

March 2024 NEWSLETTER No 7

27th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Unbelievably Easter is almost upon us and the Spring term is over! The children and staff have worked incredibly hard this term and the classrooms and displays around the school are a real celebration of all the wonderful learning that has gone on. The milder weather, sunnier days and appearance of spring flowers have also given us all a much-needed lift!

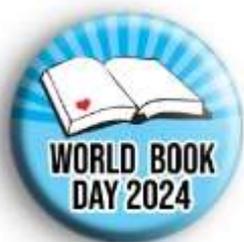
School Grounds Day – a Big Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with Grounds Day last week. It was a huge success - the impact on the Forest School and reception area is noticeable, as is all the hard work that took place with painting fences in forest school and also by Year 2. We really appreciate the time you gave up to help us. The community champion, Gary, at Asda donated a selection of hand tools which helped us to weed the paths by the play equipment.



If you or a family member have links with a garden centre or tree surgeon please do let us know. We need some wood chippings for the Forest School area where it is so muddy following the never-ending rain and we always welcome plant and seed donations too.

Book Bingo



We are delighted to tell you that you have raised the sum of **£735.00** following our World Book Week 2024 Book Bingo.

This is a fantastic sum of money which will enable us to purchase some exciting new books to share in our Book Nooks.

Thank you to all of you who kindly donated – we are extremely grateful for your generosity.

If any parents/carers, aunts, uncles or other family members work for World of Books please can they contact Miss Moulson or Mr Jones as we are aware they can access an additional discount when we purchase books for our Book Nooks. Thank you.

Red Nose Day

Thank you to all those who supported Red Nose Day – it was lovely to see a sea of red across the school.

We are pleased to share that you raised **£160.75** for this worthy cause – many thanks!



Staffing update



We are delighted to share with you that Miss Anna Woodiwiss is getting married to her fiancé Alistair during the Easter break. Upon returning to school Miss Woodiwiss will be using her married name 'Mrs Tobin' going forward. I'm sure you will join us in wishing both Anna and Alistair a very happy wedding day with lots of sunshine!

Very sadly we are having to say goodbye to Mrs Leanne Wallace (YR TLA) at Easter. Leanne joined us in September and has proved herself to be a real asset to the school and a highly valuable member of our team. Saying goodbye to Leanne is not a decision that we wanted to make however, in order to balance a budget for 2024/25 we have been forced to make a cut in staffing. Leanne will be very much missed and we hope that in the future we will be able to afford to bring her back to our team.



Due to Leanne leaving, we will be moving some of the support staff around after Easter in order that we can best continue to meet the needs of the children. Miss Laura Brooks will be moving from Y1 to Reception and Mrs Sally West will be moving from Y2 to Y1. Within year groups staff may be moving between classes according to daily timetables. If you have any questions please speak to your child's class teacher.

School Budget update

I am sure that many of you are aware from the media that school budgets have been struggling for a number of years and like many other schools around us, we now find ourselves with a deficit budget and income that does not match costs. We have already been forced to make cuts to our support staff team in order to set a budget for 2024/25 and going forward we are likely to have to make further cuts in staffing.



The school currently has a deficit of £75,000. This is due to a number of reasons including increased costs of services and resources, unfunded Government pay rises and falling income. You may not be aware that schools are primarily funded by pupil numbers and that Nationally the birth rate has fallen. All schools around us are now struggling with this fall in roll and Infant schools are particularly hit hard as they only have three year groups and class sizes are limited to 30 children. The loss of pupil numbers means a loss of income.

Currently we have only 79 children in YR, meaning a loss of approximately £50,600 in income for this year (23/24). Our predicted numbers for September 2024 are also lower than in the past and we estimate that this will mean a further drop in income of a similar amount and possibly more. We simply cannot fund the resources and staffing we currently hold with a drop of around £100,000 in income, plus a deficit of £75,000 on top.

So, what can you do to help?

Firstly, and most importantly, **spread the word that we have spaces!** Our current Y1 cohort is full however, from September we will have space in both YR and Y1. The school continues to be a good school with excellent facilities on offer. The fall in roll is not a reflection on the school or staff – this is a National issue that all schools are facing. More pupils means more income!

