle and created many new gadgets using recycled materials. As their journey in Early Years is coming to an end, the children took part in many transition activities in Year 1 in which they found out their new teachers favourite things and went to visit. The children continued to create magic in Drawing Club and even managed to turn Mrs Scanlan into a superhero! Not only that, but the East Grinstead fire fighters came to visit us! The children learnt about fire safety, got to sit in the fire engine and squirt water through the hoses. Finally, a huge thank you to all of the secret readers who have come in to share stories with EY this half term. We have had a FANTASTIC EY year with your children and can't wait to see them continue to grow in Year 1. Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Scanlan & Mlss Pierre.

Year 1

In English we have been reading books and using our imagination to write. Recently we read Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth and Mike Inkpen and decided to write about planting something different to a bean and what might happen. The children had some great ideas which included - planting a football which grows into a tree that grows footballs and planting a rainbow gem which makes the tree very colourful.

In maths we have been reminding ourselves of place value as well as addition and subtraction in preparation for Year 2.

We really enjoyed our DT lesson where we looked at healthy foods. We made dips and dippers and enjoyed eating these. Thank you to all the parents who came into school to help us. Have a wonderful summer break. Mrs Sears, Mrs Cloney & Mrs Sloane.





Year 2

We have had a great end to the year in Year 2! The children have especially developed their maths learning over the past week and have been keen to make their own tally charts; they needed to use this learning in their Geography lessons too, finding out about the most popular human features of seaside towns.

In English, the children wrote some great paragraphs describing one of Flat Stanley's adventures. They have then ended the year learning and performing some poetry.

The children have also all worked really hard to learn about levers as part of their DT lessons. They all designed and made their own picture with a moving part, their ideas were all very creative!

Throughout this half term the children have been growing their own tomato plants. They have been looking after them and watering these each day as part of their Science learning, based around what plants need to grow.

We hope all the children enjoy a wonderful Summer holidays and look forward to welcoming them back in Year 3! Mrs Barlow, Ms Davies & Miss Loftus.

Year 3

We have had a brilliant year! The children have worked so hard and engaged so well with the work and many experiences we have had both in and outside of the classroom. We have been particularly impressed with the progress each child has made this year and the steps they have made in their learning.

The term has finished well with presenting our work to the class sharing our plans to introduce an item into the community to make our environment 'greener'. From cleaning robots to ponds that will encourage nature, we have been incredibly proud of the thought that has gone into these designs. Hopefully one day, we will see them in action! We also linked this when making healthy sandwiches in the discussion afterwards about keeping the field clear of rubbish.

Making the healthy sandwiches was a hit and the children worked really well taking it in turns to choose their food. We had some wonderful creations made during this time and some interesting combinations of food- all of which looked delicious. The children then ate lunch together outside.

In Maths, we have finished our unit on money, being able to add and subtract money as well as count change. In English, we have written the middle of a story using the book 'Leon and The Place Between'- ask me where Leon went in my story!

We are very proud of all the children have achieved this year and know they will keep soaring to success next year. All the year 3 team would like to wish you and your children a wonderful Summer break. Mrs Durrant & Mr Burgess.





Year 4

We've had a fantastic final term in Year 4!

In English, our learning about Hercules and his 12 Labours has inspired us in lots of different ways. We stepped into Hercules' sandals to write a formal letter to King Eurystheus, explaining how we defeated the fearsome Nemean Lion. We also used our imaginations to create our own 13th Labour, designing a mythical beast for Hercules to defeat. Throughout our writing, we have worked hard to include a range of Year 4 writing skills, including fronted adverbials.

In Maths, we have developed our understanding of time by learning how to convert between 12-hour and 24-hour clocks and applying this knowledge to solve a range of problems.

In DT, we designed, made and evaluated our own Greek salads and enjoyed tasting the different ingredients. We practised two important food preparation techniques – the claw grip and the bridge hold – to chop our ingredients safely and carefully.

A huge thank you to Miss Jane from West Sussex Music for teaching us to play the djembe drums and helping us perform confidently for our grown-ups and the Year 3 children. We were so proud to showcase everything we had learnt.

Well done to all the children in Year 4 for their hard work, enthusiasm and resilience throughout the year. Thank you to all our grown-ups for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful and well-deserved summer break! Mrs Wilcox & Mrs Newell.

Year 5

What a rewarding year it has been for our Year 5 children! They have enjoyed so many exciting experiences and enrichment opportunities, with every subject benefiting from either a trip, a special event or a hands-on learning experience.



Earlier this month, the children spent a taster day at Imberhorne Upper School, giving them a valuable insight into life at secondary school. They took part in lessons including Languages, Science, English, Art and PE, and enjoyed meeting former Halsford Park pupils who have successfully made the transition to secondary school.



Back at school, the children put their Design and Technology skills to the test by making their own pizzas. They prepared their own dough before choosing their favourite toppings, linking perfectly with our Healthy Eating unit. In English, we finished reading Holes, which inspired the children to write thoughtful balanced arguments exploring whether young people who commit crimes should be sent to detention centres.

Meanwhile, in Science, the children became geologists for the day, panning for gold flakes and nuggets as part of their learning about separating materials.

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, we would like to say how proud we are of everything the children have achieved. They have worked incredibly hard, embraced every opportunity and shown great enthusiasm throughout the year.

We wish all of our Year 5 children a wonderful, restful summer break and look forward to welcoming them back as confident and enthusiastic Year 6 pupils in September. Happy reading! Mrs Manville & Mr Garcia.



