



# Wallands Community Primary School

## Monthly Newsletter

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019



#### Message from Mrs Collis

Once again it is the end of a busy term, one, which has seen a new look to our infant playground, with a new surface and the exciting climbing frame going up. The safety surface and playground markings will be completed over the Easter break.

Children have been busy with a whole range of opportunities this term, including exciting learning about Romans, castles, Naughty Bus adventures, the Stone Age and Survival. Children have been on a range of trips, involved in bikeability and Forest School. We have had some fantastic class sharing assemblies over the term, a range of sporting events and some exciting activities including World Book Week and Red Nose Day. You can read more about all these events below.

Today we have an INSET which will focus on Safeguarding updates and practice, led by the East Sussex Safeguarding team. All staff will also have a session focusing on The Thrive Approach; this is a way of working with children that supports optimal social and emotional development, which will be led by Julie Mortimer and Vicky Ransom, the Student Support Adviser from Priory.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we hope you have a good Easter break.

#### Staffing Update

Alex Hunt, left Wallands at the end of March. Alex had worked on the finances of the school since September 2017. We will miss her greatly and wish her luck in the future.

Following a competitive interview process last week, I am pleased to announce that Emma Mann was successfully appointed to the role of Language Facility Leader. Emma has been working in the school since the beginning of this term, and we delighted she has now become a permanent member of staff.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Bennett-Tomlin, who is expecting her second baby. She will be leaving to go on maternity leave in September.

#### Attendance update

Wallands is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and we expect children's attendance to be at least **96%** - this is in line with government and East Sussex expectations too. We expect children to be at school by the time the bell rings at 8.50a.m. to ensure they are in class by 8.55a.m. to start their learning. Currently, we remain below 96% and this was highlighted in our recent Ofsted report; therefore, we need your continuing support to ensure we hit this important mark.

Thank you so much to those families who have been working hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high. There is a link between attendance and achievement and therefore it is very important that your child attends school every day unless there are exceptional circumstances.

#### Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

#### What does 90% attendance mean?

**90% attendance = 1/2 school day missed every week!** One school year at 90% attendance = 4 weeks of learning missed! Over 5 school years of school = 1/2 school year missed! All children and young people nationally whose school attendance is **90% or below** are considered '**Persistent Absentees**'.

## Governors - Noah Curthoys, Chair of Governors

At our recent Board meeting, we talked about the recent Ofsted report and how the school is focusing on the issues raised. We also had a first look at the school budget for next year. Our next meeting will be after Easter to approve the final budget, resources remain stretched but we are maintaining a tight control and looking at how we can target funds over the coming year to further support our children.

Maria Caulfield, MP, was invited to visit Wallands by a group of our parents who are involved in the local funding cuts campaign. She came for a tour of the school, and met with Debbie Collis, and our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors.

Maria was very impressed with the positive attitude to learning of the children in the classrooms that she visited. The meeting discussed the impact of reduced funding on Wallands, raised issues about capital funding needs at Wallands and about the need to support our SEND children.

We also discussed the many positives about our school and she commented on our inclusive nature and our school values. Maria is continuing to seek fairer funding for the schools in her constituency, explore local options for capital funding for Wallands, and has also committed to setting up a meeting between Damian Hinds, Education Secretary, and the Lewes Headteachers in the near future to discuss pressing funding needs. She is open to returning to the school to answer questions from parents and children.

## School Funding

Last Friday there was a good turnout of parents/carers to unveil the school banner, which is now in place on the Nevill Gate. Thanks to parents for organising and coordinating this.



## Nursery News – Sarah Haskoll, Nursery Teacher



What a busy term it has been in the Nursery. We started the term with a Naughty bus story and the naughty bus who got up to all sorts of adventures and have recently been learning about growing and changing things. Have you met the tadpoles yet?

We had great fun last weekend at our 'Nursery Dig Day'. A big thank you to everyone who was able to come along. What an amazing job and what a lot we got done! Watch out for how you can help us next term with more growing and planting.

## Reception and KS1 News - Kim Hart, Foundation Stage and KS1 Leader

### Reception

This term the children have been learning about transport. The book called The Naughty Bus was our starting point. They enjoyed following the adventures of the bus, making their own buses and constructing role-play areas both inside and out of the classroom.

