OCTOBER 2026

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 an action packed first half term.

Halsford Cup Results



Huge congratulations to Fire House for earning the most Core Value awards through Dojos this half term! All teams achieved so much and should be very proud. Well done, everyone!

Fire 5943 Water 5929 Earth 5765 Air 5444

Harvest Donations

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who so kindly donated food to our Harvest Festival Appeal. As you know, both East Grinstead Foodbank and Crawley Open House rely on donations such as these to support those in need. We were delighted to receive the following message from Crawley Open House: *"Thank you for the wonderful donation from your Harvest Festival. It will be used in our hostel kitchen and to fill the emergency food parcels we distribute every day to those experiencing food poverty."* Mrs Manville – PSHE Champion

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal- November



After half term, we will be launching our Poppy Appeal. Children are asked to bring a minimum donation of £1 to purchase a poppy or another symbol of remembrance, such as a wristband, bracelet or ruler. Additional donations are very welcome. The items will be on sale every day from Tuesday 3rd November until Wednesday 11th November, when we will hold a two-minute silence in school to remember all those who have served and sacrificed so much. All donations will go to the East Grinstead Branch of the Royal British Legion, helping to support service veterans with living costs, housing, wellbeing and recovery. We teach the children that remembrance is about more than simply wearing a poppy. It is also about taking a moment to reflect on the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, both in the past and today.

Quick Links

Please click here

Brigade Uniform Ordering

PTA Secondhand Uniform

School Gateway Payments

Register for Cool Milk

Whole School Overview

The Halsford Hit List

Homework Guide

Parents & Carers Code of Conduct

Attendance & Sickness Information

Report parking concerns



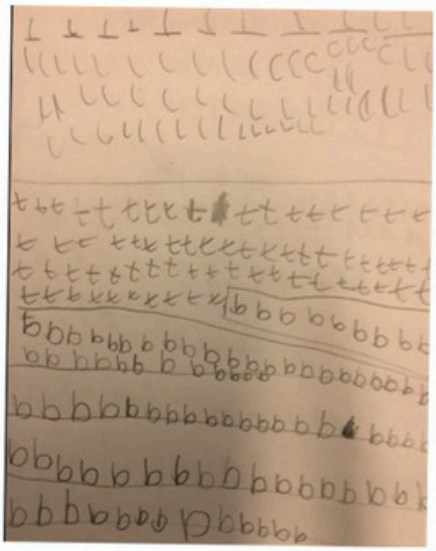
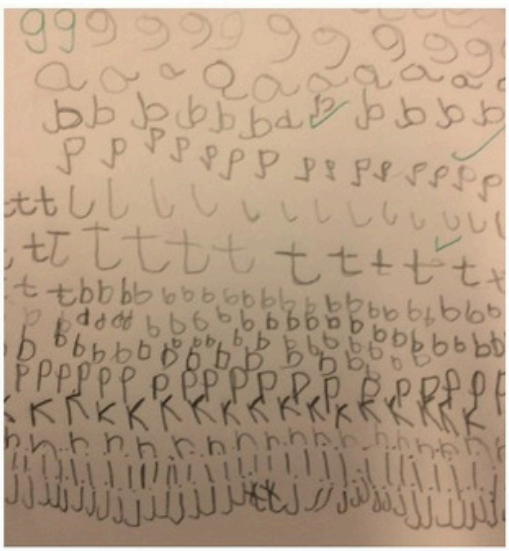
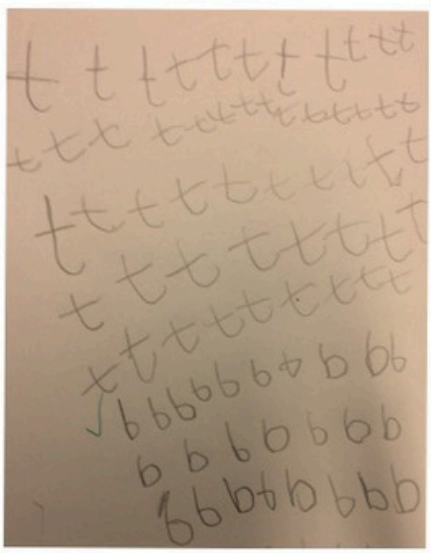


