# SEPTEMBER 2025

# HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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Dear families, parents and carers,

Welcome to the September edition of our monthly newsletter! We're excited to share a snapshot of the fantastic learning that's been happening across the school this month.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Year 1-6 Welcome to the Year Group meetings. We hope you found them informative and enjoyed the chance to meet your child's teacher, hear about the curriculum, and learn more about the events and homework expectations for the year ahead.

We're also looking forward to welcoming our Early Years parents to the upcoming Four Weeks In meeting. Copies of all presentation slides have been shared via email and are available on the year group pages of our website. <u>LINK TO CLASS PAGES</u>

#### **Harvest Donations - Supporting Our Community**

We're proud to be supporting two incredible causes this harvest season: East Grinstead Foodbank and Crawley Open House.

East Grinstead Foodbank provides essential food parcels for families on low incomes or those facing sudden hardship.

Crawley Open House supports people dealing with homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, and social exclusion — a charity we've proudly supported in the past.

Both organisations are currently in need of the following items:

#### Requested Donations:

- Coffee
- Sugar
- Tinned soup
- Tinned meat
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned fruit

- Tinned custard
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned produce
- Long life fruit juice
- Long life Milk (UHT)
- Microwave rice
- Instant mashed potato

All items must be un-opened, in their original packaging and undamaged, otherwise they cannot be used. Items should also have a use by date of 2026 or longer.

We will be collecting donations until **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** so please send any items in with your child or drop them off at the school office. Thank you in advance for your generosity — your support really does make a difference!

## **Quick Links**

Please click here

<u>Chartwells West Sussex</u> <u>ParentPay</u>

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

<u>Attendance & Sickness</u> Information









#### **Early Years**

Wow, what a fantastic start our Early Years children have made. We have been so busy exploring the different areas of the classroom and the outdoor area too. The children have made delicious dishes in the mud kitchen, created autumnal painting whilst exploring colour mixing and have particularly loved climbing! We have been getting to know each other through the transition booklets and the family photos which are proudly displayed on the children's proud patches. We are learning to use each of the core values and have worked so hard whilst getting to know the routines and shared expectations of the environment. Exploring more of the school, we have been on our first welly walk too! Each day, we have been taking part in Drawing Club where we have already adventured with Mr Benn and explored The Colour Monster. We are extremely excited for more adventures throughout the Autumn Term.

#### Year 1

The children have settled really well into Year 1. They have worked hard on learning all the new routines.

In English we have been continuing to work on drawing club and we have been looking at the book the colour monster. In these lessons the children have drawn their own colour monster and written about them. In Maths we have been looking at numbers to 10. The children have been singing number songs and also using mathematic equipment to show numbers to 10. We have looked at our families and spoken about how everyone's family is different. Also, in computing lessons we have logged into the computers and accessed purple mash.

Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at toys from the past. If you have any old fashion toys at home, or photos of them that you don't mind sharing with the classes, please can you give them to your class teacher. All reading diaries have now been given out. Please can you ensure that your child has their reading diary and book in their bag every day as books will be changed throughout the week.

Here are a few photos of us undertaking some rainbow challenges in our new classrooms.

















#### Year 2

The children have had a brilliant start to Year 2! In English, we have explored the story 'Nibbles the Book Monster', with the children all designing their own book monster and creating a wanted poster, whilst using expanded noun phrases to describe their character.

In maths, the children have been exploring place value through the use of different resources.

In Science, the children have been material detectives and have been finding out about how different materials are suitable for different jobs.

The children have also made a fantastic start to their DT learning where they have all designed a hat ready for our tea party at the end of this half term. We will be starting to make these over the next couple of weeks.

#### Year 3

We have had a great start to year 3 this year and have engaged well in our new learning experiences. For this half term in English, the children have been writing a description of a dragon they have drawn during art lessons. In their writing, the children have recapped expanded noun phrases and come up with some excellent words to describe their dragon for example, 'jade-winged creature'.

