



Wivelsfield Primary School and Nursery

South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN



Newsletter

Term 6

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Such a lot has happened this term in the busy life of Wivelsfield School and Nursery.

Following the intensity of the first heatwave, we were anticipating settling back into a more normal school week when Ofsted called to say three inspectors would be joining us the next day! Thank you to everyone who completed the parent questionnaire, or spoke with the inspection team.

As the inspection was late in the school year, it will not be published until September when the school will be able to celebrate areas of strength and work on any areas identified for improvement.

Baby News

Since the last newsletter, I am delighted to let you know that both Miss Thornton and Miss Guy are proud mothers to beautiful baby boys. We have already said hello to Abel, and are looking forward to Miss Guy visiting with Robin very soon.

Mr Pickup is also now a parent, being the proud father of Freddie, who was born early in June.

Congratulations to all the new mums and dads and their families!

Out and about to enrich learning

Lots of classes have been out and about in the local area, and further afield, enjoying school outings to enrich their learning and bring their history and geography learning alive.

Before half term, Rabbits visited Hever Castle, Hedgehogs went to Drusillas, Robins to Washbrooks and Wrens had a lovely time at Stoneywish near Ditchling.



More recently, Otters have visited Railway Land to enrich their learning about rivers, whilst closer to home, Foxes enjoyed a village walk to enrich their geography learning.

Meanwhile Badgers spent a morning at St Georges Farm, where they learned more about where our food comes from. Thank you to Louise Lincoln for hosting this.



Between rehearsing for their production and visiting their new schools in September, Owls Class spent a morning at Plumpton Racecourse at Safety in Action. Here they learned how to keep safe or help others in different situations

Thank you to the very many parents who give up time to help at with these events. Without your support they could not go ahead.

Sport Events

Sadly, the relentless heat has meant the cancellation of some sporting tournaments, especially for KS2. However, our KS1 one classes have enjoyed their first experiences of inter school tournaments. Some of Rabbits Class had a wonderful time at a tennis tournament organised by Bedes School, whilst Hedgehogs Class enjoyed a football tournament arranged by Mid Sussex Active.

Closer to home, Tiny Tekkers organised and led a lovely sports morning for Wrens, then a couple of weeks ago, also led a Multi - Skills tournament for Year 1 and 2 students from five different schools in the area alliance. Wivelsfield came in second place overall. Well done to all the young athletes and thank you to Tiny Tekkers.

Last Tuesday the whole school enjoyed a truly memorable sports day, organised and led by a team from Active Education, who provide curriculum teaching each week and also run several clubs after school.

The weather was kind and the children immersed themselves in different activities. Team work and friendly competition shone through, with every child having the opportunity to be involved - everything a sports day should be about.

Thank you to all the adults who came to support your children and stay for the family picnic, as well as buying raffle tickets. The raffle raised £308 which will be used to support PE. We hope you enjoyed yourselves!

By the narrowest of margins, the winning team was Air House. Congratulations to all members of Air and, of course, to all the children for taking part and having so much fun.



Thank you to Miss Gough for all she does to ensure sport remains high profile in the school, with lots of opportunities for children to compete or learn new sports, and also thank you to Mrs Blunt for her support at different tournaments.

Green Team

The Green Team, led and supported by Miss Parris, has embarked on an ambitious project to improve our meadow area. This includes buying a range of items and equipment and we have got off to a flying start! Thank you to the local community for contributions for the area including bird baths, minibeast shelters and wildflower seed. An extra special thank you goes to Danny Smyth Director KPS Contractors Ltd / KPS Composting Services Ltd for the generous donations to the project of log seating, compost and seed.

A whole school 'dress for nature day' also raised just under £150 in contributions for the meadow project. Thank you to everyone who works together to improve the environment for your children (and wildlife) to enjoy.

