

DECEMBER
2025

HALSFORD PARK NEWSLETTER



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Dear families, parents and carers,

Welcome to our December newsletter! This last month has certainly been eventful; the highlights being the marvellous performances by our Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 children in their Christmas shows, as well as our Key Stage 2 children in the Carol Concert held at St Swithin's Church.



The children worked so hard to prepare and learn the songs, dance moves, and lines across the school - all showing great courage to perform in front of large audiences. I know they all greatly enjoyed the opportunity to shine; we are so proud of them. My thanks also to all the hard

work of the staff team in organising these and many thanks to all the families for supporting your children.

PTA Contributions

Our PTA have worked incredibly hard this term culminating in a fantastic PTA Christmas Fair which raised a grand total of £2800 (including the raffle)! Huge thanks to all the volunteers and to those that took the time to attend the fair on Saturday 29th November and a big well done to our fabulous



Halsford Choir for performing some songs on stage. Did you guess which staff member was the Grinch? Thank you also to the PTA for funding a special Pantomime performance of The Wizard of Oz for the children by the Panto in a Day company; the children loved it.

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Internet Safety: Age-Inappropriate content

Each newsletter, I will continue to include a top tips poster around an area of online safety. This month's is Age-Inappropriate content. "Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways - from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they are exposed to age-inappropriate content.

Jigsaw South East collection



Thank you so much for your generosity in our collection at the KS2 Carol Concert.

We have collected £258.69 which we have passed on to Jigsaw South East who were incredibly grateful.

Halsford House Cup

Huge congratulations to Air house team - who achieved the most Core Value awards (counted through Dojos) over the course of the term. Each team achieved an incredible amount of Core Value awards, and should all feel very proud of themselves. Well done!

Earth - 10449 Air - 10601 Fire - 10523 Water - 9392



Christmas Lunch

Well done to all the children who clearly put a lot of thought and time into the Christmas hat creations; it's always so hard for the staff to pick only two winners especially as they were so creative this year. Well done to our winners: Harry A, Joshua B, Scarlett, Reuben, Freya, Margo, Sienna, Maria, Georgie, Archie, Evan, Theo, Aurelia and Ruby. Thank you to the PTA and parent volunteers for helping serve and for providing the prizes. See attached for some of the photos of the day.

Christmas Hat Winners



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/about/programs/bullystoppers/sminappropriate.pdf> | <https://www.esafety.gov.au/education/straining-professionals/professional-learning-program-teachers/inappropriate-content-factsheet1> | <https://www.revealingreality.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/children-media-lives-year-7.pdf>



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Early Years

In Early Years this half term, we have continued to learn about how different people celebrate and the different celebrations that happen. We have explored The Christmas Pine, Kipper's Christmas Eve and Hanukkah Bear as part of our Drawing Club learning. As well as this, we have created reindeer food in the outdoor environment, given Father Christmas a 'beard trim', made a sleigh using the big equipment and created snowman using natural resources. As part of our weekly Welly Walk, we have used wind wands to explore how windy different parts of the school is and a naughty elf present hunt which involved Rudolph giving us our first clue! We are incredibly proud of how well ALL of the children showed courage in our Christmas Show. Thank you for coming to support them. We can't quite believe that the Autumn Term is now over, but we are so EXCITED to start the Spring Term with our theme of 'It started with a...' Have a wonderful Christmas break.

Year 1

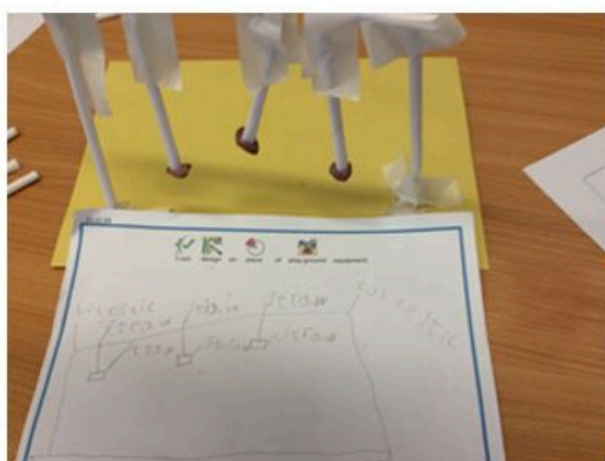
In Maths we have been looking at shapes. We have been looking at 2D shapes and 3D shapes. We have learnt the names of many of them and are beginning to use vocabulary to describe them.

We have continued to work hard on our writing and have learnt how to use 'and' and 'but' in our sentences to make our sentences longer and more exciting for the reader.

In DT lessons we have been designing and making playground equipment. We used lolly sticks, straws, plasticine, tape and cardboard to make our models. We are very proud of them. Have a look and see if you can guess the playground equipment we have made.

This half term in PE we have been looking at gymnastics. We have been able to balance on different parts of our bodies. We have learnt a few rolls and have been learning to jump safely.

We hope you all have a lovely Christmas break.





