

February 2023

NEWSLETTER



Greenfields Federation Newsletter

Littlehaven Infant and Northolmes Junior Schools



Headteacher's Update

Isn't it lovely to see the first signs of Spring around school. Hopefully, the warmer days will follow soon and we'll be able to start making full use of our outside areas again.

At Northolmes, we had our Ofsted visit just before half term. I hope to be able to share the report with you soon but I am currently still waiting for this to come back to us. The children did us proud during the visit and talked confidently to the inspectors about their work and what it is like to come to the school.

Thank you for your continued support with regards to the strike action being taken by members of the NEU. Striking is never an easy decision for staff to take and everyone would much rather be in class doing the job that they love. At the moment there are two more strike dates planned – Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. I will write further once I know which classes will be affected on these dates.

It has been a very busy month for sporting activities. There is a round-up of sporting news later in the newsletter. Most sporting events are specifically for KS2 children but following the success of the KS1 New Age Kurling event last month, we have signed up to attend a KS1 Badminton festival soon.

Miss Woodland is continuing to focus on supporting families' mental health and wellbeing. She is hoping to arrange more webinars and sessions with Andrew Wright for later this year to build on the work that he has already done with us.

Finally, it was lovely to see so many of you in school for this term's Parents Consultation meetings. If you were unable to attend, please do make contact with your child's teacher to arrange for a time to speak with them.

Overview

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- Bikes & Scooters
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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 Saunderson (Lead)

Miss Woodland (Deputy)

Mrs Geoghegan (Deputy)

School Uniform – Footwear & Hoodies

There are still children who are not in the correct footwear. This has included a lovely array of ankle boots and trainers.

Please remember that only black shoes should be worn to school. Girls in particular should not be sent to school in black ankle boots - they may be sold as school shoes but they are not part of our school uniform. Likewise, trainers should be saved for PE kits. Of course, there will always be those 'emergency' days when school shoes have got wet, broken or left somewhere they shouldn't. If your child needs to wear an alternative pair of shoes, in these circumstances then please let their class teacher know.

For Northolmes parents, a reminder that school jumpers or cardigans should still be worn on PE days. Hoodies or other jumpers are not part of our uniform. Also, PE bottoms should be plain navy or black in colour.

Please remember that the PTA do have a good supply of secondhand uniform and they can be contacted via the Classlist app.

Parking

We are very fortunate to have a lot of places to park around both schools. However, they are residential roads and our neighbours, quite rightly, get upset and annoyed by inconsiderate parking. We had to have a conversation with a very upset Littlehaven neighbour this week because of the way people were parking which was forcing other drivers to mount the pavement to get past.

Please can you be mindful when you are parking that you are not blocking driveways, parking on the grass verges, stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines or parking on junctions. In addition please do not park in the drop-off zone outside Northolmes (the verge side of the road parallel to the school field) as it makes it unsafe for children to get out of the cars and onto the pavements.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe on their journey to school.

Holidays and Absence

Attendance at school is really important. I am only able to authorise absence for 'exceptional circumstances'. It is school policy to refer all unauthorised absences of more than 10 sessions for a fixed penalty notice (FPN) or fine. Please keep holidays and other events to the school holidays. School needs to be informed of all planned absences from school (medical, family reasons or holidays) at least a week before they occur. A Request for Absence form is available from the school office.

We are aware that there is a lot of coughs, colds, sickness and diarrhoea doing the rounds at the moment. If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, then they need to remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode. Otherwise, your child should return to school once they are well enough to do so.

Cost of Living Support

West Sussex County Council have launched a website to try to support households with the rising costs of living. For support and advice please visit their website - <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/cost-of-living>

Please see the flyer below for information about drop in clinics.

Bikes & Scooters on the Playground

Bikes and scooters are not permitted to be ridden on either school playground and this extends to younger siblings. This is just to help prevent any accidents or injuries. At Littlehaven, all bikes and scooters should be parked in the stands before entering the playground. At Northolmes, bikes and scooters should be dismantled and pushed while on the playground.

Support for Mental Health Concerns

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and would like some support or advice then there are a number of ways to access this.

Young Minds offer a parent helpline and webchat: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline-and-webchat/#ParentsHelpline>

Alternatively, you can make a referral via the West Sussex Single Point of Access who will make contact with you to offer support: <https://www.sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/our-services/service-finder/west-sussex-single-point-advice-spoa>

Fostering Information Event

Tanbridge House School is hosting an event on Thursday 9 March to support the Horsham Community and raise awareness of foster care; an issue which was highlighted for many through the latest John Lewis Christmas Advert at the end of 2022.

Every child deserves to have a safe and loving home, where they can experience all that life has to offer; where they can learn, develop independence, and fulfil their potential. You may not be aware that there is an urgent need for more foster carers in Horsham and whilst children are all in safe accommodation, a number are living a significant distance from their school and friends.

The Fostering Information Evening is a chance to find out what being a foster carer entails and how you can get involved. There will be a presentation from the dedicated Fostering Recruitment Team and talks from local foster carers to give an insight into the day-to-day realities of fostering. In return, foster carers for WSCC receive comprehensive training, ongoing professional support and a competitive financial package of up to £28,500 a year (per child). For a flavour of the impact you could have on a young person's life, watch this [video](#) from foster carer, James. Or for more information, please visit the [WSCC Fostering website](#).

