





### Zac Active, aka Steel the Gladiator visit 9th March

As recognised by Parent Forum (see below), we had a fantastic morning welcoming Zack George / Zactivworld to school which was financed by our wonderful PTA. Zac led a workshop with both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1/Early Years where he talked about the importance of: keeping hydrated, eating a balanced diet, keeping active and having courage. He led the children in mindful breathing exercises, as well as giving out important messages such as "It's not what you look like, it's how you feel." The children enjoyed Steel visiting their year groups where they asked questions ranging from "Who is most like their Gladiator persona?" (Legend) to "What is your favourite pizza topping?" (pepperoni). The children were treated to special stickers and a water bottle from Zac too.

A huge thankyou to all that donated to the cost of Steel's visit and a special thankyou to our Chair Emma Farrington who not only organised the visit, but made special trips to the printers to ensure we had copies of signed postcards for all the children to keep. A real highlight of the year for us all!

### Parent Forum 17<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to those who joined our Parent Forum this term. Please find attached the minutes of the meeting- <https://halsfordparkprimary.ovw6.devwebsite.co.uk/site/data/files/users/parents/D835485CDD982B7A58D13EE81A3AC478.pdf> Our next Parent Forum will be on 5<sup>th</sup> May. All parents welcome.

### Eat them to Defeat them 2026!



We waited until the end of Ramadan to ensure all children could take part in the Eat them to Defeat them campaign this year. I've been impressed with the amount of stickers we have given out during lunch for children eating and trying vegetables.

We hope the packs sent home encouraged the children to try more vegetables at home too - Steel would be proud I'm sure!

### Halsford Cup Results



Huge congratulations to Water 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!

Water 8791    Earth 8403    Air 8360    Fire 8120



**Early Years**

**Year 1**



**Year 2**

**Year 3**





**Year 4**



**Year 5**



**Year 6**





## Early Years

The warmer weather has been welcomed by the Early Years team. We have seen lots of children using the outdoor classroom: creating, building, painting, making delicious mud pies and so much more! The children have created bridges for The Three Billy Goats to cross and have explored alternative texts such as Little Red and the very hungry wolf. The children LOVE sharing stories.

As part of learning through the lenses of Scientists, we have been exploring whether objects sink or float, including making predictions about this and also explored light and dark.

Excitingly, we learnt all about Ramadan, including Eid al-Fitr. We read the story 'The best Eid ever' and learnt from Mrs Fahim and some of the children in Early Years about how it is celebrated in different homes. This week, we talked about how Easter is celebrated in homes and compared similarities and differences between the celebrations. We have loved our experience of 'it started with a...' and are looking forward to becoming Guardian's of OUR planet' during the Summer Term.

## Year 1

Year 1 have been working really hard in their phonics sessions. Please ensure you have access to Google classroom and Oxford Owl so you can get all the information about what your child has been learning in phonics and also the book your child has been reading. If you do not have your logins please speak to your class teacher or the office. An additional workshop for parents has been booked for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm. We hope this will be of additional use to you.

In Maths we have been focusing on larger numbers to 50. We have looked at partitioning these numbers (working out how many tens and ones are in the number) as well as spotting them on a number line. We have also started to measure items. We used cubes to measure first and have just moved on to measuring objects with a ruler.

We really enjoyed our DT lessons on making puppets and have now taken them home for you to see and play with.

This half term we have been learning about Vincent Van Gogh in our Art lessons. We have been learning how to sketch, as well as mix colours, and we have had a go at painting in the style of Vincent Van Gogh.

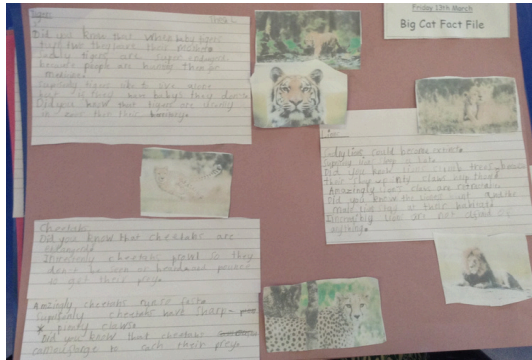


Our outdoor learning sessions have been fun and apart from the first session we have been lucky with the weather. We have been bug hunting, played games, made bracelets, made dens out of sticks and also

learnt about fire safety and enjoyed making porridge on the fire. Thank you to all the parents who came to help with this session. Here are a few of our photos from outdoor learning.