Year 2

This half term we have been working hard to learn our lines, words and actions to the songs we performed in our Christmas Production Hey Ewe! All the children showed a lot of courage to perform in front of a live audience and sang the songs with great gusto and acted out the parts with confidence.

We have also been working hard on creating a fact file about the Great Fire of London and enjoyed producing artwork using pastels and charcoal.

In Maths we have been learning written methods for addition and subtraction. We will continue with this learning after Christmas.

We hope all the children enjoy a well-deserved rest and we look forward to welcoming them all back in 2026!

Year 3

This half term, Year 3 have travelled back in time to explore the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Ancient Egypt through our exciting topic 'Awesome Architects - Who were the greatest builders?' The children have loved learning about how people in the past designed and built homes, monuments and landmarks that still inspire us today.

At home, pupils impressed us with some fantastic models, creating buildings and landmarks using LEGO, biscuits and even real stones - a wonderful showcase of creativity and effort.

A real highlight of the term was our visit to Butser Ancient Farm, where we stepped into ancient life, explored historical buildings and took part in hands-on activities including chalk carvings and jewellery making.

During outdoor learning, the children became architects themselves, building structures and landmarks from natural resources, creating clay scarab beetles, and baking Egyptian flatbread on an open fire.

Year 3 have shown brilliant curiosity, teamwork and creativity throughout the topic - a fantastic half term of learning!





Year 4

Year 4 have had a busy term continuing our learning on the Romans, Anglo - Saxons and Vikings. We have looked at who they were and why they all wanted to come to Britain. We spent time collecting research on the Romans using bullet point and then turned these into sentences. We have taken all this research to enable us to write a non-chronological report all about the Romans, which we will share in our fabulous finish gallery. We show cased our very own Roman pots which we have designed and sculpted using different techniques to etch in our design. We also learnt how to use a slurry to help join two bits of clay together as well as scoring. We have really enjoyed having Coach Dave this term to teach us gymnastics and have also enjoyed learning the rules and techniques in dodgeball.

Year 5

The children have gained so much from our experience this term relating to World War 1. They have brought their knowledge and skills to research and analysing the conflict and some great writing (both fiction and non-fiction) has come from their learning.

As part of our fabulous finish, the children painted scenes from poppy fields of northern France.

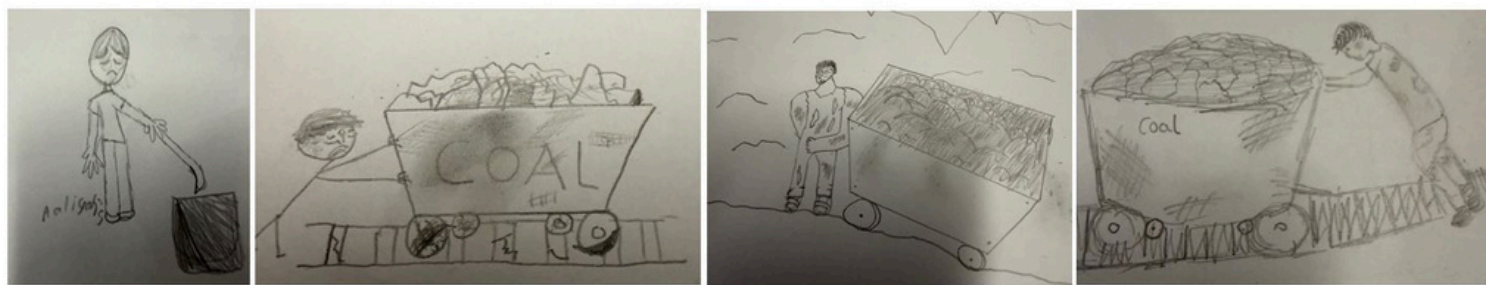
In Design Technology, the children have been designing and making models of shelters, suitable for soldiers on the battlefield. We have looked at different types of joins to secure them.

Maths continues with fractions - in particular comparing fractions with different denominators. We have then been ordering the fractions by size and using these skills to answer word problems.

We would encourage all children to continue with reading every day for at least 20 minutes over the school holidays. In addition please can you ensure you have their Rock Stars login over Christmas, as learning about fractions is so much easier if you are secure in your multiplication tables.

That just leaves us to wish all our year 5 children and families a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.





Year 6

Over the past few weeks, Year 6 has been exploring the fascinating world of the Victorian era through a range of engaging activities. In English, we have been writing detailed biographies about Queen Victoria, focusing on her early life, her long reign, and the lasting impact she had on Britain. As part of our history topic, we have also been learning about life for child workers in Victorian factories, mines, and workhouses. The children were especially shocked to discover the harsh conditions many young people faced. These lessons have helped us appreciate how much life has changed since Victorian times.

Boys Football League- 3rd December

The boys competed in the latest round of league fixtures at East Grinstead Sports Club on the 3rd December and both teams put in some excellent performances. The A team came away with two victories from two - Beating Crawley Down (1-0) and Copthorne (2-0). The B team suffered a narrow defeat in their first game, going down (2-1) to Blackwell before beating St. Mary's (8-0). Both teams played excellent, passing football and the A team scored one of the best team goals of the league so far. Thanks as well to a couple of pupils who stepped in at the last minute to help us out and who contributed to these great results. Mr Stepney

Girls Football County Finals



Details have been confirmed for the Girls' Football County Finals!

