



Wivelsfield Primary School

South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN

Newsletter

Headteacher: Helen Smith BA Hons, NPQH

office@wivelsfield.e-sussex.sch.uk www.wivelsfield.org Tel: 01444 471393

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope all our new parents and carers are now feeling very much part of our happy community. Life is beginning to feel far more normal at school and it has been lovely to welcome you all back into school for Harvest Celebrations, PTA events, parent evenings and more.

Staff News

I am delighted to let you know that Miss Parris has safely given birth to a baby boy, a brother for William. Congratulations to Miss Parris and her family.

After many years of service to the school, Mrs Hill has finally said a proper goodbye to us and we are delighted to welcome Mrs Yates to the role of School Business Manager. Mrs Waterhouse will be increasing her hours so that she can support Mrs Yates in the role of finance assistant, as well as continuing to be the cheery face and voice at the end of the phone each morning. Mrs Milton will continue in her role as school secretary and be in school each day from 9.30am.

Late Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA's late summer fair, which was held on an unseasonably warm September afternoon. As well as our school community, we were delighted to welcome our neighbours to browse stalls, buy raffle tickets and enjoy a delicious BBQ or cup of tea and cake. The PTA raised £2000 which will be used for the benefit of all the children in the school. Thank you PTA.

The school in the community

With the easing of Covid restrictions we are looking forward to being able to more actively support charities and become part of our local community again. For many years, we have supported the MacMillan Cancer Coffee morning

and we were excited that the School Council could again organise an event and invite parents and carers in for a cup of coffee and cake after morning drop off. We were inundated with delicious home-made cakes and lots of parents joined us; each child in the school also had the chance to buy a cake to enjoy at snack time. As a healthy eating school, we usually only allow fruit or a low sugar snack, but the children enjoyed the opportunity for a treat and to raise money for Macmillan. Chloe in Owls won the competition for the best cake and Mrs Wollaston the best cake made by an adult, with the competition being judged by our expert panel from the School Council.



Lower down the school, Mia correctly guessed there were 611 chocolate chips in a cake made by Mrs Hill and won it for her lucky family to enjoy at home.

The School Council is very proud that they raised the grand total of £325. Congratulations!

As a rural school, we celebrate harvest each year. This year, so that the hall was not too crowded, we decided to hold one Harvest assembly for our younger pupils and one for our Key Stage 2 classes. It was lovely to be able to share our celebrations with you all, and after more than 18 months of not being allowed to sing together in school, I was so proud to hear the children enthusiastically singing some of their favourites such as Big Red Combine Harvester and Harvest Samba, along with a couple of less well-known old Sussex folk songs. Thank you for all your generous donations of food which have been collected by Burgess Hill Foodbank to distribute in the local area.



To enrich their learning about houses and homes, Hedgehogs Class enjoyed a walk through the village, along with a picnic at the Church whilst Owls Class are to be congratulated on their excellent cycling around the nearby roads as part of their Bikeability training. Thank you to John Wigzell who gave up most of his week to support our young cyclists.

We are looking forward to some of our older pupils reading the roll of honour at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on 14th November and we hope the choir will be singing at a Christmas event at St Peter and St James Hospice.

Outdoor learning

Before the weather changed Owls and Badgers Classes were lucky enough to visit Morehouse Farm to learn about the relationship between farming and the food we eat, and also how farmers work to look after the country side to encourage a diversity of animal and plant life. The children enjoyed their trailer rides around the farm and were in awe of the size of the two Aberdeen Angus bulls. Thank you to Charlie Burgoyne for giving up two days to host the visits and allowing the children to have so much fun with some drainage pipes!



Thanks to Mrs Hunter, the children continue to enjoy Forest School and outdoor learning every week. Waitrose has kindly donated a fantastic £500 for us to spend on our Forest School area or equipment for outdoor learning so a huge thank you to them.



We have a new, escape-proof home sorted for our hens, so we hope they can take up residence in the school again very soon

Music in School

Before Covid, our music at Wivelsfield School was the envy of lots of local primary schools and we are excited to be rebuilding this reputation. As well as our curriculum lessons taught by music specialists, Mrs James has in excess of 30 Key Stage 2 children in the choir, whilst Mr Hards is leading a group of children playing guitars, bass guitar, clarinet, violins and ukulele in our re-formed school orchestra. Mr Hards and Mrs James continue to provide 1:1 music tuition in school for guitar, piano, keyboard and violin. Throughout last year, many children continued instrumental lessons online, when face to face tuition was impossible. Mrs James reports that some of our last year's Owls excelled in exams, with one pupil achieving grade 1 ABRS in violin and a further two achieving distinction for the Trinity initial keyboard exam. Congratulations to the young musicians.

Pre School Provision

We are actively exploring if we can provide nursery care and education on site at Wivelsfield School. In November, look out for a formal consultation document about lowering the age range of the school and, a bit later in the month, a market research questionnaire about provision here. Please complete them - we need and value your viewpoint!

Open Morning

On 10th November, we have our Open Morning for parents of prospective pupils in 2022. If you know of anyone who has a child who will be starting school next year, please let them know. If you already have a child here, you are of course also very welcome to come.

School Improvement Priorities

Each year we focus on different aspect of school life to improve, At the end of this letter please see our school improvement priorities for this year.

Covid Control Measures

To help control the spread of any Covid cases in school, we are keeping the classrooms and any communal areas well ventilated. This means it is quite cool in school, so please ensure your child is wearing plenty of layers. Long sleeved t-shirts under school shirts are fine, as are school fleeces as an additional layer over normal sweatshirts or cardigans. Children can always wear a coat in class should they want to, but we aim to keep it warm enough so that is not necessary.

Please book your child for a test if they have any symptoms, however mild. Should there be significant number of cases, we may have to introduce further measures to control any outbreak. We will keep you informed of any change to our current routines.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy October break and I look forward to seeing all the children back on **Tuesday 2nd November** (INSET is on Monday 1st November).

With every good wish

Helen M. Smith

Helen Smith
Headteacher



The Bikeability Crew!



School Improvement Priorities 2021 - 2022

Quality of Education

- Adapt the curriculum as needed to ensure its intent is relevant to the needs of all pupils and through its implementation, all pupils make good or better progress, with a particular focus on SEND and disadvantaged pupils.
- To ensure carefully targeted additional support complements quality first teaching for reading, writing and maths and so enables all pupils, including SEND, disadvantaged and more able children to make rapid progress and narrow any identified gaps.
- To further develop the vocabulary in all areas of the curriculum across the school.
- To embed a love of reading for all pupils

Behaviour and Attitudes

- For all pupils to demonstrate respect for the entire school community with developing self-control.
- To improve the attendance of vulnerable pupils so it is more closely aligned to that of non-vulnerable pupils

Personal Development

- To enable all children to further develop respect for our diverse society within and beyond school and begin to understand unconscious bias.
- To revisit developing a positive and growth mindset within the whole school community.
- To re-establish the school's presence within the local and wider community

Leadership and management

- To ensure the new school business manager leads an efficient and happy administration team and works effectively as a senior leader having a positive impact on all stakeholders.
- To work effectively with the local authority with a view to developing pre-school provision at Wivelsfield School.
- To continue to look after the well-being of all staff, further reducing work load where possible.

Quality of Education in Early Years

- To ensure that the new Early Year's Framework is successfully implemented and all members of the Early Year's team are fully trained in the framework.