## Year 2



In year 2 we have really enjoyed learning about Cats this half term. The children have all worked hard to write and publish their fact files about different wild cats. We also then enjoyed a visit from the Cats Protection and have been busy writing a recount about this.

In Maths, we have been practising multiplication and division, with a focus on learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. The children have enjoyed playing games to practise these number facts.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their Science lessons where they have been learning about micro-habitats. The children loved going on a bug hunt around the school grounds in particular.

In Art, the children have been learning about abstract art and this week created a self portrait in the Cubism style. Some of their final pieces were fantastic and they tried to include features from different perspectives.

We wish all of the children a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing them again after the break.

## Year 3

We have had a brilliant half term exploring different artwork and artists as part of our experience 'A Picture Paints a Thousand Words'. Both classes did a fantastic job designing and painting their own seasonal pieces of artwork that were then displayed in our own Year 3 Art Gallery. The skills used to sketch ensured each piece had finer detail added to it which paired with our use of watercolours. Using watercolours meant using a new set of skills to ensure the paint went on the paper correctly.

We also learnt about the Artist Katsushika Hokusai who created 'The Great Wave of Kanagawa'. This then inspired a seasonal final piece of the Great Wave.

In English we have finished writing our informal letters based on the book 'Seal Surfer' to then move on to writing our own informal letter to a chosen family member. We discussed how letters are a lovely form of communication and are still written between families today. Next half term we will be writing a setting description using the book 'The Flower', looking into the scene where Briggs is outside of the shop.

In maths, we are working through our unit on length and perimeter. We have used rulers and meter sticks to measure different objects around the room, including each other. In upcoming lessons we are going to measure our height now and then again at the end of the year to see how much we have grown. In recent lessons, we have been learning about equivalent lengths, comparing m, cm and mm.



We are looking forward to starting our new experience "It's A Bugs Life- why are they important?" in the Summer term.

Swimming also begins on the 23rd April so please make sure you have given permission for your child to go.

Have a lovely holiday break- Year 3.



## Year 4

What an amazing term it has been for Year 4! In Maths, we have been focusing on length and perimeter of regular and irregular polygons, and we're excited to build on this knowledge as we move on to exploring fractions. In English, the children thoroughly enjoyed reading our class text, "Jim and the Giant" and writing character descriptions of Jim using lots of interesting vocabulary.

Following our return from Hindleap, we will be writing informal letters to share our experiences with family and friends, reflecting on what was truly a memorable trip. In Art, we have been developing our understanding of perspective by creating our own "view from the bottom of a beanstalk" paintings. Music lessons have also been a highlight, with the classes exploring body percussion and music inspired by the layers of the rainforest.

Our visit to Hindleap was a huge success, and the adults were incredibly proud of the bravery and determination shown by all the children. Everyone took part in a range of exciting activities, including crate stacking, survival skills and climbing wall. One of the most popular activities was learning how to purify water using natural materials such as charcoal, cotton and stones.

The children also demonstrated great independence throughout the trip, from collecting their meals in the canteen to making their own beds. Well done to all of Year 4, and a big thank you to the staff who supported the trip and made it such a wonderful experience.

## Year 5



Year 5 have really enjoyed the key text this term, throwing themselves into The Last Firefox. They have written their description of the setting for the story (Bryn Castell) and in addition they have started to create an advertising brochure to persuade people to visit the castle. During our stunning start, we created a painted illustrations for the front cover, inspired by the book. The background was created using the tints, tones and shades techniques we explored in our art lessons.

Our fabulous finish has been creating our own 3D castles from paper.

In maths this half term, we have covered fractions, decimals and percentages. We explored the relationship between the three and pupils completed an end of term assessment.