Taking ownership of their learning is a very important part of the EYFS curriculum. The children were interested in trains (especially bullet trains!) We used this enthusiasm to explore different types of trains, railway safety and even looked at ways of constructing bridges.



### Year 1



Year 1 have had a very busy month! As part of their castle topic, they visited Lewes castle. They had fun exploring the castle, trying different activities and finding out about a variety of artefacts. They enjoyed dressing up and learnt a lot from their experience.

In English, they have been reading the story of St George and the Dragon. Each child made and performed a puppet show to re-tell the story. They wrote letters, newspaper reports, created a wanted poster for the dragon and finished by writing up the story.

In art, they have been looking at the artist Paul Klee and using his work to develop their drawing techniques. In particular "a line is a dot that you take for a walk" and have been working towards creating our own version of his famous piece 'The castle and the Sun'.



## Year 2

What an exciting time we have had in Year 2! Our topic this term is 'Totally Wild!' (animals and their habitats) and we were very fortunate to receive a 90 minute Forest School session from Wood Kids, a not-for-profit community Forest School and nature connection club. We absolutely loved our sessions! We explored the school grounds, tuning into the nature and looking for signs of life, we investigated animal skulls to see what we could learn and if we could identify what kind of animals they once belonged to, we made our very own animal creations from clay and natural materials, and we learned how to create sparks from fire steels. "It was incredible!" says Cleo, 2SW. A huge thank you to all the adults who helped us with our learning.



Wood Kids also donated some resources for the school to create some large scale animal sculptures. The animal structures were made from willow by two very talented parents and we all worked together to cover the animals in tissue paper, looking closely at their real life counter parts. Thank you to all the adults who gave up their time to come in and help us.

Lastly, we were inspired by our forest school and sculptures and decided to go out and create some 'land art' sculptures using natural materials, in the style of Andy Goldsworthy.



## KS2 News – Fiona Large, KS2 Leader

**Year 3** have been learning about Viking invaders this term. The children have really enjoyed this topic and have also loved the Norse story Arthur and the Golden Rope. Their fabulous homework, which includes some amazing model boats and houses is on display in the entrance hall.

**Year 4** have completed their topic on the Romans which they have loved. The topic ended with a visit to Fishbourne Roman villa and a Roman Day in school. The children have made some amazing shields and these were used for learning about shield formations in Roman battles. The children also prepared food for a Roman feast and made their own Roman sandals!

**Year 5** have been learning about Ancient Greece and have written some great Greek myths. Last week they were writing and recording news reports about the Battle of Marathon. Their impressive artwork is on display in the school entrance hall.

They also recently took part in an art project called 'Draw Me In'. An artist from the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne came into school for a morning to work with all of Year 5 and Mrs Mann's Language Unit class. The work was inspired by a piece called 'Totem' and the children created a brilliant, collaborative piece by doing a continuous draw for 2 hours! Groups of children came to the hall to work on a huge piece of paper, making marks with graphite sticks and pencils, and the aim was that the drawing never stopped, even at playtime! The final piece looks fantastic and the children gave it the title of 'The Never-Ending Walk'. It will be exhibited in the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne from 5th April until the 2nd June. Thank you to the parent volunteers who came in to support this wonderful art morning.

On Thursday 28th March, we carried out a whole morning of science experiments. The children were able to see the rockets that they had made be blasted into the air (eventually). The children were also able to see what happens when an ice cube melts into a full cup of water, how to separate a variety of different materials and try to bend a straw using water. Working in groups, everyone also experimented with making electricity and bending water using balloons. Finally, everybody was able to blow balloons up using either vinegar and baking powder or lemon juice and baking powder and seeing if the changes that occurred were reversible or irreversible. Thank you once again to the parent volunteers that came in to lend a hand and make the morning such a success.

**Year 6** have completed their topic on survival. Through the novel, 'The Explorer' by Catherine Rundell, they have been learning about survival in the Amazon rainforest. They have also learned about the Titanic and about Ernest Shackleton. Some of their super writing and artwork is on display in the entrance hall as well as outside the year 6 classrooms.



