



Wivelsfield Primary School

South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN

Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have done it! In this most recent wave of Covid cases, although a couple of teachers were 'pinged' to self-isolate, we have managed to get to the end of Term 6 without a bubble' bursting'. I am sure you are all as relieved as we are!

Staffing News

After many years with the school, Mrs Hill is leaving us to take up the position of school business manager of a local federation of 3 schools. However, as we have not yet appointed a new school business manager at Wivelsfield, she will be with us for a few hours each week at the start of the new academic year. Mrs Hill has played a huge part in the life of Wivelsfield School and will be greatly missed by all of us. If any parent wants to keep our staffroom stocked up with homemade cakes, please don't hesitate to offer!

Mrs Sinclair is also reducing her hours to pursue other career options. She will still teach Key Stage One PE once a week and lead her sport and cookery extra-curricular clubs. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Helen Diack to the team, who will be teaching Key Stage 2 PE on a couple of afternoons each week, as well as leading some lunchtime activities and a club after school on Fridays.

Congratulations to Miss Messam who is getting married in the school holidays and will become Mrs Awcock. However, she still wishes to be called Miss Messam in her professional capacity. We all hope Miss Messam has a wonderful day.

Mrs Amanda Williams will also be joining Rabbits team in September.

Welcome to all or new staff.

PTA

Despite Covid restrictions, our PTA has been busy raising money for the school. I know lots of children have relished an Ice lolly on 'Frozen Fridays', whilst Otters and Foxes enjoyed a film evening and nearly all of Robins, Hedgehogs and Rabbits filled the hall for an end of year party on one of the hottest evenings of the year! Thank you to Mrs Hunter and Miss Tuffin for volunteering as first aiders; to teachers who stayed to help supervise and not least to the PTA volunteers for their time and commitment to raising money for the school.

We look forward to the PTA Late summer Fair at the start of the new school year.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone who has been so committed to ensuring their children attended school whenever they were able to this year.



We set a target of 97% attendance for this year and I am delighted to let you know that we exceed it: whole school attendance to 16th July 2021 was a fantastic 97.6%. Special congratulations to Robins Class who achieved 98.5%. Keep up the great work Robins!

Spanish Lessons

All children in Key Stage 2 are now learning Spanish, and Foxes were excited to be the first class in the school to meet children in St Georges International School, Madrid in a live online session. The children exchanged greetings and shared some of the Spanish or English phrases they had learned.

Our children were intrigued to see that all the pupils in the Spanish school wore masks, even though there were primary age. We are looking forward to the next international get together once school restarts in September.

Visits and Visitors

Visits away from school have still been restricted due to Covid, but we have managed to work within these and still plan enriching experiences for the children

These have included separate residential visits to Bowles Outdoor Activity Centre for Years 5 and 6, where the children had a wonderful time canoeing, abseiling, rock climbing, dry slope ski-ing and more.

Through these activities the children develop resilience, confidence and team working skills, all of which help them to be ready for, and make a success, of the next stage in their education and beyond.

At the start of Term 5, Otters class spent a morning using canes to build a replica of the structure of a Mayan temple and more recently, Miss Kelly planned a visit to Lewes to enrich Otters Class study of our county's historic town, whilst Foxes Class enriched their learning of Roman times with a visit to Fishbourne Palace.

Meanwhile, Safari Pete visited the school complete with a range of animals including a tarantula, owl and even a crocodile to enrich the learning of our younger pupils.



School life is getting
back to normal

Look at the school website for more photos

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

Forest School has continued through all weathers, allowing many of the children to become skilled using a range of woodworking tools, as well as enjoying the mud!

The Woodland Trust has recently taken over the management of Ditchling Common and invited Foxes Class for a day of Forest School experiences there. The class had a wonderful day, including a long walk there and back. Thank you to Mrs Hunter for organising this, and for her dedication and work to keep improving our outdoor learning,

You can see pictures and work of Foxes' day at Ditchling Common on our website, along with a fact file about our meadow area, prepared by Owls Class.