To find out more, with no obligation, please come along. Tickets can be booked at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fostering-withwest-sussex-county-council-horsham-info-session-registration-420176548367>. We look forward to welcoming you to **Tanbridge House School** on **Thursday 9 March** from **6-7.30pm**.

Safeguarding – Online Gaming

For those of you who have children who regularly access games online, the following article may be of interest:

"The rise of video games as the preferred medium for children and young people to blow off steam, has been going on for over three decades now. Ever since the launch of the affordable computer, and the gaming console children and young people having been hooked. And with every evolution, it is only a matter of time before the price of novel gaming technologies drops to the level that it becomes ubiquitous. When that occurs it doesn't take long for it to filter into the common youth culture, creating terms of reference that are difficult for the lay person to decipher. The White Hatter has recently published an article which seeks to clear up some of the confusion presented by such popular phenomena. To read more follow the link below:"

<https://thewhitehatter.ca/online-gaming/>

Sporting Events

Here is a flavour of some of the sporting events that children have attended over the last few weeks. We have been part of Dodgeball, Football, Swimming, Tag Rugby, Muddy Run, Table Tennis and Netball events.

On every occasion the children have shown great team work and resilience.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

9 th March	World Book Day celebrations
13 th March	School Photos (Littlehaven children)
15 th & 16 th March	NEU Strike Action Dates (closures to be confirmed)
17 th March	Red Nose Day
17 th March	Peacock Class Stay & Play session for parents
22 nd March	Faraday Class Assembly
22 nd March	Year 5/6 Cinema visit
22 nd March	Year 2 Violin demonstration to parents
23 rd March	Robin Class Assembly
29 th March	Galileo Class Assembly
31 st March	Last day of Spring term
17 th April	First day of Summer term



Littlehaven Infant School 01403 260608
office@littlehaveninfant.school



Northolmes Junior School 01403 261822
office@northolmesjunior.school

Umbrellas

Parent Support Group

Spring Term 2023

Would you like to connect with other local parent carers?

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex, please join us at one of our local support groups or from the comfort of your own home.



Umbrellas Online

Thursdays via Zoom

12th January	10 am - 11.30 am
19th January	7.30 pm - 9 pm
26th January	10 am - 11.30 am
2nd February	7.30 pm - 9 pm
9th February	10 am - 11.30 am
23rd February	7.30 pm - 9 pm
2nd March	10 am - 11.30 am
9th March	7.30 pm - 9 pm
16th March	10 am - 11.30 am
23rd March	7.30 pm - 9 pm
30th March	10 am - 11.30 am

If you would like more information about our Umbrellas Support Group or would like the link to join Umbrellas online, please contact Hannah Delmar-Addy:

Email: hannah@reachingfamilies.org.uk
Telephone: 07951 794734

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)

11th January / 1st February / 8th March

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Durrington Community Centre

17th January / 7th February / 14th March

Billingshurst Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Billingshurst Community Centre

18th January / 22nd February / 22nd March

Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

The Cherry Tree Centre

24th January / 28th February / 28th March



**Reaching
Families**

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1150906 Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8261096

Cost of Living Drop-in Sessions

**Swan Walk Shopping Centre
Horsham**

**Wednesday 15 March
10am - 4pm**

**NO
APPOINTMENT
NEEDED**

**FREE
REFRESHMENTS**

Pop in to talk to a friendly advisor about help with:

- Money/Debt
- Food
- Heating
- Mental health
- Employment
- Family support



For more information please call **01403 215100**
or visit **[www.horsham.gov.uk/community/
community-drop-in-sessions](http://www.horsham.gov.uk/community/community-drop-in-sessions)**



**Horsham
District
Council**

Training

Spring Term 2023

(2nd half-term)

Reaching Families offer a range of free training courses and workshops to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex



Training Courses and Workshops

February

Understanding ADHD	Friday 24th	10.30am
Making Sense of Wellbeing - Understanding and building resilience	Tuesday 28th	7.30pm

March

Understanding Autism in Girls	Thursday 2nd	10.30am
Understanding Sensory Processing Difficulties	Tuesday 7th	10.30am
Making Sense of Wellbeing - Key skills to improving communication	Tuesday 7th	7.30pm
Making Sense of EHC Needs Assessments and Plans	Thursday 9th	10.30am
Making Sense of Anxiety in Children (Primary age)	Tuesday 14th	10.30am
Making Sense of Universal Credit	Thursday 16th	10.30am
Making Sense of Challenging Behaviour in Adolescence	Monday 20th	7.30pm
Making Sense of Sleep (for children age 2-11 years)	Tuesday 21st	10.30am
Making Sense of Wellbeing - How to improve your mood	Tuesday 21st	7.30pm
Making Sense of Transition to Secondary School	Wednesday 29th	7.30pm
Making Sense of Personal Independence Payments (PIP)	Thursday 30th	7.30pm

Making Sense of it All Foundation Course

An introduction to SEND and the key issues parents and carers will encounter as their children grow and develop.

Dates: March 8th / 15th / 22nd (3 part course)

Wednesdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm

All training will be delivered via Zoom



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge, for more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

<https://reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com>



**Reaching
Families**

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

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