



Wivelsfield Primary School

South Road, Wivelsfield Green, RH17 7QN

Newsletter

Headteacher: Helen Smith BA Hons, NPQH

office@wivelsfield.e-sussex.sch.uk

www.wivelsfieldschool.org

Tel: 01444 471393

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all our new families are feeling settled and very much part of the Wivelsfield School community. I am generally outside each end of the school day, so please come and talk with me, or any other member of the senior leadership team if you have any questions or concerns.

It is lovely to be writing a newsletter about what has been happening in school recently, rather than an update on Covid arrangements. However, I do want to let you know how fantastic your children are at keeping to all our routines that are in place to keep everyone safe.

Staffing News

We have several changes to staffing this year.

I am delighted to be working with Ms Meade as acting Deputy Head. As she is out of class two days each week to support me with leadership and management, we welcome Mrs Green as her job share in Year 5. We also welcome Miss Messam as Foxes class teacher and Miss Griffith as Hedgehogs class teacher.

We also have several new faces in the office. I am sure you will soon get to know our secretary, Mrs Milton who is supported by Mrs Waterhouse, and Mrs Yates, who helps Mrs Hill with financial matters.

Miss Tuffin, who leads Kingfishers After School Club with Miss Brennan, is providing some additional support in Hedgehogs Class and also helping us out at lunchtimes.

Attendance

Some things don't change, and we still need to set attendance targets for the year. Any absence related to Covid does not count in our attendance data, which means we can still set a challenging a target of 97%.

We usually have attendance above our target at this time of year, but it is currently just under at 96.7%. Our new Robins have the best attendance at 99.4%, closely followed by Hedgehogs and Otters at just over 99%. Well done to all those classes!



Learning in the school grounds and local area.

Despite restrictions on school trips, we are as committed as ever to ensuring children have a full and enriched education.

Robins, Hedgehogs and Rabbits continue to enjoy their fortnightly Forest School sessions. Here, they learn to respect and care for our environment, along with developing team work, perseverance and responsible risk taking, through learning a range of skills outside. Thank you to everyone who volunteers to help at these sessions; they could not go ahead without you.



Perseverance and responsible risk taking



Learning about and respecting our environment

Meanwhile, Hedgehogs class has been walking around the village finding out about different types of houses, as part of their geography, whilst Owls class enjoyed some lovely autumn sunshine when we walked from the school to Morehouse Farm. There, the children learned how beef and arable farming can work in harmony with looking after the environment, and the role of diversification to support rural incomes. We were lucky enough to see sheep, calves and cows, buzzards, a heron, a hive of wild bees, lots of pheasants and partridge and more!



Wivelsfield School and the local community

Thank you for all your generous donations during our harvest week. The food was collected by Burgess Hill Foodbank and will be used to help the local community. Please look at our website to see how some classes have been celebrating harvest. We hope to add more class contributions soon:

https://www.wivelsfieldschool.org/web/seasonal_events

This year we held a Macmillan picnic, instead of our usual coffee/tea event. The weather was typically British, which meant the children enjoyed their picnic indoors, but whatever the weather, we have so far raised just under £420, excluding gift aid. Thank you everyone for your generosity in supporting this charity.

Bikeability

One of the school's responsibilities is to help children develop healthy lifestyles and keep safe. Each year, our older children spend a week working for their Bikeability Level 2, so they can more safely and confidently cycle around local roads. Owls Class have recently completed their training and, as always, I have watched their confidence and cycling ability grow throughout the week. Well done Owls Class.

One of our governors, John Wigzell, spent the week cycling with and supporting the group; a big thank you to John from all of us!



Sports News from Bryony Sinclair

Sport at Wivelsfield this term has taken a different format to previous years. Usually we would have been competing against other schools in Cross Country, football, and sports hall athletics at Chailey School. However, with bubbles and social distancing in place, we have had to modify the ways in which we compete in sport. It hasn't, however, stopped us!

We have successfully run a Pentathlon Athletics competition for all year groups from 2-6. All the children challenged themselves in the long jump, vertical jump, speed bounce, chest push and 100m shuttle sprint. I was thrilled that every single child took part and did so with a smile on their face.

The encouragement and support shown to each other was outstanding and the children should all be incredibly proud of themselves. School records have now been set and I would love to see this Pentathlon become an annual event once we are allowed to compete against other schools again.

All of our scores have been sent to our School Games Organiser who will collate them along with all the other schools in the Chailey hub and an ultimate winner will be announced - watch this space.

The other event we have run has been the cross-country race. Years 3 & 4 competed over 800m and years 5 & 6 over 1500m. All children took part - some chose to run competitively for a time, whereas others chose to jog or walk the distance. The top 10 times in each race have been submitted and an area winner will also be announced in due course.

Finally - I just wanted to take time to thank all of you who took part in the Sussex School Games during lockdown. Wivelsfield School finished in 15th place out of a total of 400 primary schools across Sussex - that is an outstanding achievement by our small school.

Thank you to all the parent helpers who gave up their time to help time, measure and score the events - I could not have done it without you.

At the end of this letter are several photos of sport at school this term.

Bryony Sinclair

Outdoor Gym Equipment

I am pleased to let you know that we should have our outdoor gym equipment installed in Term 2. Having the equipment will be a huge benefit for the school as we move into the wet winter months, when the children cannot use the field at playtimes. A huge thank you to Wivelsfield Parish Council and our PTA, whose generous donations have enabled this project to be completed.

WOW group

Our War on Waste (WOW) are as active as ever and will be selling their latest newspaper on **Thursday 5th November**. Please support our young people in their efforts to raise our awareness of the need to look after our planet and support a greener way of living.

I hope you all have a relaxing break and we look forward to seeing you on **Monday 2nd November**.

Thank you for all our understanding and support in these unusual times. Keep safe and well.

With every good wish,



Helen Smith
Headteacher

