



# Wivelsfield Primary School and Nursery

South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN



# Newsletter

Term 2 Newsletter 2

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, we have had a wonderful time in the run up to Christmas at Wivelsfield School and Nursery, but normal life also carries on!

## Staff News

This week we have said good bye to some of our team.

I think you are all aware that, after many years of dedicated and tireless work here, Mrs Murtagh has decided it is time for a change and to have the freedom to pursue other interests. Over the years, she has helped so many children with their learning, been there for them when they fall over or feel ill and helped them to be happy and confident in school and now it's time to look after herself. We all wish Mrs Murtagh lots of luck and happiness with her new adventure.

We have also said goodbye and good luck to Miss El, who has led wonderful Forest School sessions for the children for the last year and also to Miss Boxshall who has been such an asset to our SEND team of support staff.

In January we are delighted to be welcoming some new staff to our support team:

Natasha Walsh - Hedgehogs teaching assistant

Isabel Beck - Otters teaching assistant

Alice Peters -SEND assistant

Tracy Wilcox - SEND assistant

Jo May - SEND assistant

Bryony Pritchard - Midday Supervisor

We hope they will all be very happy with us.

We hope we can start to offer Forest School Sessions again in Term 4.

## Partnership working

We are developing our working relationship with schools in the Bluebell Federation and earlier this term, Forest Row, Fletching, Chailey St Peters and Wivelsfield joined together for an INSET day. On this day, teachers learned more about the use of AI in the curriculum and other aspects of school life. The Early Years teams in all the schools attended the East Sussex Early Years Conference together and have been supporting each other in developing the Curiosity approach. With the Curiosity Approach, classrooms environments are designed to be neutral and homely and encourage curiosity and child led learning, alongside the learning led by teachers.

## Viking Day

As part of their history learning, Badgers Class spent a day immersed in the times of the Vikings.

Throughout the day the children had to choose a Viking name for the day, design and make a long boat and shield, as well as create a PowerPoint about Vikings, and show their knowledge through Viking quizzes.



Thank you to Miss Henley for arranging such a fun day for her class.

## **Car Park**

Please remember, that except for a few families, we ask you not to bring your car in to the car park at the beginning or end of the school day. This is to keep everyone safe at these busy times. Also, if you do park in the car park at any time of the day, please do not use the space marked reserved. We keep this space free for anyone who might use a wheel chair. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

## **Cold weather**

So far this winter we have not had many icy mornings. However, it is almost inevitable we will have some in the winter months ahead and we need to grit the surfaces to keep everyone safe. As a rule, this is a job for our caretaker, but we would love to have a few parents willing to be contacted to help out if Mr HS is ever not around to do this important job. If you are willing to be on a volunteer list, please do let us know. If it's not going to rain overnight, followed by freezing temperatures early morning, it is often a job that can be done in the afternoon /early evening. Thank you!

## **Online Safety**

Winter is a time when we are all indoors more and children may spend a lot of time online. Keeping our young people safe online seems increasingly challenging, but there is a lot of advice available.

[Online safety resources | Samaritans](#)

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

In term time, please do not hesitate to contact the school if we can help you in any way with keeping your child safe online in any way.

Please also see below a link to a magazine that has a wealth of information about helping your children to be safe and happy

<https://allabout-family.co.uk/national-magazine/>

## **Attendance**

Thank you to everyone who has ensured their children are in school as much as possible. Despite a few weeks when lots of children were absent because of winter viruses, I am delighted that our overall attendance this week has been back to over 97%. However, since the start of September our average is 94.6%. Whilst illness is unavoidable, if a holiday or couple of days off for a visit is factored in on top of this, your child's attendance can easily dip to below 90%. It is at this point that we become concerned and you may receive a letter. Whilst I'm sure these are not welcome, the purpose is to raise your awareness that your child has missed enough school days to affect both their learning and often relationships with peers too.

## **Sport Tournaments**

Badgers and Otters have been competing in Chailey cluster tournaments with good success, coming 3rd in the girls and boys football and second in the indoor athletics. Congratulations to all our young footballers and athletes and thank you to Miss Gough for organising the teams to attend.

## **Wrens Nursery**

Our wonderful Wrens Nursery has a few spaces. If you know anyone looking for nursery provision please mention us to them. The children in Wrens benefit from their own lovely room and outdoor area, as well as having access to the school facilities, including our spacious field and Forest School area. We take from children from two years old.

## **Uniform**

A gentle reminder that if your child wears trainers to school, they must be black. This includes the days when they wear PE kit to school. Thank you for your support with this.

## **And so, to Christmas!**

The festive season got off to a memorable start at the end of November with the PTA Christmas Fair. A huge thank you to all members of the PTA who worked so hard to organise it and for all of you who supported it. The fair raised a fantastic £2065.

You may know that the PTA has been raising money for a new piece of play equipment and we hope that this will be installed early in the new year. Thank you PTA!

With December came Christmas productions. The first of these was an uplifting performance at Glyndebourne Opera House when our choir joined with other schools to perform a medley of songs, accompanied by the Glyndebourne orchestra and professional chorus singers. The choir even had the opportunity to accompany a soloist in a song from the opera Carmen. What a fantastic experience for the children and for those of us lucky enough to watch them! A huge thank you to Mrs James for all her hard work and dedication in coaching the choir to such a high standard, and for all the work behind the scenes to organise the event.

Back at school we were entertained by a lovely production of Simply The Nativity by Robins, Hedgehogs and Rabbits, whilst our Key Stage Two classes led us through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century decades of Christmas Songs and traditions, along with some seasonal poems and carols. For this performance,

Mrs James had also organised a supporting instrumental band of current and ex parents and even one ex-student. I'm sure you will agree that this added a wonderful atmosphere to the occasion.

Meanwhile, to round off our Christmas performances, Wrens shared a very special time of Carols Round the Christmas Tree with their parents and carers.

The children have also had a wonderful Christmas lunch, Christmas parties, a visit from Santa and a pantomime to enjoy on the last afternoon of this term.

A huge thank you to all the staff at Wivelsfield School and Nursery, who work tirelessly to enable your children to shine and enjoy these very special occasions.

Thank you also to everyone who donated so generously to our collections for St Peter and St James Hospice. We will let you know how much was raised in January.

### Term 3 2026

Term 3 starts on 5<sup>th</sup> January which is an INSET day. **The first day for pupils is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.** We look forward to welcoming you all back to school then.

Thank you for all your Christmas greetings, cards and gifts and I wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year with your friends and family.

We look forward to seeing you in 2026.

With every good wish,



Helen Smith  
Headteacher



Glyndebourne 2025