

Newsletter

25th September 2026

We are receiving lots of positive feedback from parents about our weekly newsletters, I am so pleased that they are proving useful. One of the reasons we moved to this format was in response to feedback from families requesting fewer separate emails, as important information can sometimes get lost amongst multiple messages. By including more details about upcoming events, key dates and school news in one place, we hope communication is easier to access and keep track of for everyone. Please do let other parents know about them.

Thank you also for your responses to our request for an artist to support us with adding artwork around the school. We have been delighted by the interest shown and several talented members of our community have already come forward. We are currently working our way through contacting everyone who expressed an interest and look forward to exploring how we can enhance our school environment with some inspiring new artwork. Thank you for your continued support and willingness to share your skills with our school community.

Wren's would love donations of:

- Old notepads
- Colouring books
- Children's magazines

Please drop directly to the nursery, many thanks!



Robins (Reception)

- Forest Group A (please have a school jumper for harvest assembly)
- Please send in a family photo for our topic next week



Hedgehogs (Y1)

- Hedgehogs have been working hard on their Harvest festival song, This Friday they will be given lyrics to practice at home.
- All Hedgehogs should now have their first tricky word bookmark at the back of their reading journals.
- During Art this term we are exploring weaving if you have any old **cereal boxes, wool, thread** or bits of **fabric** that could be brought in over the next week that would be super appreciated.



Rabbits (Y2)

We will aim to change children's reading books by Thursday each week.



Foxes (Y3)



Foxes have been busy practicing for our harvest festival. The children should have come home with their poems to rehearse. Please encourage them to practice the words and actions!

Otters (Y4)

Please remember to engage with Times tables Rockstars in '**Garage**' mode to complete heatmaps.

We are currently collecting **sweet wrappers** for art. If you happen to be getting through a tin of quality street or similar, could you keep the **nut free** wrappers for us and send them in please?



Badgers (Y5)

Group A Forest School
Thursday October 8th

- Group B Forest School Thursday October 15th.
- Forest Groups will be in the afternoon to avoid clashing with swimming.
- Badgers Class assembly Wednesday 21st October. Please can children come dressed in black or brown trousers and top.



Owls (Y6)

- Thursday 1st October – Forest School – Group B
- Please continue to learn your lines for the Harvest Festival on Friday.



Prefects

Congratulations to the Owls who were successful with their prefect applications. The Prefects have now started completing duties such as gate duty, supporting KS1 at play times and keeping the school tidy.

Digital Leaders

Congratulations to the Owls who were successful with their Digital Leader applications. The Digital Leaders have started their duties and have now been supporting with assemblies and helping the Hedgehogs in computing lessons.



Calendar of Events

Term 1

Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET DAY
Thursday 3 rd September	INSET DAY
Friday 4 th September	Term 1 starts for pupils
Thursday 10 th September	Swimming lessons start
Tuesday 22 nd September	Individual & Sibling photos
Friday 25 th September	Macmillian Cake Sale – 3pm
Friday 2 nd October	Harvest Festival: Robins and KS1 9.15 am, KS2 9:45am
Monday 5 th - Friday 9 th October	Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th October	Owls Bikeability (TBC)
Thursday 15 th October	PTA Halloween Disco
Tuesday 20 th October	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 20 th October	Parents Evening
Wednesday 21 st October	Badgers Class Assembly
Thursday 22 nd October	Parents Evening
Friday 23 rd October	Term 1 ends
Saturday 24 th October - Sunday 1 st November	Autumn school holiday

Term 2

Monday 2 nd November	Term 2 starts
Tuesday 10 th November	Reception 2027 open morning
Thursday 12 th November	Last swimming lesson
Thursday 12 th November	Owls Class Assembly
Friday 13 th November	Children In Need- own clothes day
Thursday 19 th November	INSET DAY
Tuesday 1 st December	One Voice Festival (Year group TBC)
Friday 4 th December	Wrens Christmas Performance
Thursday 10 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity morning performance
Friday 11 th December	EYFS/KS1 Nativity morning performance
Monday 14 th December	KS2 Carol Concert
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 18 th December	Panta Performance at school
Friday 18 th December	Term 2 ends
Saturday 19 th December- Sunday 3 January	Christmas school holiday

Harvest Festival – Friday 2nd October

Harvest Celebrations and Foodbank Donations

As you may already know, we will be holding our Harvest Celebrations on **Friday 2nd October**. These special assemblies are always a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community to reflect on the importance of gratitude, kindness and helping others. We would be delighted to welcome parents and carers to join us for these celebrations.

Robins, Hedgehogs and Rabbits: 9.15am

Foxes, Otters, Badgers and Owls: 9.45am

Our Robins children are still very new to school, but they have been busy learning a song and are looking forward to taking part, however, they may return to their classroom early if needed.

