



# Wivelsfield Primary School and Nursery

South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN



# Newsletter

Term 6

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to an end, it's a good opportunity to reflect on what we have done this term and celebrate lots of fantastic activities and achievements, as well as looking forward to next year. We have been blessed with fantastic weather for almost all the summer term and it has been wonderful to see the children playing and learning outside; they have loved to use the winding paths in the meadow and I have been impressed at how respectful they have been of the need to stick to these to care for the natural habitat there.

## School Uniform

We are very proud of how smart our children look in their uniform each day, be it sportswear or normal day to day uniform.

Please see below, a few reminders for the start of the new school year:

Your child can wear normal school shoes, cross purpose shoes or trainers when they are in school, whether they are wearing PE kit or not. However, we do ask that these are black.

If track suit bottoms are worn for PE, they must be plain black

Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be tied back

As a rule, children in Reception, Year One and Year Two should only bring their book bags to school. Once children are in Key Stage 2 they are welcome to use a 'back - pack' (ideally not too big)

Thank you for your co-operation with all these points. Full uniform guidance, with a link to suppliers, can be found on our school website.

## Summer Reading Challenge

Why not spend some time at your local library, getting involved in the Summer Reading Challenge? Mrs Green has talked to the school about this in an assembly and you should also have received an email with details of how to get involved.

## Attendance

Thank you to everyone who makes sure their child attends school as often as they can. Last September we set a target of 96% and this year our attendance is 94.9%. Whilst we have not met our target, this is a slight improvement on last year and it is just above the national average. Robins were our best attenders with 97.8% - well done Robins Class!

## Enrichment

We pride ourselves on offering an enriched curriculum which includes different visits throughout the year to make learning a meaningful experience for the children. This term our Hedgehogs have visited the Sealife Centre, followed by a picnic on Brighton Beach, whilst Wrens had a wonderful day at Raystede Animal Rescue Centre.



Meanwhile Robins had lots of hands on experiences at Washbrooks Farm.



Thank you to the PTA for subsidising lots of these visits and to all the parents and carers who give up time to supervise groups of excited children. The visits could not go ahead without your support

### **Bowles Residential Trip**

Under the expert leadership of Mrs Green, supported by Miss Henley, Miss Mason, Mrs Theakstone and Mrs Ferguson, Badgers Class enjoyed another memorable residential week at Bowles Outdoor Activity Centre. Here, the children undertook activities and challenges they would never have thought they could do and also had the opportunity to build a great teamworking ethos.



Thank you to all the staff who went to Bowles for helping the children to have such a wonderful time

### **Sport News: - Goodbye to Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Diack**

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Diack and Mrs Sinclair this term. They have worked tirelessly, teaching classes with enthusiasm and expertise and we will all miss them. Mrs Sinclair, in particular, has enabled many children to excel and succeed in competitive sport and be the 'best they can be' whilst inspiring and giving confidence to all our students to take part in tournaments or sports they may never have dreamed of doing. Mrs Diack and Mrs Sinclair will still be leading some clubs in September.

Mrs Sinclair writes:

It's been a busy term of sport helped by the amazing weather. Year 6 boys and girls took part in a tag rugby festival hosted by Haywards Heath Rugby Club on behalf of Mid Sussex Active. Primary Team.

The boys played brilliantly and finished runners up to a very experienced Lindfield Primary Team. They held them to a draw at full time but Lindfield took the win on a golden try. The girls team were outstanding - from a group who had played hardly any tag rugby they worked as a team and progressed to the semi finals. Some unlucky calls by the referee sadly meant they were knocked out of the tournament before the final but I can confidently say it is the proudest I have ever been of a team in my time at Wivelsfield.

Another new event on the calendar for us was the Get Active event held at The Triangle sports centre. 9 year 6 children took part and had the opportunity to try Pickleball, gymnastics, frisbee golf, hockey and badminton in a friendly non-competitive environment. Hopefully they will go on and play some of these sports again.

Whole school sports day was once again a roaring success with Earth being the victorious house! Huge thank you to all the parents who helped score on the day. Last week we hosted a KSI multisports day and were joined by all the year 1 and 2 children from the 8 other schools in the Chailey Hub. Wivelsfield year 1 were the champions in the morning and Plumpton year 2 children won the afternoon event.

A huge thank you to all our year 5 and 6 children who ran the events in very hot conditions - your behaviour and organisation was perfect!

I just want to end by saying thank you to all the parents who have helped to transport the children to and from events over the last few years. I could not have managed to get so many teams to so many competitions without you.



We have a great legacy of sport at Wivelsfield and I hope those children leaving this year and in future, continue to play, compete in and enjoy sport. There is a sport or form of exercise out there for everyone - go and find it!  
Mrs Sinclair

Thank you Mrs Sinclair, we will miss you!

We are delighted that in September, Active Education will be working with us to provide regular coaches for our PPA cover for Years 1 - 6. We look forward to developing our relationship with them as they also build on the legacy of organising the wider sporting events developed by Mrs Sinclair and Mrs Diack.

### **Smart Phone Free School**

In common with many schools, we find we spend a lot of time sorting out friendship problems that often originate from activity online with smart phones. Thank you to the parents and carers who joined Mrs Green to talk about becoming a smart phone free school. This is something we will be working on next Year. There is lot of information about becoming smart phone free here:  
<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

We have noticed a growing trend for adults to be using their phones at collection time, so as a starting point, from September, we are asking parents, carers and other adults to join us on our journey and not to use phones whilst on the school premises! Can you rise to the challenge?

### **Music concerts**

Children that learn piano with Mrs James impressed their audience this term with their playing in concerts they gave for their family and friends.