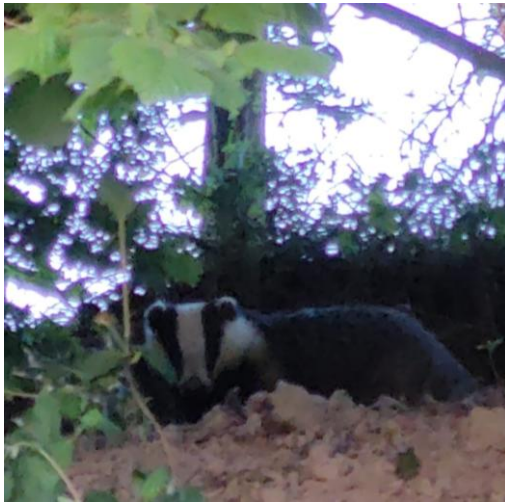
On Friday 19th June, as part of our work in the community, the Green Team visited St Peter and St John Baptist Church in Wivelsfield to take part in the annual nature count. As part of this national citizen science event, the children explored the churchyard, identifying and recording a wide range of wildflowers, insects, birds and fungi. Their observations have contributed valuable data to the National Biodiversity Network, helping to build a better understanding of wildlife across the UK. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were proud to play a part in supporting nature conservation.



100 Species to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Sir David Attenborough

Thank you to all the families who took up the challenge of sending in photos of local wildlife. I was bowled over by the number of you who got involved and had great fun looking at all the photos. They ranged from deer, a badger, wild flowers, sea creatures, birds, insects, snakes, spiders and more!

It was an almost impossible decision to choose the best or most unique photo, but in the end we have awarded the prize to Helen in Year 5 for her photo of a badger, spotted in Slugwash Lane. Well done!



The class with the most participation was Badgers Class and we will make sure they get a treat related to this project in school time next term,

We plan to make a display of some of the photos in the front foyer next term so look out for your child's photo displayed there!

The Great British Bread Bake Off – Year 3

Miss Parris reports that back in school, as part of DT, Foxes Class put their baking skills to the test in our very own Great British Bread Bake Off! As part of their Design and Technology lessons, after learning how to make bread from scratch, the children designed their own delicious bread rolls by choosing a variety of creative flavours and ingredients. From cheesy and herby combinations to sweet and spicy creations, every loaf was unique.

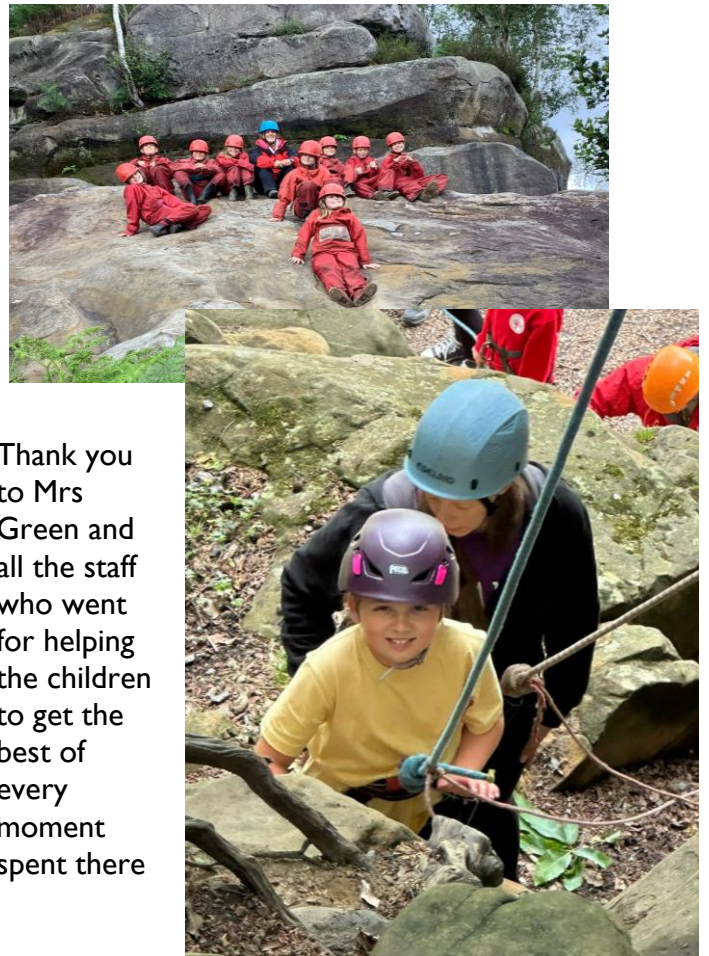
Once the bread had been baked, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Theakstone, who had the difficult task of judging the entries. She carefully considered each bread roll for its appearance, texture, flavour and originality, before selecting our winners. Congratulations to our Bake-Off champions, whose fantastic bread rolls impressed the judge with their creativity and delicious taste! Well done to every child for showing such enthusiasm, resilience and excellent baking skills throughout the project. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all they had learned.