## Bikeability – Year 5

33 children from Year 5 took part in 'Bikeability' last week. Specialist cycling instructors came in to teach them all about cycling safely. The first day was spent on the playground practising manoeuvres, and then the following 4 days were spent on the roads around the school putting all they had learnt into practise. The children were amazing. Mike and Sarah, the instructors, commented on how well they listened to and followed all the instructions, how polite they were and how much fun they had! It was a great experience for everyone involved and we look forward doing a similar course next year for those children who were not quite ready to go out on the roads and for the current year 4s. Thank you to all involved!

## English Update – Ella Mynott and Sally Walters, English Leaders World Book Week



At the beginning of the month, we celebrated our love of stories in World Book Week – and what a week it was! We began with a whole school story writing morning, writing stories for the BBC's 500 word competition. The BBC judges will be in touch with those who entered, in April, to let you know if your story made it through the first round of judging!

Things started getting very interesting around the school when book characters began appearing... in vegetable form! We had many fabulous and very creative entries in our 'potato characters' and 'story in a jar' competitions, and the children loved seeing them and working out the characters and stories.



We were very lucky to have Matt Carr, author of 'Spyder', 'Superbat' and 'Rocketmole', speak to us about his books and characters, and about being an author. He also made us laugh...a lot! During the week we also partnered up our classes, with older and younger children sharing stories and reading together. We also designed alternative book covers for our favourite books and on Friday we transformed into some of our most beloved book characters. A big thank you to parents for all your support with the events of the week, it was a huge success!

## **Comic Relief Update – Julie Mortimer**

Raising funds for charities is a fundamental part of our values, enriching the children's understanding of kindness and how we can all help in the wider community. The children were amazing throughout our week of fundraising for Comic Relief. Everyone participated in the mammoth Danceathon (working together to dance for a total of 6935 minutes). Hopefully this will be recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records but we are still waiting to hear. The red noses sold out; the cake sale was a triumph and the children thoroughly enjoyed wearing something red! Altogether we raised £701.91. Thank you so much for all your support in aid of this good cause.

## **SEN Update – Julie Mortimer – SENCo**

### **East Sussex Inclusion Mark**

Over the last couple of terms we have been involved in a whole school audit of our 'Inclusion' practice and in March successfully submitted our evidence for the East Sussex Quality Mark. Work will continue in school to uphold this, and ensure we are supporting all our children and their needs.

We are also developing more support for our children's emotional health and wellbeing. This is crucial in helping children to manage their anxiety, an increasingly important issue in society as a whole. This will be embedded within our new PSHE curriculum, as well as interventions to support pupils in times of need. More information will follow as different projects take off.

## **PE Update: Kylie Gibney – PE Leader, Ben Burgess – Sports Coach**

### **Netball Hi 5**

The Hi 5 Netball Festival took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Mrs McConalogue and Miss Emery took 2 mixed teams (years 5/6) to represent Wallands. Both teams worked hard throughout and competed in 8 matches; playing in all positions. This meant that the children had to demonstrate different skill sets during each match, giving them an opportunity to hone their skills. Both adults were extremely proud of the children and their sportsmanship throughout. Wallands 1 finished the tournament in joint first, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> on goal difference and Wallands 2 finished 6<sup>th</sup> - well done to all involved!

### **Cross Country Finals**

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, four children represented Wallands and South East Sussex in the School Games Sussex Cross Country Finals. This event was held at Waterhall (Brighton) and the children raced as part of the boys or girls race. Representing the boys were: Theo (6KG), Isaac (6JC) and Jacob (5OP) and representing the girls: Esme (6JC). Conditions were far from ideal as blustering winds swept across the course but this didn't hamper our runners during their 2k run. The competition was fierce and over 150 children ran in each race. Our final positions were as follows: Theo (61), Isaac (23), Jacob (108), Esme (2). We are both extremely proud of the runners.

