

It has been another busy week at school and it is always so lovely walking around and seeing the children enjoying their learning. There is always so much going on! It was particularly great to see our Year 6 children heading out for their Bikeability sessions this week, building their confidence and learning some really important skills.

A little reminder about parking: We completely understand that parking around the school can be tricky, particularly at busy drop-off and pick-up times. Some of our neighbours have been in touch to remind us that the close and neighbouring properties situated at the start of Hundred Acre Lane are private. These areas should not be used for parking or turning vehicles around. Please do be mindful of this and, as always, remember to be respectful and considerate of everyone in our school community.

Have a lovely weekend! Mrs Green

Wrens



- Next week we will be getting spooky in Wrens, feel free to dress your child in Halloween outfits for some, or all, of their sessions. Thank you!
- It will also be show and tell week, perhaps this could have a spooky theme?

Robins (Reception)

- Please make sure Robins have a coat and a water bottle in school every day!
- Visit Little Wandle For Parents ([For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)) to support children with reading at home.



Hedgehogs (Y1)

- All children should have received a letter with their logins for Google Classroom (GC) and Numbots. There should be a copy of the login for GC in their reading journals. This week there is nothing to hand in, please check the logins work and children can begin to play on Numbots. As of next week, prior to half term there will be work uploaded each week to support our in class learning.
- Reminder that whilst morning fruit snack is provided there is no additional snack for the afternoon break. Children are welcome to bring a healthy, nut-free snack from home.



Rabbits (Y2)

- Please bring a coat to school every day.
- Please ensure grapes are sliced for lunches.





Foxes (Y3)

After starting our instructions writing on a Vinegar Volcano experiment, the Foxes have managed to convince Mrs Awcock that we should all make our own volcano for the experiments next week! Please could you start collecting small plastic bottles (500ml or less) and newspaper and send it in to school. The class will start construction next Monday (19th October). If you manage to collect spares please send these in too.

Otters (Y4)

Well done to Otters who have all published their writing beautifully, and created artwork for our class display in the hall.

Reminder: Please continue to use TTRS whenever possible. The children are completing their gig baseline in school today – they should then head over to garage for bespoke practice based on their times table gaps.



Badgers (Y5)

Class assembly on Wednesday!
Costumes: A neutral, plain base-black/brown/beige etc. Our Vikings are welcome to bring in any shields they have at home. Villagers to wear any 'villager' style clothing if available. We will also have some items here.

Sparks and One Voice reminder.

Owls (Y6)

Well done to the Owls for a fantastic week filled with riding bikes, writing about Ancient Greece, tackling maths SATs papers and sprinkling salt onto our art!

Sparks and One Voice reminder.



On Sunday 8th November, 12:15, there is a short service and wreath laying at the Village War Memorial. Traditionally we have **Year 6** children read the war memorial names. If your **Year 6** child is available for about 20 minutes and would like to be part of this event, please may you let Mrs Green or Miss Kelly know via the office. Thank you.

Bikeability



This week, year 6 have completed Bikeability. This has involved the children demonstrating their safety on their bikes before going out onto the road to further develop their skills. During the week, the children have been doing 'U-turns', signalling, travelling from a minor road to a major road and built their confidence on roundabouts. Well done, year 6!



Sports News

Congratulations to all of the children who took part in the Cross-Country Race at Chailey School on 28th September 2026. Every runner did Wivelsfield proud by showing fantastic determination, resilience and a willingness to challenge themselves all the way to the finish line. It was wonderful to see such great teamwork, with children encouraging and supporting one another throughout the event. You should all be very proud of your achievements. Go Team Wivelsfield!



Thank You PTA

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising such a fantastic Halloween Disco on Thursday! The children had a brilliant time and looked amazing in their costumes. It was lovely to see so much fun and excitement.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive PTA team who give their time and energy to create these special experiences for our children.

Thank you for all that you do for our school!





Wivelsfield Primary School and Nursery

Believe Achieve Succeed



Is your child starting school in September 2027?

We would like to invite you to our Reception Open Day on

Tuesday 10th November at 10:00am.

Wivelsfield Primary School and Nursery is at the heart of our beautiful village community, where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. Surrounded by open space and countryside, our children enjoy endless opportunities to learn, explore and grow, both inside and beyond the classroom.