Ranging from years 1-6, they confidently played a variety of pieces that they'd worked hard to prepare and enjoyed the applause (and sweet treats!) at the end. Pieces ranged from 'Row Row Row Your Boat' to pop style pieces such as 'Eye of the Tiger' and 'Shake it Off'. A special mention to Struan who played 'Jinx' from the ABRSM exam syllabus after achieving Distinction in the exam that he took at Easter. Well done to all!

Our choir delighted the senior citizens Tea Party audience at Wivelsfield village hall recently. 'Try Everything' from Zootopia, 'My Sweet Baby' from the film Zootopia, 'Naughty' from Matilda and 'Unstoppable' by Sia were particular highlights.

The children have been developing their harmony skills lots and taking on solo parts too! Well done to year 6 singers for also performing numbers from the 5/6 production so beautifully.

Choir is open to children from years 3-6 and rehearses every Tuesday lunchtime. Rehearsals will commence again in September. New members are always welcome. Please contact the school office/Mrs James if your child would like to join the group.

### **Thank you to our volunteers**

The school benefits hugely from parents, carers, grandparents and other members of the community who come in to school regularly to help with Forest School, reading and all sorts of other activities. As a way to say thank you, we hosted an assembly when we entertained our wonderful volunteers with a couple of songs and a gave each one a small token of our gratitude.

### **THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!**

### **Village Day Procession**

Village day was blessed with glorious weather and the sun shone almost too brightly! We had a fantastic turn out for the parade and all had great fun processing from the school to the village green behind the Burgess Hill Marching Band.



Thank you to everyone who supported the school at this event, and especially to those who dressed up. We really were 'At the heart of the community.'

**Green fingered help needed please**

## Green Team

Miss Guy reports:

Our first target on our action plan was around **litter: encouraging children to claim ownership over the school's natural environment and local community and take immediate action to improve it.** The Green Team helped me lead assemblies and classroom sessions were held about the impact the litter has on the environment. We had a litter picking station for children to use at breaktimes and lunchtimes and children created posters around litter in school and our local community. This tied in with previous work we have done on the effects of plastic on wildlife, land and our ecosystems and we made cutting back on plastic a focus again on our World Environment Day assembly in May. We also made protecting our local environment being 'nature heroes' a theme for our Village Day Procession.

Our second target was **to help pupils understand and learn about where food comes from and how this is linked to keeping healthy, what 'seasonal' means and how to grow and care for vegetables.** The Green Team researched vegetables that can be grown in Spring in the UK, how to plant them and when to harvest them. They took part in two gardening sessions where they cleared the beds of weeds, prepared the soil and compost and sowed the seeds and then tended to the beds. Other children across the year groups have also helped water the beds. This week they have harvested the vegetables they have grown.



The Green Team have also done research around **saving energy around school and home** and how moving away from fossil fuels and using more renewable sources are better for the environment. We had a school-wide competition for an informative 'how to save energy around school' poster and the winner's poster (Freya Otters) was proudly displayed in every classroom.

Thank you to Miss Guy for all her work with the Green Team and organising the village day parade.

We would love to do more with our raised beds but simply don't have the time or resources to make the most of them.

Most of the beds have become very overgrown so what we need is some help to clear them ready for use and then time to do some gardening with children, ideally regularly, but any time would be wonderful. Lunch time or after school would be best but there is no reason why gardening can't be done in school time if it works better for helpers. If you know anyone in the school or wider Wivelsfield community who might be willing to help please get them to contact the school. Thank you

## PTA

Our PTA needs you! Every year Wivelsfield PTA raises thousands of pounds to help the school and also organises events such as a disco and the magic show which the children love.

This year the PTA has supported Forest School and whole school music teaching, subsidised school trips, given each class £200 for little extras, bought some PE equipment and more! It has also raised lots of money to buy a large piece of playground equipment - thank you PTA! Watch this space for more information about the equipment soon!

## The Wizard of Oz

One of the highlights of the school year is undoubtedly the end of year production, performed by Owls and Badgers Classes and this year the children performed **The Wizard of Oz.**

The day of the performance was exceptionally hot and humid, but this did not deter the young performers as they sang, danced and acted their way through the performance. Their enthusiasm and confidence shone through! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, but especially to Miss Kelly for her expert direction and Mrs James for helping the amazing soloists and chorus perform to such a high standard. Mrs James also organised the supporting instrumental band made of parents and even one ex-student, which adds so much to the occasion.

I am sure there could be a future on the stage for some of our young performers!

## Wrens Graduation

Yesterday, Wrens had a wonderful graduation where the team said goodbye and wished the children good luck from all of us as they start their new adventures in Robins and other schools. Thank you to Leanne, in particular, for all her work organising the event.

**Year 6 2025**

**Welcome...**

In September we welcome Mrs Awcock back from maternity leave as a job share teacher with Miss Parris in Foxes Class

**...and Goodbye**

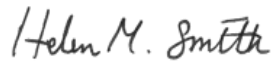
We say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Diack and Mrs Sinclair and wish them lots of luck with their new adventures.

**Congratulations** to Mr Pickup who is getting married during the summer break. We all wish him every happiness for the future and a wonderful wedding day!

It's again that time of year when we say good bye to our Year 6 students. Our Owls of 2025 have had the most brilliant work ethic and each and every one of them has made fantastic progress and should be proud of what they have achieved, not just academically, but also in the wider life of the school and particularly their performance of the Wizard of Oz. Well done to all of you and we will miss you!

Thank you to everyone for your support this year. Have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you all when school returns for children on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September.**

With warmest regards,



Helen Smith  
Headteacher