

Greenfields Federation Newsletter

Littlehaven Infant and Northolmes Junior Schools

Newsletter Date 18 March 2022



Headteacher's Update



Well this term is certainly flying by! The signs of spring are everywhere and I'm looking forward to the beds of spring flowers being fully in bloom.

We have been continuing with our program of works in both schools this term. At Littlehaven, Miss Thompson is busy behind the scenes finalising our kitchen project. At Northolmes the focus has been on rejuvenating the pond area and adding a sensory trail. Thank you to Mrs Davey for organising this. This particular project has been funded by the donation made by Co-op and the PTA.

I have been impressed with the work that the children have been doing over the last few weeks and a number of children have so impressed their teachers that they have been brought to me to show off their hard work and effort. Such visits really brighten my days!

The schools have been a hive of activity since we returned after half term. We started the half term with our World Book day. The children at Littlehaven looked amazing in all their costumes and we had a very exciting assembly to start the day of activities.

Ukraine

We have all been shocked and appalled by the events we have seen playing out in Ukraine over the past few weeks.

If your child raises any worries with you about the situation or you would like some child friendly resources to help support your

At Northolmes each of the teams had also planned book-themed activities throughout the day. We were also so impressed at the standard of the "books in a box" that were brought in – it really shows what a talented group of children we have. Thank you to Mrs Hall for organising all of this.

Last week Year 3 and 4 had a Roman themed day in school. Dressing up as Romans they had a chance to learn more about the Roman way of life from our visitor.

This week the children in Year 1 and 2 were shocked on Tuesday afternoon when they returned to find their classrooms in a complete mess! A letter revealed that the LPCD (friends of Olega, Ogel and Oliga) were on the trail of some chaos-causing pixies who may well be responsible. The children have been helping out wherever they can to help the LPCD catch the culprits.

Finally, at half term we said goodbye to Mrs Elsey, the School Business Manager at Northolmes. Last week, we were joined by Mrs Forster to the role so please bear with us whilst she learns the ropes.

discussions, you may want to visit some of these BBC resources:

[Useful resources for talking about Ukraine and Russia - BBC Children in Need](#)

[Invasion of Ukraine - wellbeing resources for parents - BBC Bitesize Parents' Toolkit - BBC Bitesize](#)



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Class Assemblies

Now that COVID restrictions have lifted again, we are delighted that we can begin to invite you back into school for various events. As a start, we have arranged for each class to hold an assembly for parents over the next few months. It will be an opportunity for the children to share their work and books with you. More details will follow as the date approaches for each class but to give you advance warning, the dates will be:

Northolmes

Thursday 7 April - Edison
Thursday 5 May - Faraday
Thursday 19 May - Curie

Thursday 23 June - Galileo
Thursday 30 June - Brunel
Thursday 7 July - Darwin

Littlehaven

Wednesday 6 April - Robin
Wednesday 25 May – Woodpecker
Wednesday 15 June - Goldfinch

Each assembly will be held first thing in the morning, just after drop-off.

For those of you with children in Reception, we are planning to start our Stay and Play sessions shortly.

Volunteers in School

Before the pandemic, our bank of parent (and other family members) volunteers played a vital role in supporting learning in school.

Our volunteers particularly supported with hearing children read and looking after our libraries. However, you would be very welcome to support us in other ways too.

We'd like to start building up our volunteers again at both Littlehaven and Northolmes. If you could spare us some time on a relatively regular basis we'd love to hear from you.

In the first instance please email the school offices to register your interest in volunteering

We will then be in contact to arrange some basic training and safeguarding information and finalise when and how you'll be able to support us.

SATS volunteers

Our Year 6 children are due to sit their SATS tests during the week commencing 9th May. We are in need of some support to help administer these tests from adults who are willing to sit with a child and read the tests to them or to be in the room as an invigilator. The SATS tests take place each morning during this week. If you would be able to support during this week, please email Mrs Saunderson – ksaunderson@northolmesjunior.school.



Curriculum News - Years 3/4

Last week, lower school took part in a Roman experience day where they got to learn about what life was like being a Roman.

Throughout the topic they have enjoyed various exciting points, for example Eat like a Roman, Build like a Roman and Cook like a Roman, where they have sampled Roman menus, built working aqueducts and made Roman bread using an outside oven.

During the Roman day, our expert taught the children more about Roman life through story telling including how to behave like a Roman soldier.

All these immersive experiences have enabled the child to gain a full understanding of what life was like during the Roman Era.