We are proud to offer a warm, inclusive and nurturing environment where children feel happy, safe and inspired to achieve their very best. With dedicated staff, enriching learning experiences and a strong sense of community, Wivelsfield is a school where children develop confidence, curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

Our popular school offers:

- Wrap around care
- An extensive extra curricular offer
- Forest school sessions
- Enriching opportunities including trips and special visitors.

To book a space, or for any questions email

wivelsfieldoffice@bluebellfederation.co.uk or call [01444 471393](tel:01444471393).



Come and discover all that **Wivelsfield Primary School and Nursery has to offer. We look forward to meeting you soon!**

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

Wren's Nursery Possible Extension of Opening Times



Where nursery feels like home
and school feels like a natural
next step.

- Mud Kitchen
- Yoga
- Phonics
- Weekly PE
- Sports Club



Wivelsfield Wrens Nursery

Wrens is situated on the
grounds of Wivelsfield
Primary school, with
superb links to the
reception class.

Funded spaces available.

Register Now

01444 471393

nursery@wivelsfield.e-sussex.sch.uk



Wivelsfield Nursery is exploring the potential of extending its opening hours possibly starting from January 2027.

We are considering opening from 8:00am to 6:00pm (term time only), instead of the current hours of 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Before making any decisions, we need to understand the level of demand from families. Your responses will help us assess whether there is sufficient need and support to pursue this with East Sussex County Council.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this survey. This survey will close **Sunday 18th October**.

<https://forms.gle/mVmVPD7PZ1Z6d64U6>

Please share this link to any clubs, families and groups in our community that might be in need of nursery hours.

ONLINE SAFETY

AI companions are becoming increasingly popular with young people, offering round-the-clock conversations with virtual characters designed to feel like genuine friends. Platforms such as Character.ai, Replika and Snapchat My AI can provide entertainment and creative opportunities, but their human-like interactions also raise concerns. This guide explores potential risks including emotional dependency, inappropriate content, oversharing personal information and harmful mental health advice.

As AI companions become more convincing, helping young people understand the difference between synthetic relationships and genuine human connection is increasingly important. This guide offers helpful advice for parents and educators on discussing AI friendships, reviewing privacy settings, managing subscriptions and encouraging healthy offline relationships. It also highlights the importance of seeking support from trusted adults rather than relying on chatbots.

[WPS online guides](#)

Please click on the link above to take you to our online safety page of our school website. Scroll down to **ONLINE SAFETY UPDATES - WAKE UP WEDNESDAY** to find out more information on **AI Companions**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI COMPANIONS

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and loneliness. A vicious cycle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense of isolation in the 'real world' are two challenging problems.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them for advice. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and tried to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'workarounds' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms safety nudges users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being 'logged', may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, unlimited responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the real most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

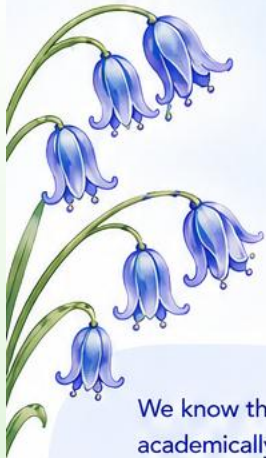
Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 12+, while platforms like

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to



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.





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



BYS CROSSFIT KIDS + MIDS + TEENS

BACKYOURSELF

STRENGTH / CONFIDENCE / FITNESS

BYS

KIDS 5-7

Thursday 4-4.45

MIDS 8-10

Tuesday 4-4.45
Wednesday 4-4.45

TEENS 11-16

Tuesday 4.45-5.30
Wednesday 4.45-5.30
Thursday 4.45-5.30



FIRST SESSION FREE



SOVEREIGN BUSINESS PARK, ALBERT DRIVE, BURGESS HILL, RH15 9TY, ENGLAND



Wivelsfield Primary School Djembe Club

Join our exciting lunchtime club at Wivelsfield Primary School open to all children.

Led by our experienced teacher, Orla Tubb.

Thursdays lunchtime clubs:

KS1 - (12.10-12.30)

KS2- (12.40 pm- 1pm)

£5.00 per child, per week

invoiced half termly in advance - sessions start after half term - 6 sessions per term.

Book online or using the QR Code below

www.sussexmusicschool.com/wivelsfieldlunchdrums



On Monday 12th October, Mrs Tubb hosted a special assembly to promote her new djembe club which will be starting in Term 2.