Early Years

Our Early Years children have settled into the new school year wonderfully, and we are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted to their new routines and learning environment. This half term, we have been exploring our emotions through stories in Drawing Club, including Find Your Happy and Geoffrey Gets the Jitters. The children have enjoyed discussing their feelings and have taken this learning further by creating their own self-regulation toolkits to help them recognise and manage their emotions. Outdoors, they have loved developing their construction skills, working collaboratively to build exciting structures and design their own obstacle courses. Our Halloween-themed potion role-play area has also been a great source of imaginative play, alongside creating their very own pumpkins! We are so proud of their enthusiasm, creativity and achievements this half term!

Year 1

In Maths, Year 1 have been exploring addition and subtraction within 10. We have been working practically with counters, cubes and number lines before moving on to writing number sentences and finding the answers. In English, we have been using our phonics knowledge to write labels and sentences. When writing sentences, we are focusing on using capital letters and full stops correctly. We have also been working hard on our handwriting, making sure we form our letters correctly. We are really proud of our letter formation! Have a look at the pictures below to see how well we are doing. If your child practises writing letters at home, please encourage them to say the letter formation phrase as they write, as this will help them to form each letter correctly. We have loved seeing all the homework being brought in in the children's purple books. Just a reminder that homework books are collected in and returned every Friday. We hope you all have a lovely half term!





Year 2

What a fantastic first term in Year 2 the children have had! In English, the children have been working so hard on constructing sentences that make sense, using capital letters and full stops, and trying to extend these by using the conjunctions 'and' and 'but'. They have most recently retold a chapter from 'The Owl who was afraid of the dark' using all of the skills they have been practising so far.

In maths, the children have been working hard to practise their addition and subtraction. We are really focussing on using our number bonds to 10 to help us with our addition. After half term we will be moving on to adding across a 10 where the children will begin to learn about 'exchanging'.

Throughout this half term in Geography the children have explored the hottest and coldest parts of the world and have thought about what our climate in like in contrast with the climate in Africa. After half term we will beginning our History unit of learning.

A huge thank you to all of those who have supported the children with their creative projects this half term, we have been blown away by all of the children's hard work on their dioramas! They all proudly shared these with their classes and were able to talk about what they had made with confidence.

We hope all of the children have a restful half term and look forward welcoming them back for more learning after half term.

Year 3

Our ongoing English lessons have moved onto writing diary entries using emotions and feelings to really bring them alive. The children seem to be enjoying the texts relating to dragons and some wonderful descriptive narrative has been created.

In Maths, we have moved on from place value and are now looking at methods of addition and subtraction for large numbers. We have also started a big push on timetables (particularly the 3s). Your child is undertaking Timetables Rocks Stars in Computing every week and we would urge you to encourage them to practise these at home. They all have their own login. In our experience, a pupil who regularly completes the multiplication games online will see the benefit enormously in maths.

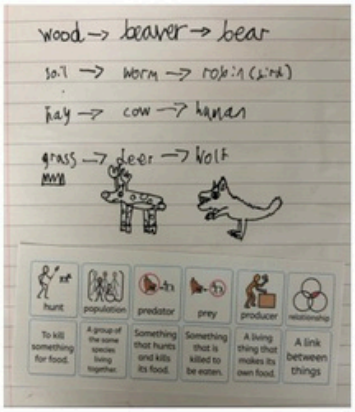
We have now completed our science unit on movement and nutrition and the children have been learning about the food groups and how they fuel our bodies in different ways. Our resident skeleton, 'Mr Skelly' has also proved to be a great hit.