As in previous years, we are inviting families to support **Burgess Hill Foodbank** through donations of non-perishable food items. Please ensure that these items are in date. Children can bring their donations into school on the morning of the celebrations and will take them into the hall as part of our Harvest assembly. Thank you in advance for helping us support local families who may be facing difficult times.

Suggested donations include: long-life milk, tinned vegetables, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, tinned spaghetti, fruit juice, squash, breakfast cereals, pasta sauces, biscuits, crackers, tinned meat, fish, tinned fruit, sponge puddings, instant mashed potato, rice, rice pudding, semolina, custard, ravioli, jam, marmalade, chocolate spread and tinned or carton tomatoes.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.





Discord is a hugely popular communication platform where young people can chat, play games and join communities built around shared interests. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores some of the risks that can come with using it, including contact with strangers, inappropriate content, harassment and the potential for gaming and socialising to become a distraction from everyday life.

The guide also offers practical advice for parents and educators, from using Discord's Family Centre and checking privacy settings to talking openly about suspicious behaviour and reviewing spending controls. It also encourages families to agree on clear expectations around screen time, helping young people enjoy the platform while making safer and more informed choices online.

[What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Discord | The National College](https://www.thenationalcollege.com/what-parents-educators-need-know-about-discord)

Helping Your Child With Fears and Worries

In person parenting course available through the Family Hub

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation>

Over the first few weeks of Wivelsfield joining the Bluebell Federation, I have really enjoyed spending time at the school, beginning to work alongside staff and getting to know our wonderful pupils. On Monday 28 September, I will be on the gate in the morning and available until 9.30am. I am looking forward to introducing myself and meeting as many parents and carers as possible, so please do come and say hello!

Mrs G. White –
Bluebell Executive Head



Our Reading Journey

Wivelsfield Primary School

Learning to Read • Reading to Learn • Developing a Lifelong Love of Reading



RECEPTION

- Daily phonics using Little Wandle
- Reading groups 2 x per week
- Daily catch-up sessions for individual children



YEAR 1

- Daily phonics using Little Wandle
- Reading groups 2 x per week
- Daily catch-up sessions for individual children



YEAR 2

- Revisiting Phase 5 alternative sounds using Little Wandle
- Reading groups 2 x per week
- Rapid Catch-up for individual children who need extra support with phonics



YEARS 3 & 4

Whole class:

- Reading fluency lessons 3 x per week
- Free readers

Some children:

- Rapid Catch-up using Little Wandle 3 x per week
- Daily readers
- Woodland Bookcase progression books (building up)



YEARS 5 & 6

Whole class:

- Comprehension lessons 3 x per week
- Free readers

Some children:

- Reading fluency catch-up 3 x per week before comprehension
- Daily readers
- Woodland Bookcase progression books (building up)

Building confident, fluent readers



ATTENDANCE

We want every child to feel safe, settled and ready to learn. Being in school every day helps children build routines, make friends and grow in confidence.

We know that some children feel worried about coming to school at times. This is normal, especially at the start of a new term, a new class, or if there are issues with friends or in lessons. Sometimes there are other issues that make coming to school difficult, such as transport, uniform or difficulties at home.

If attendance is becoming a struggle, please talk to us – we are here to help. We can work together to understand what is happening and agree a plan together. If needed, we can help you find support from other services. Contact your child's teacher or Mrs Green to talk it through.

It's normal to feel nervous sometimes. In most cases, coming to school helps children feel better. Being with friends and trusted adults can make worries feel smaller. We will look out for your child, listen to them and help them feel safe.

We know some children may have stronger or longer-lasting feelings of anxiety. If this happens, we will work with you to support your child. This may include small, practical changes such as:

- extra support from a trusted adult
- changes to routines or activities within the school day
- support at break or lunchtime

Please remember, we are here to help. If you have any concerns, contact Mrs Green.

[Why attending every day matters in primary school](#)

[Tips for how parents can support with good attendance in primary school](#)

[Illness absence and staying healthy](#)

FEELING UNDER THE WEATHER?

A quick form to help us support your child in school



We understand that children can sometimes feel a little under the weather without being too unwell to attend school. If your child is well enough to come into school but needs a little extra support, please complete our form so our staff can keep an eye on them and respond quickly if they feel worse. Please use the NHS guidance [“Is my child too ill for school?”](#) if you are unsure whether your child should attend. These can be found at the office, on our website or you can email the details to us with the subject line of ‘Feeling under the weather?’



Amazing Attendance



Every day in school makes a difference

We know that regular attendance plays an important role in helping your child thrive, both academically and socially. We also understand that every family's circumstances are unique, and there can be times when factors outside your control affect your child's attendance.

For this reason, we will always consider each child's situation individually, with care and understanding.

By working together and following a few simple steps, we can help support positive attendance and ensure every child has the best opportunity to belong, learn and flourish.



