



Nurture the Spirit – Grow the Mind – Love your Neighbour
2 Timothy 1:6: Stir up the gifts that are within you!



October Newsletter

Dear Families

As we approach the end of term, I would like to congratulate the children for working so hard since the summer. September is a month of transition and challenge as we all embark on a new academic year. It can be hard to adjust to the demands of the next school year but we have witnessed enormous amounts of perseverance and resilience as our pupils have progressed through the term. As a school, we have focused intently on improving presentation and although it has been hard at times, the quality of work produced has been fantastic. We look forward to sharing your child's work with you at Parents' Evenings on the 2nd and 4th November.

I am delighted to share with you the appointment of Mrs Vicky Ballinger who will be working every afternoon at school. Mrs Ballinger will be supporting children in intervention groups and leading our wraparound care after school. I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Nicky Woods as our SEN support assistant on a Thursday afternoon. Mrs Woods will provide invaluable administrative support to Mrs Sayer. Both of these appointments evidence our commitment to our inclusive ethos and supporting all children to reach their potential.

Our enrichment programme is in full swing with our comprehensive range of clubs, music lessons, forest school and cooking. Our annual Welly Walk saw the children using maps and keys to explore our local area and next week we are looking forward to taking Leopards Class to visit the Bayeux Tapestry and Tower Bridge. These experiences bring countless benefits for the children and I am extremely grateful to the staff for working so hard to plan and lead the rich wider curriculum.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Harvest Service this Friday at St Laurence Church and thank you in advance for the donations to the Food Bank which we will be gathered on Friday.

Wishing you all a good half term break when it arrives. Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes

Lex Beckett

School Vision and Values



This term we have celebrated our value of Compassion. In Collective Worship we have looked at this value through different lenses and why it is so important. We have read the parable of the Good Samaritan and the miracle of Jesus and the ten lepers. We will end this term with a focus on the value in classes which we will explore through a variety of texts. Thank you to our school community for the donations to the Food Bank; a clear example of our value of compassion in action.

PTA

Thank you to the PTA for organising the first events of the year with the first Funday Friday which follows the Harvest Service and of course the annual Pumpkin Disco on the 23rd October. Don't forget to complete the PING form and pay via ParentPay to reserve your child's slot.

Flu Vaccine

We recently had the School Health team to complete the seasonal flu vaccine, if your child missed this you can find out how to book an appointment for your child [here](#).

Last year on average the children had 3 days less absence than those that didn't!

Attendance Monitoring

Following the introduction of our new attendance procedures last year, we will be continuing these throughout this academic year. These processes help us work together to ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and feel fully included in school life.

At the end of this term, we will once again celebrate and recognise the excellent commitment shown by pupils with 100% attendance. On the final day of term, all children who have attended every day this term will be recognised in our final Celebration Worship of the term.



To help families stay informed, all parents and carers will receive an email from Arbor at the end of every term showing their child's current attendance percentage. We encourage everyone to take a moment to review this information and contact us if you have any questions or need support.

For any child whose attendance falls below 90%, which is classed as persistent absence, families should look out for an invitation to attend one of our Attendance Clinics. These meetings are designed to provide a supportive opportunity to discuss any barriers to attendance and explore how we can work together to improve attendance moving forward.

Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority. Everyone's focus and support of this shared objective is making a real difference. Our current figures are as follows:

	This Year	Last Year	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	95.94%	93.47%	94.81%	94.87%	96.36%	96.48%	96.61%	97.66%	95.00%
Late	0.31%	0.67%	0.13%	0.11%	0.61%	0.12%	0.73%	0.52%	0.00%

Sport

On Thursday, we are hosting our first football tournament for pupils in Years 5 and 6. We look forward to this and many more sporting fixtures throughout the year in collaboration with LS Coaching.

Next Thursday, 24 of our Key Stage 2 pupils will take part in the annual Claverham Cross Country event. We look forward to hearing how they get on and hope the course is not too muddy!

Holiday Club

To book a space on the popular LS Coaching Holiday Club running Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th October please click on the link [here](#).

October Sports Camp
26th & 27th
FOR YEARS R-6

AT CATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, RUNNING 9 TIL 3 JUST £25 PER DAY!

FOOTBALL ARCHERY GYMNASTICS

LS COACHING OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB

2 DAYS - SPORT - GAMES - FUN - FRIENDS!
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN, ACTIVE AND ENGAGING FOR YOUR CHILD THIS OCTOBER?
OUR 2-DAY HOLIDAY CLUB PROVIDES A VARIETY OF SPORTS, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES!

SPACES ARE LIMITED! -> CLICK THE BOOKING LINK TO SECURE YOUR SPACE!
★ BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S SPACE! ★

Cooking

Our Panthers' chefs are showing that culinary talents have no age limit. The children are confidently measuring ingredients, following recipes, mastering basic kitchen tools with remarkable care and trying new flavours. Beyond just mixing and heating, their eye for food presentation is incredibly imaginative and they are demonstrating such flair.

There is a very international flavour to the recipes this term.

🇲🇦 They are cooking Moroccan chicken. A traditional dish of chicken roasted with red onions and a spice called sumac, which is then served on flatbreads.

🇫🇷 To follow the children made French Apple Tart. Apples are drizzled with apricot jam and placed on puff pastry.

If you have any empty chocolate/ sweet tubs we would very much appreciate them as we use them to send home our cooking creations!