Fiddle Toys

Many of your children use fiddle toys in school. From September, the school will provide these for any child who needs one, so please do not send your child to school with one. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you feel your child would benefit from using a fiddle toy but one has not been provided.

Bowles Residential 2026

Each year, our Badgers Class have the most wonderful week at Bowles Outdoor Centre, and this year was no exception. Here, the children undertook activities and challenges they would never have thought they could do and also had the opportunity to build a great teamworking ethos.



Thank you to Mrs Green and all the staff who went for helping the children to get the best of every moment spent there

Thank You Assembly

Week in, week out, the children here benefit from time given regularly by our wonderful volunteers: be it reading with children, helping at Forest School, working tirelessly as a PTA member or anything else! Last week we had the opportunity to publicly acknowledge their efforts and say thank you to them in an assembly.



THANK YOU!

Grimm

One of the highlights of the school year is undoubtedly the end of year production, performed by Owls and Badgers Classes and this year the children performed **Grimm**

The day of the performance was exceptionally hot and humid, but this did not deter the young performers as they sang, danced and acted their way through the performance. Their enthusiasm and confidence shone through! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, but especially to Miss Kelly for her expert direction and Mrs James for coaching the singers to perform to such a high standard. Mrs James also organised the supporting instrumental band made of parents which adds so much to the occasion. Thank you.

Welcome...

Next term we welcome Miss Ffion Vann as class teacher responsible for Hedgehogs Class

...and Goodbye

After many years of dedication to Wivelsfield School, Mrs Wakelen is leaving us to enjoy more time for herself and pursue other interests. The school has been in its present location since 2007 and Mrs Wakelen was a staff member when the school was at the end of Church Lane! This makes Mrs Wakelen one of our longest serving member of staff. She has worked tirelessly as a teaching assistant and midday supervisor, mostly with Years 5 and 6, but more recently with our younger classes. She also helped launch our Breakfast Club when it first opened back in 2016, and was run by the school. Thank you Mrs Wakelen!

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Williams who is pursuing a career with nursery children and to Mr Peake.

Thank you to all of you for your hard work and dedication to the school and good luck with whatever you do in the future.

Owls 2026

It's again that time of year when we say good bye and good luck to our Year 6 students. Our Owls of 2026 have had the most brilliant work ethic and each and every one of them has made fantastic progress and should be proud of what they have achieved, not just academically, but also in the wider life of the school. They have been particularly diligent with taking on responsibility, which has been lovely to see. Well done to all of you and we will miss you!

Bluebell Federation

As you are aware, the school will be joining the Bluebell Federation in September and Mrs Gemma White will take up the position of Executive Headteacher. Mrs Green will be responsible for the day to day running of the school.

Since the consultation in the spring, Little Horsted School has joined the federation, meaning there will be five schools in Bluebell Federation in September

September 2026 Term One

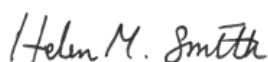
There are two INSET days planned for the start of September. This means school starts for the children (except Robins Class) on **Friday 4th September**.

It just remains for me to say goodbye to you all. It has been an absolute privilege to lead Wivelsfield School and Nursery for the past eleven years. During that time, I have overseen its growth from 150 pupils with mixed age classes, to its roll now, of about 220 in the main school, with more than an additional 30 children in our wonderful Wrens Nursery.

My leaving Wivelsfield, marks another phase for the school, as it joins the Bluebell Federation. I am sure it will continue to go from strength to strength and I wish Gemma White and Kirsty Green every success leading the school on its new journey.

Have a lovely summer everyone. I wish you and your wonderful children success and, most importantly, happiness in everything you do.

With warmest wishes to you all



Helen Smith
Headteacher