'Under the Weather' Form & NHS Guidance

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please complete our 'Under the Weather' form.

We follow NHS guidance on when it is appropriate to keep your child at home.



Reporting Absence

Please report your child's absence **before 8.40am on each day of absence.**

If leaving a message, please expect a call back. We will confirm receipt of your message, check in and see if there is anything we can do to support – this may include a call from your child's class teacher.

Please let us know when you expect your child to return.



Medical & Dental Appointments

Where possible, please plan appointments outside of school hours.

Where this is not possible, we expect your child to be in school before and after the appointment.

Evidence will be requested.



Punctuality

Good timekeeping is important for making the most of every learning opportunity.

If your child arrives late, an adult must come into school with them and record the time in the late book.

Children must not be dropped off at the gate or walk in on their own.



Withdrawal from Learning Requests

If you are considering a term-time absence, you must complete a Withdrawal from Learning form.

Requests must be made at least 2 weeks in advance.

The Head of School will meet with you or call you to discuss the request before any decision is made.



Support for Families

We understand that absence can be due to specific circumstances.

We have an open door policy and are here to listen. Together we can make adaptations and provide appropriate support.

This may include an Attendance Support Plan or working with Teams Around Schools and other professionals.



We're here to help

- ✓ We celebrate good attendance and recognise the positive impact it has on learning, wellbeing and friendships.
- ✓ Our attendance target is **96% or above.**
- ✓ If your child's attendance drops below 90%, they become persistently absent. We will work with you early to put support in place.



From 19th August 2024, the national threshold for a Penalty Notice is 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 school week period.

We will always work with you first and offer support before formal action.



Is my child too ill for school?

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
		Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Helping your Child with Fears and Worries: A 5 week Course for Parents and Carers



- Practical tools and techniques to support your child
- Understanding anxiety, fears, and worries in children
- Strategies to build resilience and confidence
- Small, supportive group sessions
- Opportunities to connect with other parents and carers



Parents and Carers

It was a nice atmosphere with no pressure to share, and it was helpful hearing advice from the practitioner and other parents' experiences.

Parents and Carers

Amazing session - seriously so good and facilitated in a way that made us feel safe and comfortable to share. I learnt a lot and hope there are more on offer.



Varied Dates



9:30am to 11:30am



Local Family Hub



Book now using the QR code or visiting:
www.buytickets.at/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation



SCAN
ME!



DESIGN A FRONT COVER!

For your favourite book



Scholastic Book Fair
visiting from
Friday 2nd October

WIN

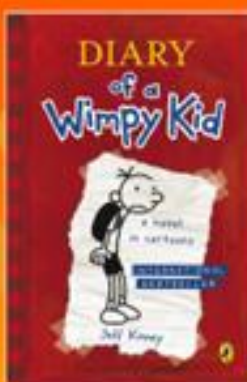
A £5 Book Fair
Voucher

Give your entry to your class
teacher by
Wednesday 30th September.

Every book
you buy earns
**FREE
BOOKS**
for our school*

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

And find your next favourite read!



3 for
£10.00



Scan to pay
securely online!

We are really looking forward to our Book Fair at the end of next week! Please note that there will be no card machine this year, but a QR code will be available to make card payments. We are still looking for helpers to help sell books at the fair on Monday-Wednesday mornings.

If you can help please email or speak to the office!

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

We are proud to be an Operation Encompass School, working closely with Sussex Police to support the safety and wellbeing of our pupils. Operation Encompass is a safeguarding partnership between schools and the police that helps ensure children receive timely support if they have been affected by a domestic abuse incident.

If police attend an incident where a child is connected to the household, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead is informed before the next school day so that appropriate support can be put in place. This information is treated with the utmost confidentiality and allows us to provide additional care, understanding and practical support to children who may be experiencing a difficult time.

Support may include a warm welcome at the start of the day, extra emotional support, or simply ensuring that trusted adults are available when needed. Our aim is to help every child feel safe, secure and ready to learn.

If you would like any further information about Operation Encompass or support for your family, please contact Mrs Green. We are here to help.



WIVELSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

PTA

NON-UNIFORM DAY

WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE
COLOUR TO SCHOOL!



SUGGESTED DONATION

£1

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE
AT THE GATE IN CASH OR BY CARD.

SCAN TO PAY



Thank you

PTA RAN EVENT

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

JOIN US FOR A
**FESTIVE FRONT DOOR
WREATH MAKING**
Workshop

 **£50** 

7PM THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER
WIVELSFIELD SCHOOL



WREATH SUPPLIES,



NON-ALCOHOLIC
MULLED WINE



MINCE PIE
INCLUDED.

TO BOOK EMAIL VICTORIA
victoriajayne23@live.co.uk

Cash payment via PTA box in reception.