During art lessons, we learnt how to draw different parts of the dragon, using sketching skills to add detail and character to the final dragon drawing. Combining imagination and coloured patterns, our dragons came to life on the page. Each dragon has different powers and does different things. Why don't you ask me about what my dragon does?

In maths, we have been recapping place value and learning how to compare numbers using 'greater than' and 'less than' to show which numbers are bigger or smaller. We have also started learning the 3 times tables and are playing games like times tables bingo and missing number to help us recall the numbers. Next, we will be learning how to add and subtract up to 3-digit numbers using written methods.

In science, we have been learning about electricity and will link this with where different light sources come from. We have learnt about the different components in an electrical circuit and made predictions on whether a circuit will work with different components missing. We are looking forward to building our own circuits in groups to see whether our predictions are correct.











#### Year 4

We have had a fantastic start to Autumn 1 in Year 4! In Maths, we have been recapping our understanding of 1s, 10s, and 100s and we are now introducing numbers up to 10,000! We have been using manipulatives such as dienes and place value counters to help us solve problems using these bigger numbers. In Reading, we have been investigating the text, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter', and using our dictionary skills to discover the meaning of many new words from the text. On the theme of fireworks, we have been learning about instruction writing in our first WRITER's sequence in English and writing instructions on how to make our own firework! We have invented lots of weird and wonderful ingredients for our fireworks such as meteor fragments and unicorn horn shavings! In P.E. we have been developing our hand eye coordination and control in badminton and will begin to work on our dribbling and passing in hockey. Our Science questions 'What can we see, what can we hear?' have been great fun to answer. We have investigated the best material for eye masks, learning about opaque, transparent and translucent materials through investigative experiments. We have then been practising our sewing techniques which we will put into practise to make our own face masks which we will design, make and evaluate. We certainly are busy and we are very excited to see what learning we will be doing next!

#### Year 5

Year 5 kicked off their stunning start to Mysterious Materials with a day of scientific experiments that looked at reversible and irreversible changes. We created rainbows from skittles, gloop from cornflour and vegetable oil lava lamps. We will continue to look at how materials are fit for purpose and their properties throughout the half term

In English, we have dived into Ted Hughes' The Iron Man. This short story tells of a metal giant and the destruction and devastation he brings to a small community. Pupils have been looking at the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary and answering questions based on their comprehension of the text.

We are about to start newspaper reports based around this story. We will look at the features of a good newspaper report and how they are laid out.

In Maths, we have revised place value and looked for the first time at Roman Numerals. We have been looking at numbers up to a million, and coming up with mental strategies to add thousands, hundred, tens etc. to these large numbers simply by altering the place value of the digits. Incidentally, this topic in maths also lends itself to problem solving.

Please remind children that homework is posted on Google Classroom and we are happy to give children a paper copy if they are unable to access the technology or unable to print it off. In addition to this, we have also reminded children of their usernames and passwords for Rockstar maths, which can be undertaken at home. It just keeps those multiplication tables fresh and will really help in maths this year.

Please continue to encourage your child to read every evening and fill in their reading diary and these are checked on a Friday by their class teacher.

















#### Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy and exciting few weeks! In outdoor learning, we've been exploring Andy Goldsworthy-style art, creating beautiful natural sculptures inspired by the world around us. We also got hands-on with food technology, starting to make our own campfire doughnuts – a big hit with everyone!

In class, we are really enjoying our new text, Cosmic, which is sparking lots of imagination. It's giving us great ideas for our upcoming descriptive writing about space.

In maths, we've been tackling the challenge of rounding numbers and exploring negative numbers, developing confidence with number lines, contexts like temperature, and real-life problem solving.

In PE, we have been working on our tag rugby skills, learning how to dodge, pass accurately, and work as a team on the pitch.

#### **Amazon Wish List**

If you would like to make a donation via the Halsford Park Amazon wish list the link is <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1W92U15ZTOXUK?">https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1W92U15ZTOXUK?</a>
ref =wl share



We open each package with a sense of excitement and are extremely grateful for every donation.

