



**WEST HOVE
INFANT SCHOOL**
.....
A family of friends

Hove Learning Federation School/Portland Road Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Families,

We've been excited to welcome the children back after the Christmas break, all ready for an exciting new term's learning and stunning starts. Saplings Forest Curriculum has fast become a favourite part of the reception children's week and it's easy to see why. If you would like to join the fun and volunteer in Saplings, please let your school office know.

This week, I popped into the Year 1 classrooms and was transported back in time and found a dragon's nest. Meanwhile, year 2 and 5 pupils are working together learning their 'Let's Dance' for The Dome and we were all so impressed by their teamwork this week.

Year 3 have been learning about recycling in their new topic and Year 4 couldn't wait to tell me about their new Viking myth. Year 5 are loving their new graphic novel and Year 6 are looking forward to evacuee day.

Please see your child's year group learning journey as an opportunity for you to find out about your child's new topics, and how you can support your child with their learning at home.
Have a wonderful weekend!

Collaboration Update

The federation will continue to work collaboratively with Brunswick Primary in the spring term, and staff have enjoyed the opportunities to work with them on school improvement. We have been working on several projects, including maths, focusing on increasing attainment and progress for all children with an emphasis on challenge at all levels. At the start of Term we shared a joint INSET with three workshops exploring the question: How do we ensure QFT for all educationally disadvantaged children so that attainment, progress, and challenge in maths are increased for all?



Looking Ahead: AI and Our Schools

We're excited to announce that we're working with Digital Resistance CIC to begin internal conversations about AI and what it means for our schools. This partnership will help us prepare for the future while keeping children's well-being and online safety at the heart of everything we do.

Saplings

During your child's Saplings sessions over the next few weeks, the children will be making blobsters out of clay and other natural resources. We are in need of some extra natural resources, such as, sticks, leaves, berries, flowers, bark & moss. If you are able to forage any of these over the weekend, please hand them in to your class teacher at the beginning of next week.

Physical development across the Federation

At the start of this academic year our Reception team set out their aim to further support children starting school with their physical development: building strength, fine and gross motor skills, flexibility and independence. Recent guidance suggests that children between the ages of 1-5 should have at least 180 minutes of movement a day and our Reception team wanted to ensure they get as many opportunities to be active as possible. Thinking about ways to encourage:

- participation
- repetition
- combined learning opportunities
- sparking or tempting activities, games and resources
- opportunities to experiment with movement

The Reception leads Ms Kemp-Harris and Miss Rogers created wish lists of equipment they needed to supplement their current outdoor spaces and provide the most robust zones for physical development. Overwhelming generosity from the parents, carers and family members within our school community alongside contributions from our PTAs have meant all items on these lists have been purchased. The targets for these initial playground zones have been met and we are seeing children go from strength to strength as they explore, investigate and thrive in these spaces.

Looking to the future, we will be working on developing further zones in our playgrounds on each site so that all children across the federation can grow through the power of play. Further details on the project will be shared in the new year.

Attendance at Hove Learning Federation

Attendance and Punctuality:

Good punctuality is an important life skill and arriving at school on time each day makes a real difference to children's learning.

Research consistently shows that good punctuality supports both academic success and overall wellbeing and that arriving at school on time each day makes a real difference to children's learning.

Our school gates are open from 8:40-8:50 at PR and HR (8.45-8.55 at SR) but bringing children for 8:40 (8:45 at SR) gives the best start to the day.

Those first ten minutes are designed to help pupils settle calmly, greet their friends, organise their belongings, and take part in important morning routines such as registration and early-start tasks.

When children arrive late, even by 5-10 minutes, they can miss the calm, structured start, and key explanations that help them feel settled and confident.

Over a year, arriving just 10 minutes late each day can add up to more than 30 hours of lost learning time. By arriving promptly at 8:40 (8:45 SR), children begin the day feeling ready, organised, and fully prepared to make the most of every learning and social opportunity.