Thank you to the PTA for their support of this important activity. Last year £500 was donated to allow us to purchase ingredients and cooking tools.



Governing Board

I am delighted to share that our Governing Board has a number of new members after a period of recruitment. Catherine Clissold-Jones has successfully been elected as Parent Governor alongside Priya Plowman. Paul Swatton has been elected as Chair of the Governing Board (he will co-chair alongside Karen Bye until Christmas). Judith Koral and David Taylor join too. The Governors who have joined our board bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge and I look forward to working with them on the strategic leadership of the school. Our full list of governors is as follows:

Paul Swatton
Karen Bye
Lex Beckett
Rev Robert Beaken
Desmond Christian
Cassandra Skevington
Kirstie Wapshott
Catherine Clissold-Jones
Judith Koral
Priya Plowman
David Taylor

Many of our Governors will be on the school playground on Monday 19th October at 3.20pm to meet families.

Open Days for Prospective Reception Parents

Although the 2026 - 27 academic year is only just beginning, we are already starting to think ahead to next years' Reception intake! I would like to invite all prospective parents to attend one of our open events on Tuesday 17th November at 9.30am and Thursday 19th November at 6pm. Please contact the office to book your place on your preferred date

We are always happy to welcome new families into the school so please mention these to any friends or other family members with children who are due to be starting school in September 2026.

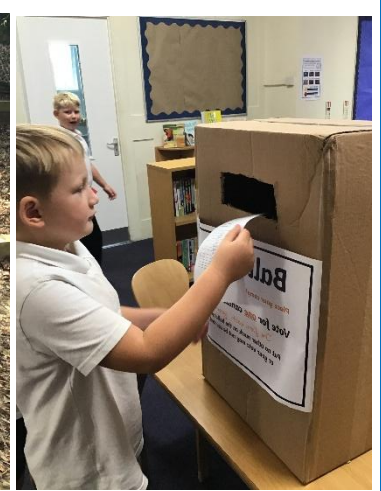
If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the office to arrange a separate appointment.

Please look at the East Sussex website if you have any questions about the process of applying: [Apply for a school place | East Sussex County Council](#)

Key deadlines for applying for a primary school reception place:

12 September 2026 Applications open
15 January 2027 Closing date for school applications
16 April 2027 National offer day

Photos from the Term



Dates for Terms 1

October 15th at 3.45pm – Football tournament at Catsfield
October 16th at 2.15pm – Harvest Service at St Laurence's Church
October 19th 3.20 – 4pm – Governors' visit
October 20th - Leopards London trip
October 23rd at 9am – Panthers Celebration Assembly
October 22nd at 2.30pm – Tigers stay and play session
October 22nd - Year 5/6 cross country cluster competition at Claverham
October 31st – Deadline for applying for a Secondary School Place – year 6

Dates for Term 2

November 3rd – Parents' Evening 3.30 to 6.30pm
November 5th – Parents' Evening 3.30 to 6.30pm
November 19th at 1pm – Yr 5/6 cross county finals at Claverham
November 25th at 9am – Leopards Celebration Assembly
December 2nd – Reception and Year 6 NHS Measurement Screening Programme
December 4th – One Voice performance for Leopards Class at the De La Warr 7.45pm
December 8th at 9.15am – Nativity dress rehearsal
December 9th at 9.15am – Nativity Performance
December 10th at 2.30pm – Nativity Performance
December 10th – Gymnastics Competition at Battle & Langton School
December 11th at 3.20pm – PTA Christmas Fete and Carols by Candlelight at 4pm
December 15th – Tigers and Lions Post Office visit
December 17th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day
December 18th at 2pm – Christmas Church Service.

Learning Celebration Dates

October 23rd at 9am: **Panthers**
November 25th at 9am: **Leopards**
March 17th 2027 at 9am: **Lions**
March 23rd 2027 at 9am: **Panthers**
July 8th 2027 at 9am: **Panthers**

Inset Days

January 4th
February 22nd

Other notable dates

February 23rd & 25th - Parents consultations
February 10th - Time to Dance Festival performance
March 4th – World Book Day
March 9th – Enhanced Art Day
March 11th – Year 5&6 Netball cluster competition Claverham
March 25th Easter Egg Hunt and egg rolling competition
Easter Church Service TBC
May 10th – 13th Yr 6 SATs
June 11th - Sports Day
July 1st – Lions Stay and Make morning
July 2nd - Summer Fete
July 2nd – Move up morning
July 22nd – Year 6 Leavers' Service

Safeguarding Information

For your reference, please find some contact details below for people both in and out of school you can contact should you have any safeguarding concerns over any children in our school:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Lex Beckett Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Kate Sayer, Cassie Skevington

East Sussex Single Point of Advice: **01323 464222**
NSPCC: 0808 500 8000



**Did you know there's a
FREE Family Advice Line?**

If you have a concern that is impacting your family life – such as parenting, SEND, mental health, debt, and more – we're here to help you find the right place to get support. Call the Family Advice Line on

01323 464655

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm
or Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Or visit
**[familyhubs.eastsussex.gov.uk/
AdviceLine](https://familyhubs.eastsussex.gov.uk/AdviceLine)**



 **FAMILY HUB**
EAST SUSSEX

 **BEST
START
IN LIFE**

 **UK Government**

 **East Sussex
County Council**