#### 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 <a href="www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions">www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions</a> 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!



#### Tag Rugby- Year 3 and 4-24th September



On Wednesday 24th September, some year 3 and 4 children attended a tag-rugby festival at the East Grinstead Rugby Club. They engaged in some fantastic games and activities to introduce them to the sport. Thankfully it was a lovely sunny day and the children were able to enjoy all of the activities.

The teachers who went were very impressed with the respect that all of the children showed, being real ambassadors for Halsford Park. Well done! Mrs Durrant

#### Tag Rugby- Year 5 and 6-24<sup>th</sup> September

The Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby festival was a great success once again this year. The children began with a carousel of activities working on hand eye coordination, ball control and agility. They had to work as a team in most of the activities to ensure their tags were not removed. They then had a quick break before moving onto the grass pitch and taking part in a mini tournament against many of the other local primary schools. All the children tried incredibly hard and showed so much courage and resilience.

Well done to all those who took part and for earning medals and a new trophy for the trophy cabinet! Mrs Wilcox



#### Join Us as a Volunteer at Halsford Park!

Would you like to give back to the school community or gain experience working with children? We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us at Halsford Park!

Volunteering is a fantastic way to:

- ·Support children's learning
- ·Develop your skills and confidence
- ·Contribute to our vibrant school environment

Many of our current volunteers help with reading, but if you were passionate about the outdoors, we'd love extra hands for Friday afternoon outdoor learning and gardening sessions too!

We provide safeguarding training for all volunteers to ensure everyone feels confident and secure in their role.

To learn more or sign up, please visit our Volunteering section on the school website.







#### School, Eco Council and A-Team 2025-2026

A huge congratulations to all our newly elected School Council and Eco Council representatives! We're so proud of you all.

It was inspiring to see how many children put in the time and effort to prepare persuasive speeches and share their ideas. Your voices truly matter, and we're excited to see the positive changes you will help bring to our school this year.

Our School and Eco Councils will contribute to this newsletter regularly, keeping you informed about their projects and progress alongside Mrs McKay and Mrs Lochwood.

#### **Peer Mentors**

Ms Wren was thrilled by the number of enthusiastic Year 5 pupils who volunteered to become Peer Mentors this year. These amazing pupils are now supporting younger children with:

- ·Mastery Spelling
- ·Mastery Phonics
- ·Paired Reading
- ·Turn-taking and social skills

Each Peer Mentor is timetabled to work with their mentee up to three times a week, and their dedication is already making a real difference. Well done to all those involved — you're showing fantastic leadership and kindness!

#### **Year 6 Prefects 2025-2026**

We're delighted to announce our new team of Year 6 Prefects for this academic year! Congratulations to all the children who applied — we were so impressed by the thoughtful and persuasive letters you submitted.

Our prefects will be meeting with me regularly to reflect on what's going well and how we can make improve in our role. They've already begun their roles with confidence, compassion, and maturity, and are proving to be outstanding role models across the school.

Well done to all of our new leaders — we're so proud of you!

**Family & School Agreement** - Please Complete the Google Form - <a href="https://forms.gle/ZAJGBMgox8s2xSfo7">https://forms.gle/ZAJGBMgox8s2xSfo7</a> A gentle reminder to all parents and carers to complete the Google Form confirming that you have read and agreed to our updated Family and School Agreement.

This agreement helps us work together to support your child's learning, wellbeing, and school experience. If you haven't yet filled it in, please do so as soon as possible — your support is greatly appreciated!

#### My Heritage Board - Help Us Celebrate Our Community!

At Halsford Park, we value and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of our school community. We're inviting families to contribute to our "My Heritage" Board, which is proudly displayed outside the school office. If your child or family has links to a country outside of the UK — whether through birth, family heritage, or cultural traditions — we'd love you to share this with us!