Year 6

Our Year 6 children have now completed their evening performances of Aladdin for parents, and what a fantastic achievement it was! We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your incredible support with costumes, helping children learn their lines, and attending the performances. Your encouragement made a real difference.

We are also extremely grateful for your generous donations, which will go towards purchasing the performance licence for next year's production. A special thank you goes to the small group of parents who gave up their time to organise and run the bar over the two evenings – your help was very much appreciated.

We hope everyone who came along enjoyed the show. The children should be immensely proud of themselves for delivering such wonderful performances, especially in the challenging heat. Their resilience, enthusiasm and teamwork shone through from start to finish.

This week, we have been busy preparing for our Leavers' Assembly on Wednesday. We very much enjoyed celebrating what has been a successful and memorable year together at our Year 6 celebration yesterday afternoon. Mr Stepney & Mr Busse.

Area Sports Success!



On 30th June some of our KS2 children proudly represented the school at the Area Sports competition. Six local schools took part in the large schools event, with our pupils demonstrating fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. There were some outstanding performances across a range of events, from the sprints to the long jump. A special congratulations goes to our Year 5 relay team, who produced a brilliant performance to win their race and earn an impressive 20 points for the school.

Well done also to Anya, who won the 800m race convincingly with an excellent display of strength and determination.

After a fantastic day of competition, we were delighted to finish joint first overall alongside Escots. We are incredibly proud of all the children for their effort, enthusiasm and support for one another. They were excellent ambassadors for Halsford Park and should all be very proud of their achievements! Miss Borrow





Congratulations

Mrs Hann will be taking over from Mrs Mackay's role of an HLTA Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. She will be planning and teaching PPA cover (Planning, Preparation and Assessment). Mrs Hann will continue her role as Cover Supervisor – covering classes when teachers are absent or on training on Thursday and Fridays.

Miss Borrow will be continuing her role as Cover Supervisor all week but due to her fantastic commitment to supporting our children on various sporting events, she will officially take on the role of Sports Ambassador and thus will, in most cases, be overseeing our children during future sporting events.

Thank you to the Year 6 families

A huge thank you to the year 6 parents and especially our Year 6 reps for organising performance refreshments where all profits were donated to school. Altogether they raised approximately £350 which will go towards the cost of next year's production license.

Goodbye!

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to the Year 6 cohort. The Aladdin production the children put on this year was absolutely phenomenal; displaying such great talent and teamwork, and I would like to particularly praise them for their sporting achievements over the years as well as being the most dedicated and compassionate set of Prefects. We will be celebrating them in our Leaver's Assembly today alongside their families.



We wish them every success at Secondary School and hope to see them come back to see us over the next few years.

Thank you for your on-going support this year. On behalf of the whole staff team, may I wish you and your families a very lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing Years 1-6 on Tuesday 2nd September and welcoming our new Early Year children on Monday 7th September.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With kind regards

Claire Spencer – Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

July	
22nd	Year 6 Leavers Assembly- 1.30pm
22nd	Last Day of Term
23 rd - 31st	Summer Holidays

September	
1st	INSET Day- School Closed to Children
2nd	Children Return to School- Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
7th	New Early Years- Start School
25th	Individual Photographs
29th	Family Forum- 9.05am- all welcome
October	
23rd	INSET Day- Closed to Children
24th-1st	HALF TERM BREAK
November	
2nd	INSET Day- Closed to Children
3rd	Return to School
24th	Family Forum- 9.05am- all welcome

Kicks dance SUMMER CAMP

AGES 5-11

£30.00 A DAY

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EACH DAY IS DIFFERENT!
A mix of fun, creative and active experiences designed around choice and variety.

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- ✓ Two free children accepted
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SOUTHDOWN NETBALL CLUB

NEW SEASON, NEW GOALS!
JOIN SOUTHDOWN NETBALL CLUB!

JOIN OUR CLUB TAKING PLAYERS FOR YEAR 5 TO YEAR 13 (NEW U17 TEAM FROM SEPTEMBER 2026)

- GROW CONFIDENCE & SKILLS**
(Coaching for technical side and self-esteem.)
- MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS**
(Supportive group, friendships beyond the game.)
- TEAMS FOR EVERYONE**
(All ability levels, beginners to experienced.)

THE DETAILS
WHERE: East Grinstead Sports Club
WHEN: Tuesdays, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

INTERESTED?
CONTACT: secretarysdc@gmail.com to arrange a taster session!
#Netball #EastGrinstead #SouthdownNetball #YouthSports #GirlsInSport #JoinTheTeam

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FUN. FRIENDSHIP. ADVENTURE.

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- STRIP UP
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- ARE THROWING
- ARCHERY
- ARTS, CRAFTS & SPORT
- HIGH ROPES
- BUSH CRAFT

DATES 27 JULY - 28 AUG
AGES 6-16
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PUMP TRACK Open Event

FREE
Tuesday 28th July 11am - 4pm

The Modular Pump Track is back and even bigger!

Want to learn from the best?
World Champion scooter rider **Terry Price** is coming to our event!
+ DJ Taster Sessions
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23/7-29/8
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Ages 5yrs-11yrs

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2PM THE SAVIOURS OF SOUL
3PM FIVE DOLLAR SHAKE
4PM EUPHORIA

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No need to book! Just turn up and join in. Equipment provided

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Aimed at under 10's but all ages welcome