### **Football League**

For 3 consecutive Thursdays in March, sixteen year 6 children took part in the Primary School Football league held at the 3G pitch in Lewes. The sixteen children were split into two teams of eight and competed in matches against a number of other local schools. The league was played in a round-robin format with each team playing each other once over the course of the three weeks. After playing 10 matches in total, our two teams finished joint 4<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that, throughout this event, the behaviour and sportsmanship was exemplary, and the children displayed an impressive show of resilience. This was especially evident when our two teams played against each other. We are incredibly proud of all those involved and are keen to keep the sporting flame alive! We would also like to thank the parents who attended over the course of the tournament to support us all.

## Sports Star of the Term

We are delighted to announce that our third recipient of the Sports Star of the term award has been presented to Josiah (4EM). Josiah has talked positively during his P.E. lessons, has built on his skill set and is always ready to learn and achieve. Even though he did not take part himself, Josiah also enthusiastically supported, for 3 weeks, at the Football league matches, made positive comments to other children and is consistently polite to all adults in our school- an excellent role model. Well done Josiah!

## Judo Championships

Joss in Year 6 represented Wallands School at the British Schools Judo Championships. It was a very tough event and as one of the youngest and lowest graded players, Jocelyn knew it would be a difficult day. Despite this, she showed real resilience and fought very well. She was unlucky to come up against the eventual bronze medalist in her first fight but she looked strong and very nearly took the win. She went on to fight well in her next matches but wasn't able to progress beyond the pool stages. However, Jocelyn will no doubt be looking to fight again next year and will have the benefit of being older and more experienced at that point.



## Random Acts of Kindness Update

Children from RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) Club have been involved in a 'RAK bombing' project with the intention of spreading kindness throughout the community! These children have dedicated their lunch breaks to attending RAK club, where they have shared ideas about kindness and come up with ideas for kindness projects. One of these projects involved making 100 origami butterflies decorated with messages of kindness.

After hearing about our project, the station manager at Lewes Train Station was keen to get involved, and offered for us to display them at the station, where passers-by would be able to read them and/or take one on their journey.

RAK club is made up of children from 7-11 years old from the school, and these children have shown considerable dedication and commitment to the project. Over the years, RAK club have carried out many kind acts, including handing out kind notes at school, making posters, running competitions, carrying out random kind acts at home and in their community, visiting another school to spread their message, giving to charity, and handing out origami tulips in Cliffe High Street. They are determined to share the message that KINDNESS SPREADS, and that one small kind act can go a long way.



## Friends of Wallands, Christy Peters and Emma Hodgson, Co-Chairs of FoW

It has been a productive few weeks for Friends of Wallands. Firstly, the jumble sale earlier in the month was a huge success. Thanks to all those who donated jumble, made cakes and helped on the day. It raised an impressive £756 and was a really fun afternoon.

Also, thanks to everyone who came to our first ever Mum's Night at St. Mary's on Friday night. It was a fab pizza and music filled evening and was really well attended. It was great to get together for a few drinks and chats, and to raise a bit of cash for FoW. We are still counting up the pennies so please watch this space for the total amount raised.

Finally, please save the date: The Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June! We will be putting together a committee to help organize the fair shortly. This is a great opportunity to get involved with Friends of Wallands so please do volunteer to be on the committee if you have a little time to spare. No experience needed, just a passion for cake stalls, filled jam jars and splat the rat!

### Calling all artists...Secret Art Sale 'Small Wonders' and 'Modern Life'

Wallands is working in partnership with Priory School to hold a 'Secret Art Sale' this summer, where local artists will produce an A5 or postcard size piece of art which will be auctioned online to the highest bidder. The artwork will be unsigned (signed on the reverse) – so that buyers buy the art that they like, and discover who it is by once they have bought it! A private view / exhibition will take place so that everyone can see the artwork before they bid on it. We will be promoting the sale across Lewes and beyond. We are asking local/regional/national artists (and/or celebrities) to produce a piece of art to donate to this exciting creative fundraiser by May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are an aspiring or professional artist, or know an illustrator/print maker/designer/potter/sculptor/jeweller/celebrity who would be happy to contribute artwork please email [haquilina@wallandscp.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:haquilina@wallandscp.e-sussex.sch.uk) for details. The more artwork we can gather, the more 'names' that we can add to our exhibitors list, the more funds we can raise for our schools! We will also be inviting children to produce artwork for the exhibition after Easter, so that some of their work can be included in the exhibition and sale alongside that of the professional artists.