You can include:

- The name of the country your child is connected to
- A photo (optional)
- A short sentence about something special from that country such as a tradition, favourite food, or celebration

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to see their own heritage represented and to learn about the rich cultures within our school community. Thank you for helping us build an inclusive and inspiring environment for all our pupils!



#### Online Safety: Back-to-School Tips for a Safe Start

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe online, each month we'll be sharing a Top Tips Poster focusing on a different aspect of online safety.

This month's poster provides a helpful overview of online safety tips to support children as they settle back into school life — a timely reminder for both children and parents.

Our SAFS Team has an new name - the Inclusion Team! If you have any concerns about your child's progress or emotional wellbeing, contact your class teacher and they may commission the Inclusion Team to help support. We can also help if you need support at home, so please do get in touch. More information about Inclusion at Halsford Park can be found on our website: Halsford Park Primary School - Inclusion Ms Davies.

#### **Parenting Workshops**

This year, the Early Help Dedicated Schools Team from West Sussex are offering Parenting Workshops in schools.

"These workshops are tailored for co-delivery with your school, allowing you to facilitate them independently within your school community. Each session is approximately 30 to 45 minutes long and is designed to be presented to a group of about 10 to 15 parents, selected collaboratively with the school and your Dedicated Schools Team (DST) link worker. The school will coordinate and host these workshops. The series is intended to empower parents with practical knowledge and strategies to support their children's emotional, social, and physical development. Each session focuses on a specific topic to support parents, offering insights, tools, and opportunities for discussion."

We are delighted to announce that our first workshop, led by Becky Ringer and Mrs Spencer will be on Friday 10th October at 9am in our Meeting room. As we have seen a growing number of incidents related to online safety, the first session will focus on "My Digital child". Please see the details below.

If you would be interested in attending, please click on the Google Link to express your interest - <a href="https://forms.gle/TmoEyzArTRTYpDuv9">https://forms.gle/TmoEyzArTRTYpDuv9</a>

As we settle into the new school year, I want to take a moment to say how extremely proud we are of your children — their enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness shine through each day. I very much look forward to celebrating their personal and academic achievements in the months ahead, as we continue to work in partnership with you to support their growth and success.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support — it truly makes a difference.

With very kind regards Mrs Claire Spencer - Headteacher







# CKTO SCH Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

#### Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name uid all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private – so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

#### Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn assword protection on. It keeps your private into safe and stops anyone accessing your levice without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

#### Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you's feel fresher and mor focused the next day.

#### Know how to deal with builter

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like ou're being bullied online - by anyone, not ust someone from school – talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss ossible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

#### Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met – and who might not be who they say – is definitely best avoided.

#### React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted dult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

#### Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers

#### Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably take. ATHS

#### Keep it 'real' with online triends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your tacts, you don't know if they could be trail or bullies (or wors







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/data/files/users/parents/CF42A9D8D86C0D68E5 A051B6E5BB2F7D.pdf

### **Dates for your Diary**

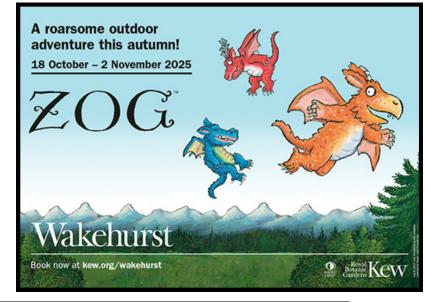
<u>Bates for your Blary</u>			
October		December	
3rd	Welcome to Early Years Meeting	19th	Last Day of Term
13th - 15t	h Year 6- Windmill Hill Residential	20th	Christmas Holidays
21st	Flu Vaccines- Whole School		
24th	Last Day of Term	Class	s Assemblies - 9.00- 9.30am
27th - 2n	d Half Term Holiday	23rd Jan	5 Attenborough Class Assembly
November November		30th Jan	6 Franklin Class Assembly
3rd	INSET Day- School Closed	6th Feb	5 Anning Class Assembly
4th	Return to School	13th Feb	6 Turing Class Assembly
4th & 6th	Family Learning Conferences	13th March	3 Farah Class Assembly
7th	Early Years- Find Out Friday 2.40pm	27th March	3 Simmonds Class Assembly
12th	Year 5- CEMA School Trip	17th April	4 Elton Class Assembly
19th	Year 3– Butser Farm Trip	24th April	4 Elgar Class Assembly
20th	Early Years- Writing Workshop 2.30pm	lst May	2 Knight Class Assembly
	·	19th June	1 Hart Class Assembly
25th	Parent Forum 9.05am- <i>all welcome</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> June	1 Sharratt Class Assembly
December		3rd July	2 Blake Class Assembly
5th	Early Years– Find Out Friday 2.40pm	10th July	EYs Floella Class Assembly
Sporting Events Calendar - Autumn Term 2025_		17th July	EYs Donaldson Class Assembly
https://wv	vw.halsfordparkprimaryschool.co.uk/ site		•