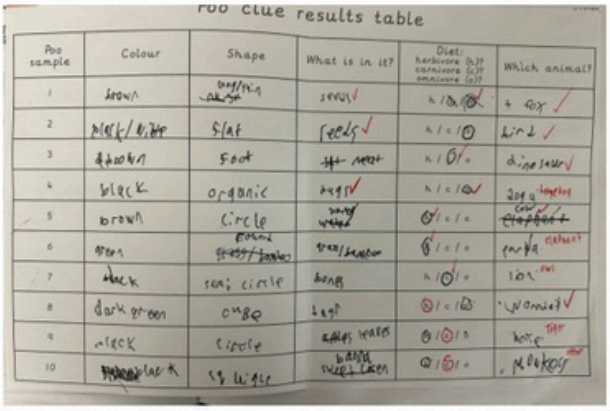
Volcanoes and earthquakes have featured heavily in our Geography lessons and understanding how these occur has really captured pupils' attention.

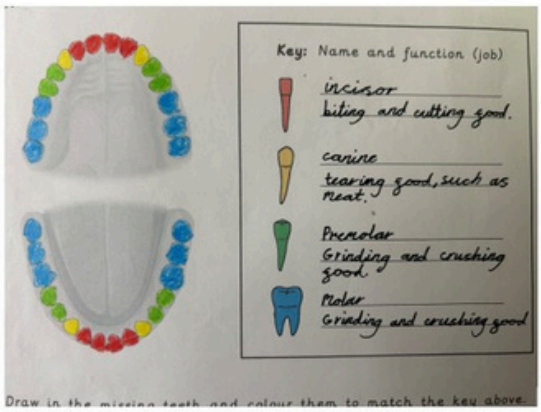



In French we put our knowledge of greetings into action to learn the poem 'Deux petits chatons'. We have been learning to introduce ourselves and greetings. We decorated the finger puppets to show our understanding to the class.

Suffice to say, pupils have had a brilliant start to year 3 and given that the transition between Key stage 1 and 2 can be a challenge, we are immensely proud of how they have adapted to the new routines and high expectations. The half term break is welcome but please encourage your child to continue reading daily over the week. We wish you all a restful half term.







Year 4

In Maths, we have been learning column addition and subtraction using the expanded and compact methods, as well as thinking about the most efficient methods for subtraction.

In English, we have been investigating our key text, The Firework Maker's Daughter, and focusing on the events that take place in Chapter 5 to write a diary entry as Lila, the main character in the story. We have been using our working wall to help us, including past tense verbs, informal language and vocabulary to describe feelings and emotions.

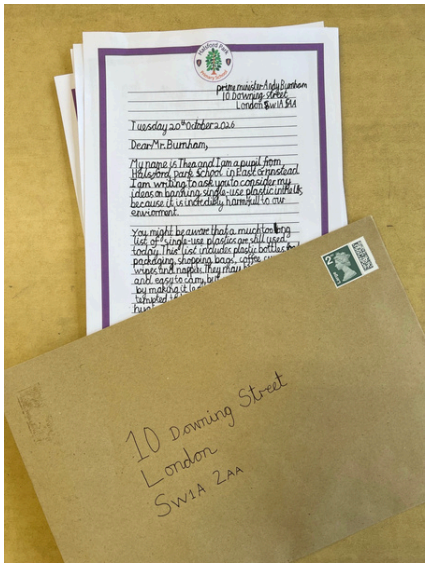
In Science, we have been exploring our 'Poo Clues' lesson with Kapow! We have used our prior learning about predators, prey and producers, alongside their learning around teeth. This has allowed us to investigate different clues and make educated guesses about which animal the poo belonged to.

In PE, we have really enjoyed developing our skills in hockey and rugby, practicing key techniques and working together as a team to apply these skills when playing a game.

Year 5

Multiplication, multiples, and factors have been the focus for our maths over the last two weeks and the children have been solving problems using these skills. We still encourage children to practise their times tables at home using their Times Tables Rock Stars login, especially as this forms the foundation for our work on fractions later this term.