Our Halsford Park team will compete at the Sussex FA Headquarters in Lancing on the 20th January 2026 - competing in the Pokemon Primary Schools' Cup. Our victories in the East Grinstead and Mid-Sussex tournaments have earned us this incredible opportunity. I hope you'll join me in wishing the girls the best of luck!

Assemblies coming up in January:

Week beginning:

5th January - New Year's resolutions

12th January Becoming a Better learner - Learning and Life Skills theme, What is it like to be a refugee?

19th January - Friendship/team work and Time to Talk



Eco Council

The Eco Council is busy surveying the school for this year's Environmental Survey. The results of this will determine what the focus of the environmental projects are this year. We have 10 topics that we look at: Biodiversity, Energy, Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Litter, Marine, School Grounds, Transport, Waste and Water. The following link gives more detail; <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/ten-topics/>

We are getting ready for this year's 'Cut Your Carbon' project. We will be doing it over the Christmas Holidays up until Jan 15th, when we will calculate the Carbon savings and proudly display our final figures as a whole school. We are sure it will be an impressive number!

Top Tips



Less Oven Time

If you've got an air fryer or a microwave, you can save money by using them instead of the oven. For example, according to the BBC, cooking a jacket potato in the oven would cost £1.02 – but 26p in an air fryer and just 5p in a microwave!



Winter Tip! Check your pipes: Insulate your pipes with lagging inside and outside your home and fix any drips. This will prevent your pipes from freezing

On behalf of the whole staff team, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Wednesday 7th January 2026.**

Thank you for your ongoing support

Claire Spencer – Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

December		18th-20th	Year 4- Hindleap Residential
19th	Last Day of Term	20th	Comic Relief 2026
20th	Christmas Holidays	23rd- 26th	Year 6- Bikeability
January		26th	Celebration of Learning
5th & 6th	INSET Days- School Closed to children	27th	Last Day of Term
7th	Return to School	28th-12th April	Easter Holidays
14th	Year 4- Hindleap Warren- Parents Meeting 2.30pm	April	
27th	Parent Forum 9.05am	13th	Return to School
February		May	
3rd	Family Learning Conference 3.30-6.30pm	4th	Bank Holiday- School Closed
5th	Family Learning Conference 4-7pm	5th	Parent Forum 9.05am
13th	Last Day of Term	11th-14th	Year 6 SATs Week
14th	Half Term Holidays	21st	Sports Day- AM
23rd	Return to School	22nd	Last Day of Term
27th	Year 5- Level 1 Bikeability	23rd-31st	Half Term
March		June	
3rd	Parent Forum 9.05am	1st	Return to School
5th	World Book Day	8th	Year 2 School Trip
		18th	Reserve Sports Day

19th	Transition to Year 1- EYs Parent Workshop 2.30pm
23rd	Parent Forum 9.05am
23rd	Class Photographs
July	
22nd	Year 6 Leavers Assembly- PM
22nd	Last Day of Term
Class Assemblies - 9.00- 9.30am	
23rd Jan	5 Attenborough Class Assembly
30th Jan	6 Franklin Class Assembly
6th Feb	5 Anning Class Assembly
13th Feb	6 Turing Class Assembly
13th March	3 Farah Class Assembly
27th March	3 Simmonds Class Assembly
17th April	4 Elton Class Assembly
24th April	4 Elgar Class Assembly
1st May	2 Knight Class Assembly
19th June	1 Hart Class Assembly
26 th June	1 Sharratt Class Assembly
3rd July	2 Blake Class Assembly
10th July	EYs Floella Class Assembly
17th July	EYs Donaldson Class Assembly

Sporting Events Calendar - Spring Term 2026

<https://halsfordparkprimary.ovw6.devwebsite.co.uk/site/data/files/users/parents/149113AAFDBD11DD5D8E0A361612817F.pdf>



HOLIDAY HQ Winter Fest

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22nd, 23rd Dec 2025

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LINGFIELD COLTS CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL CAMP

Mon 22nd, Tues 23rd & Mon 29th,
Tues 30th December, 9.30am to 3pm

Camp aimed at Year 2 to Year 8 students,
all abilities welcome

**LINGFIELD COLLEGE
SENIOR CAMPUS
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**£35 per day per child, reduced fees
available if booking made before December 5th
- see website for details**

sites.google.com/view/lingfieldcolts/home
lingfieldcoltsfootballcamp@gmail.com

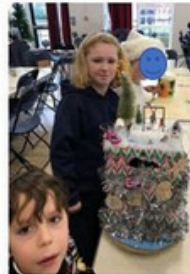
Early Years



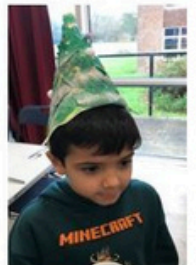
Year 1



Year 2



Years 3 and 4



Years 3 and 4



Year 5



Year 6