**Community Events** 

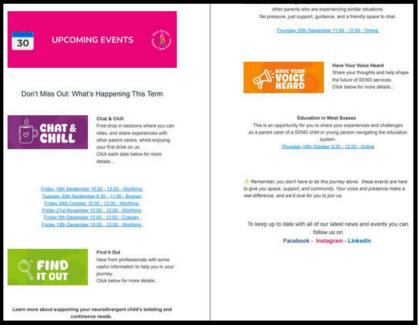












#### What impact does Spurgeons parent support have?

Spurgeons' parent support provides deep, long lasting positive change for families

I was such a mess and so low at the beginning. I now have hope and both myself and my son have made significant improvements in our relationship and our emotional health - Mum, Kent



#### Of the families we worked with:

90%

felt their family communication had improved

respected boundaries better

84%

felt their parenting confidence was improved.

#### When would a family need support?

Parenting isn't about perfection, but it is about much more than just the basics. In order to protect the mental wellbeing of a generation of children, focussing on the quality of the relationship between parent and child is vital.

The Government's Social Mobility Commission reports that parenting interventions like ours that explore parenting styles, the home environment and parental stress can be successful.

Parents who understand child development have more confidence in their role, enabling them to be actively involved in a child's upbringing.

#### To learn more:

spurgeons.org/parenting



Scan the QR code for more details.







### **Parenting**

doesn't need perfection



spurgeons.org



Our flexible, individualised parent support programme helps parents feel more confident, and children grow their resilience.

#### Positive parenting can lead to:



Happier children with higher chances of good mental health

Parents and carers who feel confident and emotionally healthier





Long-lasting positive effect on future generations.

#### For more specialised support

- · We offer National Autistic Society courses for parents with children on the autism spectrum. (Early Bird Plus and Teen Life.)
- · The Phoenix course working with survivors of domestic abuse.

#### How do our parent support programmes work?

**Our trained Parent Support Workers or** volunteers lead the sessions. They receive ongoing professional development and clinical supervision.

#### How flexible is the programme?

We tailor our support, offering 3-8 sessions based on family need. The programme is available 1-1 at home, or for groups of parents & carers in a school or faith setting.

#### What do the sessions cover?

Our sessions focus on building relationships, identifying challenges, and providing families with solutions and strategies to improve their current situation.

#### How do I refer a family?

Parents can self-refer, or referrals can be made by any agency involved with a family. To make a referral, please visit spurgeons.org/

Scan the QR code for more details.



### **Key benefits** for families



- Build confidence and self-esteem in all family members
- · Improve family relationships
- · Develop abilities to understand and manage emotions
- · Find practical solutions through tailored support
- · Enable parents to use a tool kit of techniques to manage family life now and into the future

Parenting programmes have increasingly come to be seen as a matter of public health. Improving the quality of parent-child relationships can be expected to have positive effects on individual children, families and society as a whole

#### For more information

spurgeons.org/ parent-support

Scan the QR code for more details.