In computing, we have also been developing our typing skills, learning how to use all our fingers correctly and practicing proper keyboard technique to build speed and accuracy, which we put into practice while creating quizzes all about ourselves! As always, we urge you to encourage your child to read as much as possible over the half-term break, as reading for pleasure really helps with spelling, sentence structure and gives them a greater understanding of grammar.



In addition, the children have been looking at single-use plastics and how other materials could replace them, even writing to Andy Burnham in English to share their concerns for the planet and try to persuade the government to do more to encourage recycling in the UK.

If you are looking for a fun half-term activity, making a bag from recycled materials for your child's Creative Homework Project would be a brilliant option to tackle together!





Year 6

The Year 6 pupils showed the core values in abundance as they took part the annual residential trip to Windmill Hill. The teachers were particularly impressed by their good manners and behaviour in the canteen - probably the best year group we've ever had for meal-times.

Children took part in many adventurous activities, including: Zip-line, abseiling, rock-climbing, archery, sensory trails, problem solving, trapeze, giant swing, orienteering and survivor skills. We are very proud of the pupils for showing courage and responsibility whilst away from home.

PTA News

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Spooky Tuck Shop! We raised an amazing £292.88. We hope everyone enjoyed the Spooky Disco and had a fang-tastic time!

·Christmas Fair - Saturday 28th November, 2-5pm

The countdown to Christmas has begun! Our Christmas Fair is just around the corner, and we can't wait to see you all there.

Santa's Grotto tickets go live on Friday 23rd October at 12pm, so set your reminders!

Christmas raffle tickets will be available from 1st November. Get ready for your chance to win some fantastic prizes! We have some brilliant prizes up for grabs. Keep an eye out for more details!

·Christmas Jumper Donations

We are looking for outgrown Christmas jumpers to help other families this festive season. If you have any to donate, please pop them in the school uniform bin.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Every penny raised helps us provide fantastic resources and opportunities for our children! 💜 Halsford Park PTA





Keeping Children Safe online (Internet Safety) What Parents need to know about generative ai safety

This guide explores the risks and rewards of children using generative AI tools, highlighting dangers such as misinformation, privacy breaches, and reduced critical thinking, while offering essential tips for safe, positive use.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Real
Fake

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

CENSORED

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

MATHS
ALL THE ANSWERS
12+12
=
1212
NEWS
IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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SPORTS

Netball Festival- 30th September



Our Year 3 and 4 children had a fantastic time at the netball festival! They took part in some fun drills to practise their passing, movement and teamwork before finishing with a mini tournament.
We split into two teams, and both teams worked brilliantly together, showing great teamwork and encouragement throughout. One of our teams even managed to finish the tournament without conceding a single goal! Well done! Miss Borrow- Sports Ambassador.

Fundamental Movement Skills- 7th October



Year 2 had a fantastic time developing their fundamental skills! They practiced throwing, jumping, kicking and balancing, working on their co-ordination, control and technique.
The children enjoyed a range of fun activities and challenges, showing great enthusiasm while developing their confidence and skills. It was brilliant to see them encouraging each other and having lots of fun while being active! Miss Borrow- Sports Ambassador.

Cross Country- 11th October



Our cross-country runners had a fantastic day, with some brilliant individual performances and team success!
In the Year 4 boy's race, Zachary raced to an excellent 2nd place, with Dyllan finishing 7th and Freddie 10th. In the Year 4 girl's race, Sienna achieved a fantastic 4th place.
In the Year 5/6 boy's race, Jean-Luc put in an outstanding performance to take 1st place by a huge margin!
Well done to all our runners, with both the Year 5/6 boy's and girl's teams achieving an impressive 3rd place overall. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and represented our school so brilliantly! Mrs Gibbons.