Furthermore, in Science we have been looking at the phases of the moon and the importance of the solar system and how it impacts our everyday lives.

Well done to all those children who took part in the level 1 Bikeability - we hope it helped remind you of safety when cycling and it will prepare you for next year's Level 2 certificate.

Next term promises to be every bit as busy as this one - with outdoor learning in the Summer. There's lots to look forward to put it in the meantime the children deserve a well-earned Easter rest.



## Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum this term. In English, pupils have been developing their narrative writing by continuing the story of Beetle Boy. They have focused on crafting detailed descriptions of settings and characters, helping to bring their stories to life, as well as using effective dialogue to show action and develop plot. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and confidence grow. In Maths, children have been building on their existing knowledge by transferring skills into a range of different contexts. This has helped to deepen their understanding and strengthen their reasoning abilities, enabling them to explain their thinking more clearly and tackle problems with greater independence. In PE, we have been learning a dance to "This Is Me" from The Greatest Showman. Everyone has been participating and enjoying themselves. Thanks to Miss Borrow who taught us the dance that the children learnt for the recent dance festival!

## Mid Sussex Cross Country Finals- 26<sup>th</sup> February



Eight Year 5 and 6 pupils represented our school at the Mid Sussex Cross Country Finals, performing brilliantly against strong competition across the area.

We are thrilled that seven of the runners have now qualified for the Sussex Cross Country Finals at the end of March - an incredible achievement. Well done to all of our runners for their determination! Miss Borrow

## Swimming Gala- 2<sup>nd</sup> March

We took a group of children to the Kings Centre in East Grinstead to represent the school at the annual Swimming Gala. The nine children that attended the event from Years 4, 5 and 6 represented the school with great enthusiasm, courage and a supportive team ethos. We had two children successfully place in the heats and go on to swim in both the Yr3/4 and 5/6 Freestyle Final with a bronze medal awarded to Lily.



There were some close finishes in the races and the children showed incredible endurance and resilience over the course of the evening. Despite not winning this year, we were thrilled to pass the cup to Blackwell, keeping it in the Everychild Partnership Family. We finished 4th overall and were incredibly proud of the children. A huge thank you to Ms Davies for getting the children organised for the event and Mrs Scanlan for attending on the evening to support. Miss Loftus.



## Football

It has been a truly outstanding season for our football teams, with all three squads achieving remarkable success. The Boys A team demonstrated incredible determination and skill to win their league in what was an exceptionally tough division, showing resilience and teamwork throughout. The Boys B team also had a fantastic campaign, securing their league title on goal difference after a closely contested season—an achievement that reflects their consistency and effort in every match.

The Girls team were simply superb, winning all of their games without conceding a single goal. Their dominance, teamwork, and defensive strength have been exceptional from start to finish.

This marks a historic moment for football at Halsford Park, as it is the first time that all three teams—Boys A, Boys B, and Girls—have won their respective leagues. A huge congratulations to all players involved! Mr Busse and Mr Stepney.

## Hockey Event- 18<sup>th</sup> March



The morning festival was for the year 3 children to learn about hockey - all of the children were fully engaged and came away with some new skills. As always the children showed core values and had a good time working with the sports leaders/students from Imberhorne and Sackville.

In the afternoon, the year 6 children played 8 matches, winning 7 and drawing 1 game. 16 goals scored and only 3 conceded; as the rules prevent you playing with a goal keeper, it demonstrates how well the children were switching from attacking to defending. With this outstanding run, they won the event overall and will progress to the next round.

The children worked so well as a team, always encouraging each other, they were determined to win and displayed core values throughout the afternoon. Mrs Lucas.

## Sackville Dance- 26<sup>th</sup> March

This term, a dedicated group of Year 6, 5 and 4 children, alongside Miss Borrow have been working hard to learn and create a dance to 'This is me' from The Greatest Showman, resulting in them performing this at the annual Sackville Dance Festival. They chose the song because it celebrates being proud of who you are and believing in yourself.