Support for Families

The current increases on the price of food, energy and fuel are putting an additional strain on family finances. We wanted to remind you that Jack & Jill run a community food cupboard and are able to support families with weekly food parcels either as a one off or over a longer period of time. If you need to access this support please speak in confidence to myself, Mrs Saunderson or Miss Woodland.

West Sussex have also asked us to remind families about their community hub:

The hub aims to support families who are struggling financially or are in need of practical assistance with any of the elements of the Household Support Fund,

The Community Hub can help with food, fuel support, clothing, emergency supplies and much more.

The Community is able to support families whose children do not qualify for means tested free school meals.

The Community Hub can be contacted on 0330 222 7980 and is open 08:00 – 20:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00 – 17:00 weekends and bank holidays. Further information can be found via the West Sussex County Council website: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/support-continues-to-be-available-for-west-sussex-families-in-need/>

Positive Mental Health and Emotional Well-being at Greenfields Federation



School Safeguarding Team

If you are worried about something that your own, or another child has told you, or you think that they may be at risk of harm, please contact our Designated Safeguarding team:

Mrs Anderson
(Lead)

Mrs Saunderson
(Deputy)

Miss Woodland
(Deputy)

Mrs Geoghegan
(Deputy)

At Greenfields Federation, we continue to place the children's mental health and emotional well-being at the heart of everything we do.

We recognise that there may be times when different children are particularly affected by their mental health and well-being, and we are lucky to have an amazing team of staff ready to support our children at these times.

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Rayner, who is our fabulous Learning Mentor at Littlehaven, is now about to finish her ELSA training and so will be supporting the children in her new role as ELSA. ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and the role, although similar to the role of Learning Mentor, provides a more structured and targeted approach to the support the children receive. The focus of her work remains on emotional skills such as resilience, recognising feelings and self-regulation and social skills such as interacting with other children, initiating play and sharing. These

are skills that will support the children throughout their lives.

At Northolmes, the fantastic Mrs Barnes has decided to take a step back from her role as Learning Mentor and focus on supporting the teachers in the classroom. We are very fortunate that Mrs Miller is instead going to take on this role, and will also be starting the ELSA course in September.

The impact of the Learning Mentor and ELSA role on the children is extremely significant and the children love attending these sessions as they see it as their special time with an adult who wants to help them.

If we feel your child would benefit from one of these sessions, we will always contact you to ask for your consent first.

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Saunderson and Miss Woodland's doors are always open so please do come and have chat with us if you feel your child is struggling so that we can work with you to put the appropriate support in place.

INSET days 2022-23

It may seem a long way away but we are aware that many of you need to book your leave from work a long way in advance. We can therefore confirm that the INSET days for the next academic year will be:

Thursday 1st September 2022

Friday 2nd September 2022

Monday 31st October 2022

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Monday 5th June 2023

Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS

Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

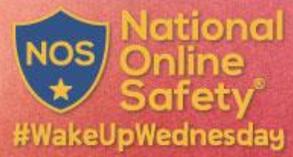
If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



Reminders

Please be on time every day

School starts at 8.50am at Northolmes and at 9.00am at Littlehaven. Please ensure that you arrive during the 10 minute drop-off period as being late disrupts the learning for your child. Being just 5 minutes late each day adds up to the equivalent of a missed school day every term.

Uniform

Please work with us to ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. Hoodies, trainers and boots are not part of our uniform at either school.

Contact Details

If you have recently changed your phone number or have moved house please let the school office know so that we can keep our records up to date in case we need them in an emergency.

Holidays / Time Off in Term Time

I am not able to authorise holidays or days off during school time except in very exceptional circumstances. Please note that holidays re-arranged because of COVID is not an exceptional circumstance. Children have had significant disruption to their education over the past two years and it is therefore even more vital than ever that they attend school every day. Please remember that if a child has 10 or more unauthorised sessions (five days) of absence in a 10 week period then there will be a referral for a Fixed Penalty Notice. Further information about absences from school can be found at: [School absences - West Sussex County Council](#)



Littlehaven Infant School
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Key Dates

6 th April	Robin class assembly
7 th April	Edison class assembly
8 th April	Last Day of Term for Easter holidays
25 th April	Term Starts
5 th May	Faraday class assembly
9 th – 12 th May	Year 6 SATS week
19 th May	Curie class assembly
25 th May	Woodpecker class assembly
30 th May – 3 rd June	Half Term
6 th June	INSET day
15 th June	Goldfinch Class assembly
23 rd June	Galileo class assembly
30 th June	Brunel class assembly
7 July	Darwin class assembly
21 st July	Term ends
Thursday 1 st September	INSET day
Friday 2 nd September	INSET day
Monday 5 th September	Term Starts



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