Secondly, if you are able to, then please **do make financial donations towards trips and events when asked, however small.** The school no longer has any money to support families who choose not to contribute and we really do not want to have to cancel events going forward however, we may have no option but to do so, which will be very sad for our children.

Finally, if you work for a company who would like to **sponsor us** (perhaps for a project or trip/event) or **donate to us** (paper, pencils etc), then please do put them in touch with us. We have Amazon 'wish lists' where teachers list resources that they need, so you can either purchase these directly through the links below or simply get in touch through the main office.

YR: <https://amzn.eu/c9PRB7D>

Y1: <https://amzn.eu/7dRC9r0>

Y2: <https://amzn.eu/gaJyTNP>

Forest & Beach School: <https://amzn.eu/iE3PotR>

We would like to thank you all for your ongoing support, financial or otherwise. We work extremely hard to give your children the very best start to their education and working together gives your child the best opportunities for success. We are very proud of our school and the children within it and can assure you that we will continue to do our very best with the limited resources we now have.

Stay & Play Workshops

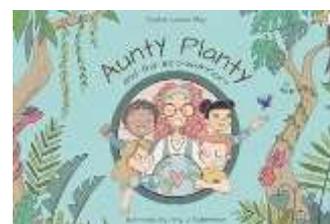
In the Summer Term the teachers will be running workshops where you will be able to observe a guided reading session in practice. These sessions will last approximately 20 minutes and one session will run each day. Closer to the time, the teachers will let you know when your child's guided reading session will be. Please see the diary dates section for the week in which your child's year group will be holding the sessions.



Author Visits

Next term we are fortunate that two authors will be visiting the children;

Rachel Louisa May, author of *Aunty Planty* in YR



Sophy Henn, author of the Happy Hills series in KS1

There will be an opportunity for parents to purchase signed copies of the authors books on the visit days. We will share more information about this in advance of the visits.

Message from the School Council about Birthdays

As you know, the School Council invite children to come into school in their own clothes on their birthday for a donation of £1.00 for the School Council Fund.

Children who celebrate their birthdays either during a school holiday or weekend may come into school on a day of their choice wearing their own clothes but please remember the donation!

[Donations can now be made via Weduc \(Reachmoreparents\)](#)

Thank you.

The School Council

INSET Days 2024/25



As you are aware there are five INSET days each year where the school is closed to the children. INSET days are **extra** days that teachers have to work each year in addition to the 190 pupil days. Please see below for the 2024/25 INSET days.

Monday 2nd September 2024
Monday 4th November 2024
Monday 6th January 2025
Tuesday 7th January 2025
Monday 24th February 2025

We hope that this advance warning will be useful to you in making childcare arrangements or for an extended break away.

Spotlight on Safeguarding- PANTS! The Underwear Rule

As part of our PSHE curriculum we teach children about the importance of keeping themselves safe, which links to our Rights Respecting School ethos. After the holidays we will all be taking part in the NSPCC “Speak out, Stay Safe” programme as well.

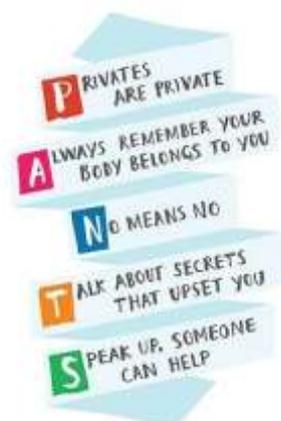


The NSPCC promotes ‘PANTS: The Underwear Rule’ and we teach the children about this, through the Pantosaurus song. The messages are practical, reassuring and age appropriate.

The rule reminds children that:

- Their body belongs to them
- They have a right to say no, and
- They should always tell an adult if they are upset or worried.

Below is the link to the [NSPCC website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants) where they have advice and a booklet called “Simple Conversations to Keep Your Child Safe from Abuse”. This guide for Parents and Carers is to help you feel confident when talking to your children about staying safe. It also explains ‘The Underwear Rule’ in detail. We know talking to your child about their body and staying safe can seem difficult, but it doesn’t have to be scary. ‘Talk PANTS’ is a simple way that parents can help keep children safe.