The dance showed that everyone is unique and special, and that when we work together and support each other, we can shine with confidence. The children excelled themselves, performing with courage and enthusiasm. Thank you to Miss Borrow for her fantastic teaching and choreography, as well as all the family members for coming to support. We are hoping the children can perform this at the PTA Summer Fair for the Halsford Park community to enjoy. Mrs Spencer and Miss Borrow





INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

WOW - the walk to school challenge

Badge design competition 2026

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Jean Luc in 5 Attenborough



Here is a link to see the winning badges including Jean Luc's

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/badgecompwinners2026>

"It was a tough decision to make as we received a huge number of fantastic entries, so ... Jean-Luc should be superproud of creating such an inspiring design! This design will be turned into one of 11 monthly badge designs for the **WALKTHESENSES 2026/27** theme."

Ceri Wilkinson –Project Co-ordinator

### Brothers tackle 65-mile Isle of Wight cycle for local school projects

As you may remember, Arthur 12 and Walter 9 are cycling around the Isle of Wight to raise money for their schools.

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)



# GOODBYE

## Lego-based therapy : set donations please!



Lego-based therapy is a really useful and successful recommended intervention to support with friendships and social communication skills. If you have any complete sets (with instructions) for small creations of lego or duplo that you no longer need, please bring them into school and we will welcome any donations and will put them to good use!

## Goodbye and thank you!



This week we said goodbye to Miss Helen Piper, our Safeguarding and Inclusion Practitioner, as she is taking on a new challenge as a Senior Leader at Ashdown Garden School. Helen started at Halsford Park as a Teaching Assistant in 2012, growing her expertise to support the leadership teams in Safeguarding, SEND and Inclusion in all three East Grinstead schools in our Trust.

### MISS PIPER- INCLUSION & SAFEGUARDING

We will miss Miss Piper greatly but know she will be a fantastic asset to Ashdown when they open in September 2026.

We also said goodbye to Mrs Stephanie Hitchins on Wednesday. Mrs Hitchins has been a great support with the pupils at lunch and in the last year, the children in Year 1 and 3. We wish Mrs Hitchins every success in her new ventures which include working at a local secondary school.

Miss Emi Daniels, our Lead Midday Meals Supervisor has returned to her previous role as a Teaching Assistant. She has taken over Mrs Hitchins role supporting Year 3 and Year 1 as well as continuing overseeing our lunchtimes.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Spring break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 13th April.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring our children 'Soar to Success'.  
Claire Spencer - Headteacher



Miss Daniels  
Lead MDMS & Teaching Assistant

**Dates for your Diary**

<b>April</b>	
13th	Return to School
17th	Year 1- Phonics Workshop 2.30pm
24th	Early Years- Maths Workshop 2.30pm
29th	Year 4- MTC Check Meeting 2.30pm
<b>May</b>	
4th	Bank Holiday- School Closed
5th	Parent Forum 9.05am
6th	Early Years- British Wildlife Centre Trip
11th- 14th	Year 6 SATs Week - no teacher led clubs
21st	Sports Day- AM
22nd	Last Day of Term
23rd- 31st	Half Term
<b>June</b>	
1st	Return to School
8th	Year 2 School Trip
17th	Reserve Sports Day- <i>change of date</i>
19th	Transition to Year 1- EYs Parent Workshop 2.30pm

<b>June</b>	
23rd	Parent Forum 9.05am
23rd	Class Photographs
25th	Year 1- School Trip
<b>July</b>	
1st	Year 6- Imberhorne Induction Day
1st-3rd	Year 6- Sackville Induction Days
13th	Year 6- Production
16th	Year 6- Production
22nd	Year 6 Leavers Assembly- PM
22nd	Last Day of Term
<b>Class Assemblies - 9.00- 9.30am</b>	
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

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- ✓ 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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More Info: Email [sammy.vine@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:sammy.vine@englandnetball.co.uk)  
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**4<sup>th</sup> EAST GRINSTEAD SCOUTS TREASURE HUNT!**

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This mobile-led adventure will take around 60-90 minutes and is doggie friendly

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\*CURRENT YEAR 1

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