Until they decided the neighbouring garden was better than our pond area, we also enjoyed the company of Dolly and Jolene for a couple of months. Different children had responsibility for feeding these hens each day, and as long as we can fix the escape routes, Mrs Hunter will return the hens to the school in September.

Further congratulations and thanks to Mrs Hunter for helping the school to achieve Gold Standard for the Woodland Trust's Green Tree School award.

W.O.W Group

Our War On Waste Group are moving to secondary school but we are delighted their work will not be lost. They are passing on the baton to a new group of pupils in Otters Class, keen to continue to inspire us take better care of our planet.

Sales of their most recent newspaper raised approximately £70, Well done and carry on your great work at Chailey Secondary.



Sports Day

In the end, it was relentless rain meaning a waterlogged field, rather than Covid, that stopped us all getting together for our traditional sports day.

However, thanks to Mrs Sinclair enlisting the help of some willing parents, we were able to hold sports afternoons for Robins and Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. Score keeping was meticulous and the overall sports day champions for this year, by a narrow margin, is Topaz House.

Well done to all our young sports people, especially members of Topaz House, and thank you to our parent volunteers.

Pre-school provision in the village

The school heard with great sadness of the plans to close playgroup in July, leaving the village with no pre-school provision.

We are committed to trying to have a pre-school on site and are working with the local authority to explore different options. This all takes time, as we have to go through a consultation and legal process to lower our age range, and also ensure the sustainability of any provision. Part of this process will be an up to date consultation to establish interest in the local community. Our original consultation went to the community in the spring of 2020, just as Covid started, so we need to start the process again. As long as we have the backing of the local authority, look out for a new consultation this autumn. We will keep the school community up to date with the progress of this venture as it develops. Even if we get the go-ahead from the local authority, it is unlikely we will have any provision before September 2022.

To try fill a void and nurture friendships amongst toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents, we hope to organise a group that can meet weekly in the school premises. All being well, this will start sometime in the autumn term and we will let you know further details in due course.

Volunteers in School

It had been lovely to welcome volunteers back into school and thank you for giving up your time to support the children. We have really missed your help with reading with children and would welcome any more adults who might be able to spare an hour or two once a week. If there are any dads, granddads or other male volunteers who could help

with reading, you would be very welcome as great role models for the boys. Ms Meade organises our volunteers and would love to hear from anyone who might be interested, whatever gender! We can provide lots of support in getting you started.

Goodbye...

As always, at this time of year, we say goodbye to our Year 6s. Owls class this year have been fantastic. They have had a lot to contend with, in particular, not having the usual privileges of Year 6, or being given all the opportunities to take on traditional responsibilities around the school or even having that sense of urgency to be SATs ready. However, under the expert guidance of Miss Glasscock and Owls Class team they returned from lockdown and worked hard, achieved well and consistently showed how mature they were and ready to move to secondary school.

Traditionally, Years 5 and 6 perform an end of year production to a packed house in the village hall; this year they became film stars instead.

Their great performance of The Rocky Monster Show can be seen via this link:
<https://youtu.be/XOBF1H7IBOE>

Thank you to everyone who helped with costumes and props and to Miss Glasscock for the many hours she spent editing the recordings ready for release.

Good bye and good luck Year 6 of 2021; keep in touch!

Start of Term 1 2021

We have two INSET days at the start of the new academic year, meaning the first day for pupils is **Friday 3rd September**.

We have 3 further INSET days next year and we will let you know as soon as we have confirmation of their dates.

Thank you so much for all the lovely messages and gifts I received from parents at the end of term, your kind gestures are really appreciated.

It just remains for me to thank staff, governors, parents and carers for all your support during these continuing challenging times and wish you a very happy and relaxing summer break. Keep safe and well,

With warmest regards,



Helen Smith
Headteacher