If your child says anything that worries you there is advice on the website. You can also talk to a teacher at school or you can call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 for further advice and support. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/pants>

Philippa Moulson
Designated Safeguarding Leader

School Keep Clear Zig Zag Hatch Area



As part of our work with West Sussex County Council to support safe and sustainable travel to our school, we have road markings outside both the Infant and Junior schools (zig zag hatch).

Our School Keep Clear markings are enforceable and we need your support in keeping this area car free. These are designed to protect the safety of our families and serve to reinforce valuable road safety message that our children can learn.

The school gate area is frequently highlighted as an area of concern for both pupils and parents so please do not drop pupils off in the school gate area at any time, this is especially important in the mornings.

Please support the whole school community by ensuring if you drive to school to park in a safe and considerate way **away** from the school gate.

Governors' Corner

This term we have been delighted to appoint Mrs Leanne Buckley-Thomson to the Governing Body. Leanne joins us as a Co-opted Governor and she has a daughter, Leila, who will be joining us in Reception in September.

We still have one parent governor vacancy which we will be advertising next term.

The Governing Body would like to wish all parents/carers and staff a Happy Easter.

Jane Jones

Chair of Governors

A couple of reminders:

Astra Recycling

Just a quick reminder that we have the astra recycling bin located outside the old Rascals building which you can use to drop off any unwanted clothing. The following items can be accepted:

- Men's / Ladies' and children's clothing
- Paired shoes
- Handbags, bags, ties and belts
- Bed linen, towels and soft toys

The school receives money per kilo of items donated.



Drinks in Lunchboxes



Children should only have water in their lunchboxes to drink. We have plenty of extra cups that the children can use to have water alongside their peers, so it is not necessary for you to provide a drink if your child has a packed lunch, however, if you wish to do so, please ensure that this is only plain water.

Diary Dates

Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and thank you again for your continuing support.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher



Diary Dates

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| Monday 15th April | - | Term restarts for all pupils |
| Monday 22 nd April | - | Y2 Stay & Play Sessions all week |
| Tuesday 23 rd April | - | FEPIS Meeting 9am |
| Thursday 25 th April | - | Y2 NSPCC Workshops |
| Thursday 2 nd May | - | Author, Rachel Louisa May, in YR |
| Monday 6th May | - | Author, Sophy Henn, in Y1/Y2 |
| Thursday 9 th May | - | Bank Holiday school closed |
| Monday 13 th May | - | 6.30pm – New Parents Meeting |
| Monday 20 th May | - | Class Photos |
| Monday 20 th May | - | Y1 Stay & Play Sessions all week |
| Tuesday 21 st May | - | 2.30pm Wagtails Class Assembly |
| Wednesday 22 nd May | - | 2.30pm Puffins Class Assembly |
| Thursday 23 rd May | - | 2.30pm Robins Class Assembly |
| Friday 24 th May | - | Y2 Little Big Sing details to follow |

Half Term – Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May inclusive

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|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Monday 3rd June | - | INSET DAY school closed to pupils |
| Tuesday 4th June | - | Term restarts for all pupils |
| Monday 10 th June | - | Phonics Screening Check |
| Friday 14 th June | - | Y1 Disability Awareness Workshop |
| Monday 17 th June | - | YR Stay & Play Sessions all week |
| Friday 21 st June | - | Sports Day – details to follow |
| Monday 24 th June | - | 2.30pm Y1 Class Assembly |
| Tuesday 25 th June | - | 2.30pm Y1 Class Assembly |
| Wednesday 26 th June | - | 2.30pm Y1 Class Assembly |
| Thursday 27 th June | - | Mini Masterworks Art Exhibition - details to follow |
| Friday 28 th June | - | Annual Reports Home to Parents |
| Wednesday 3 rd July | - | Transition Morning to New Classes |
| Monday 8 th July | - | Early Transition – children move to new classes for rest of term |
| Thursday 11 th July | - | Open evening: Year group meetings at 3.45pm and 5.00pm |
| Monday 22 nd July | - | Y2 Leavers Assembly & FEPIS Discos |
| Tuesday 23rd July | - | Term finishes at 3.15pm |

INSET Days 2024/25

Monday 2nd September 2024
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Monday 6th January 2025
Tuesday 7th January 2025
Monday 24th February 2025

Learning, Playing and Laughing Together