Netball League- 15th October



Our netball teams have made a fantastic start to the season!
Both the A and B teams played three games each and came away victorious in every match.
The A team had an incredible start, scoring an amazing 67 goals across their three games without conceding a single goal!
The B team also won all three of their games, which is particularly impressive as many of the players were playing their very first netball match. They showed great teamwork, determination and enthusiasm throughout.A huge well done to all the players! We are incredibly proud of how both teams have started the season and look forward to seeing how they progress throughout the rest of the league. Miss Borrow- Sports Ambassador.







Eco Council

Our new Eco Council; Alex, Arlo, Evan, Freyja, George, Harper, Olly, Ruth, Scarlett, Selim, Theo, Zoe, are busy designing a New Mascot for the school's green campaign. Each member of the group has come up with an idea and we will be using part of each design to piece together a Super Mascot. Our mascot will appear on everything from posters and help guides to our section of the newsletter. The Eco Council hope it will help the pupils of Halsford Park become motivated to really think about how they can help our planet.

We are also at this time selecting our Main Missions for this year's focus. So far we have voted to focus on

 Energy

 Litter

 Marine

We hope you have a lovely half term and wanted to share some ideas on activities that are both fun and Eco-friendly! Scan or click on the QR code to take you to a website of ideas.

Eary Years Intake 2027



Do you have, or do you know a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023? If so, they are eligible to start school in September 2027. 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 5th October at 9am. For further advice or information please contact 03330 142 903.

The deadline is **Friday 15th January 2027**. Please spread the word of how great our school is!

Donut Sale- Friday 6th November

Jack in 4 Elton, along with his sister Amelia who has just moved onto Sackville school, are doing a fundraiser to raise funds for family friends who's little boy, Freddie, suffered a devastating brain injury.

Jack's Dad is running the Brighton Half Marathon and all money raised will help in little Freddie's recovery and therapies!





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Welcome



We are delighted to welcome Miss Lily Hill to our team!
Miss Hill will be joining us every day as a Teaching Assistant in Year 3. We are very pleased to have her on board and look forward to working with her.
Welcome to Halsford Park, Miss Hill!

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 3rd November which is the first date of our two Family Learning Conferences. We look forward to seeing you then.

With very kind regards,

Mrs Claire Spencer
Headteacher
Halsford Park Primary School



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Dates for your Diary

October	
22nd	PTA- Halloween Disco
23rd	INSET Day- Closed to Children
24th-1st	HALF TERM BREAK
November	
2nd	INSET Day- Closed to Children
3rd	Return to School
3rd - 6th	No Teacher Led Clubs
3rd & 5th	Family Learning Conferences
12th	Early Years- Writing & Phonics Workshop 2.30pm
23rd	Whole School Flu Vaccinations
24th	Family Forum- 9.05am- all welcome
28th	PTA- Christmas Fair
December	
9th	KS2 Carol Concert- *details to follow*
14th-17th	Year 6- Bikeability- *details to follow*
16th	I.S.S- Christmas Lunch- *details to follow*
18th	Last day of term

Class Assemblies- 9.00-9.30am	
15th Jan	6 Franklin Class Assembly
29th Jan	6 Turing Class Assembly
5th Feb	5 Attenborough Class Assembly
5th March	3 Farah Class Assembly
12th March	3 Simmonds Class Assembly
16th April	2 Knight Class Assembly
23rd April	2 Blake Class Assembly
30th April	4 Elgar Class Assembly
7th May	4 Elton Class Assembly
11th June	5 Anning Class Assembly
25th June	1 Hart Class Assembly
2nd July	1 Sharratt Class Assembly
9th July	EYs Floella Class Assembly
16th July	EYs Donaldson Class Assembly

WE NEED YOU
JOIN THE PTA!

Why join us?

Support your child: Your involvement directly funds school trips, new equipment and fun activities.

Build community: Meet other parents, share ideas and make a real difference to school life.

Have your say: Help choose how fundraising money is spent to improve our school.

No experience needed!

Total flexibility: You do not have to attend every meeting or run huge events.

Every bit helps: Helping for just one hour a term makes a massive difference.

Bring your skills: Whether you love baking, designing flyers, or just helping tidy up, we need you!