### Lewes STEM Fair

The Lewes STEM Fair is a celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) aims to inspire the next generation to build careers in STEM disciplines and promoting local STEM activities to a wide audience. In 2019 we will have activities from the University of Sussex, the South Downs National Park Authority, the East Sussex Reptile and Amphibian Society, Ovesco, the Observatory Science Centre, Plastic Free Lewes, the University of Brighton, and the Institution of Engineering and Technology. The 2019 Lewes STEM Fair will be held in Lewes Town Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April and will be open 12-3pm. Please encourage children and families at your school to attend the Fair, entry is FREE.

## Dates for your Diary

### SPRING TERM 2019

<b>April 2019</b>		
Friday	5	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED - End of Term 4
Monday	8 – 22	School Holidays (16 <sup>th</sup> April - Primary School National Allocation Day)

### SUMMER TERM 2019

<b>April 2019</b>		
Tuesday	23	Start of Term 5
Tuesday	23	No Violin/Orchestra
Wednesday	24	Year 4DG Trip
Wednesday	24	Y2 SATS Meeting – School Hall (9am)
Friday	29	Y5/6 Patina - Dream Team 5-a-side football competition – 4:30-7:30pm
<b>May 2019</b>		
Thursday	2	Year 2 SW Sharing Assembly
Monday	13	KS2 SATS WEEK
Thursday	16	School Census – All children encouraged to try a school dinner!
Thursday	16	Y4EM Trip
Monday	20	Patina - Artist presentation in school – School Hall (9:15am)
Friday	24	End of Term 5
Monday	27-31	School Holiday
<b>June 2019</b>		
Monday	3	Start of term 6
Monday	3 - 7	Year 6 Residential Visit
Saturday	15	FoW Summer Fayre
Monday	17	Patina costume making starts
Tuesday	18	Priory Secondary School Induction Day – Year 6 to 7 September
Wednesday	19	Priory – New Parents Sept 2019 Workshop
Thursday	27	Year 4 DG Class Sharing Assembly
<b>July 2019</b>		
Wednesday	3	KS1 Sports Day (PM)
Thursday	4	Backup KS1 Sports Day (PM)
Thursday	4	New Reception Parents Evening (4-6pm)
Friday	5	Patina Parade
Saturday	5	Patina Moving On Parade Exhibition
Monday	8	Music Summer School Starts for Y3 and above
Monday	8	KS2 Sports Day (AM)
Monday - Friday	8 - 12	Peacehaven Community School Transition week for Year 6 to 7 September
Monday and Tuesday	8/9	Chailey Secondary School Induction Days/Parents Evening
Tuesday	9	Backup KS2 Sports Day (AM)
Wednesday	10	New Reception Children – Stay & Play (1:30-2:30pm)
Friday	12	Nursery 'Pop-IN & Play@ (9:30am-10:30am)
Monday	15/16	Priory Secondary School - Meet Year 7 Tutors (4:30-6pm)
Wednesday	17	Nurse Family Picnic (2pm-3:15pm)
Friday	19	Year 6 End of Year Performance
Tuesday	23	End of Term 6

## Information

### WANT A DIFFERENT SUMMER?

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## 2018-2019 School Term and Holiday Dates

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Monday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Thursday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Friday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Saturday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Monday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Friday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Saturday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Sunday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25

Inset Days 2018 -2019	Bank and Public Holidays	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Christmas Day	Tuesday 25 December 2018
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Boxing Day	Wednesday 26 December 2018
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	New Year's Day	Tuesday 1 January 2019
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Good Friday	Friday 19 April 2019
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Easter Monday	Monday 22 April 2019
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May 2019
	Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 27 May 2019
	Summer Bank Holiday	Monday 26 August 2019

School Holidays 2018 - 2019	
October Break	Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October 2018
Christmas Break	Thursday 20 December 2018 to Wednesday 2 January 2019
February Break	Monday 18 February 2019 to Friday 22 February 2019
Easter Break	Monday 8 April 2019 to Monday 22 April 2019
May Break	Monday 27 May 2019 to Friday 31 May 2019
Summer Break	Wednesday 24 July 2019