Come and speak to one of our friendly members or get in touch via email if you would like to know more...
halsford.pta@gmail.com

Friends of Halsford Park School

HALSFORD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, 28 November, 2-5pm

SANTA'S GROTTO • STALLS • HP SHOP
BAR sponsored by The Star Inn Lingfield • RAFFLE
MULLED WINE • FACE PAINTING • CAFE
GIFTS & GOODIES • HOT FOOD
GAMES & CRAFTS • TOMBOLAS • ELFRIDGES
AND MUCH MORE...

Please scan here to offer an hour of your time to help at the fair – we really can't do it without you!
Or visit volunteersignup.org/XJWXT

Friends of Halsford Park School

Kicks dance

FOR AGES 5 - 11

HOLIDAY CAMP

£30.00 A DAY

MONDAY 26TH & TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER
BLACKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
9.00AM - 3.00PM

2 DAYS OF DANCING, CRAFTS & GAMES!

Our Holiday Camp gives parents trusted childcare while children enjoy fun-filled days with teachers they already know and love.

MULTIPLE DAY DISCOUNT



WWW.KICKSDANCE.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-CAMPS



Junior Adventures Group

HOLIDAY HQ

OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP

LAUNCHING OCTOBER 2026

- Action-packed activities every day – sports, games, crafts, challenges & more
- Mission Starlight this October – a new space-themed adventure every day
- Make, create & take it home – including our Solar System Planetarium
- Great-value holiday childcare – with offers & discounts available

SCAN TO FIND YOUR HOLIDAY HQ & BOOK NOW

Rainbows

Girlguiding

Girls play, learn and have tons of fun for ages 4 to 7



www.girlguiding.org.uk

Brownies

Girlguiding

Girls have non-stop fun, learning and adventure for ages 7 to 10



FIREWORK NIGHT @EGRFC

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER • 5PM START • 7PM FIREWORKS

FACE PAINTER
COLOUR, SPARKLE & FESTIVAL FUN

FAIRGROUND RIDES
THRILLS FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

LIVE FIRE PERFORMANCE
FIRE, FLARE & MAGIC FROM A PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED PERFORMER
• BODY BURNING • CLUB JUGGLING • FIRE EATING • FIRE BREATHING

FESTIVAL FOOD VILLAGE
BBQ • THE COLONEL FISH & CHIPS • SUSSEX BILTONG • CORTADO COFFEE • POFFERT KITCHEN • DUTCH MINI PANCAKES

SCAN QR FOR TICKETS, TICKET LINK IN BIO ON INSTAGRAM @EG_RFC
The Gearon Pavilion, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4JU.



HALF MARATHON

FEB 2027

BRIGHTON

*In **February 2027**, I'll be taking on the Brighton Half **Marathon** to raise vital funds for my friend's son, **Freddie**, who has suffered a life-changing **brain injury**.*

Every mile will be run to support Freddie's ongoing care, rehabilitation and future needs.

Every donation, no matter how small, will make a difference and help give Freddie the best possible future.

Please support my challenge and help me make a difference for Freddie!



gofundme

Scan me

Support For Freddie

KINGS DECEMBER

EVENTS & DEALS

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
1ST TO 16TH DECEMBER
HALF PRICE ROOM BOOKINGS

5TH DECEMBER
KINGS CHRISTMAS PARTY
LIVE DJ 7PM-MIDNIGHT

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
VIRTUAL GOLF BAY DEAL
8AM–12PM
4 HOUR SLOT £120
2 HOUR SLOT £70

CHRISTMAS EVE
HALF PRICE
ON ALL ROOM BOOKINGS & ACTIVITIES

BOXING DAY
FAMILY EVENT
£10PP
INCLUDES MINI GOLF, KARAOKE & THE CAVE
ALL UNLIMITED USE

NEW YEAR'S EVE
FAMILY PARTY
£10PP
INCLUDES MINI GOLF, KARAOKE & THE CAVE
ALL UNLIMITED USE

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