In summary: good timekeeping isn't just about being "on time" — it helps children grow into confident, capable learners and sets them up for success in school and beyond.

By working together to support punctuality, we give every child the best possible start to their day. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Lateness

Arriving late to school is very unsettling for children, and frustrating for teachers who have to repeat instructions and help children to catch up. In terms of time in school lost it can have a considerable impact over the whole school year:

5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year
10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year
15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year
20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year

Uniform

Please see information on our uniform policy on our websites:

<https://www.westhoveinfants.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/> and <https://www.hovejuniorschool.co.uk/uniform>

Parking

We have been really proud of just how much improvement there has been regarding parking illegally outside the school over the last term. Thankyou for parking safely and respectfully for all our pupils and school community.

 **BARCLAYS**
GIRLS' FOOTBALL
IN SCHOOLS
 **BY ENGLAND FOOTBALL**

EQUAL
ACCESS
SCHOOL
2025



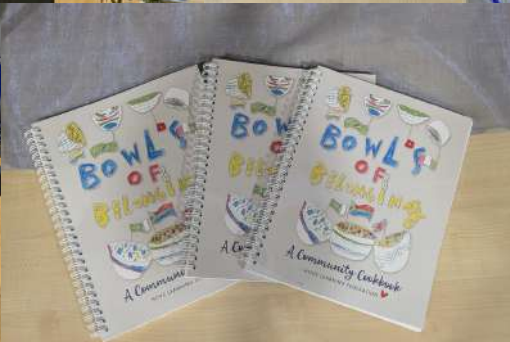
Bowls of Belonging



The Bowls of Belonging event was a wonderful celebration of community across the Hove Learning Federation. Families shared recipes for their favourite meals, which were brought together to create a community cookbook.

The project concluded with a cookbook launch event, where parents and carers came together to share their dishes and enjoy lots of delicious food. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate diversity and togetherness.

A huge thank you to all the families who contributed recipes, attended the event and supported the project. Special thanks to Miss Kemp-Harris for organising and leading this successful initiative.



Please continue to keep in contact with us – should you have any questions or concerns, contact us via the following:

West Hove Infant School
admin@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk
01273 733386

Hove Junior School
portlandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk
01273 916609

Hove Junior School Inclusion Team
inclusionteam@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk
01273 916609

Best wishes,
Maddie Southern



Maddie Southern
Executive Headteacher



Lorna Cummings
Co-Executive Headteacher



Niamh O'Shea
Head of School, School Road



Rachel Jeffers
Head of School, Portland Road

Diary Dates

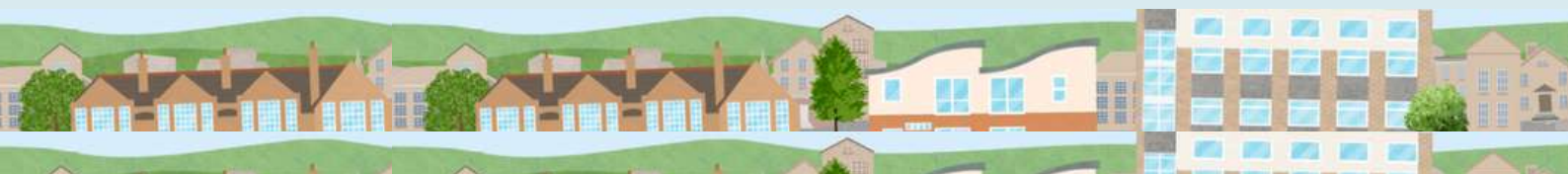
20th Jan - Y5 Science trip to Brighton Girls school

21st Jan - Y6 Evacuee Day

27th Jan - 6G & 6B Air Raid Shelter trip to Downs Junior school

28th Jan - 6Y & 6R Air Raid Shelter trip to Downs Junior school

13th Feb - Last day of Term





SMARTPHONE-FREE SCHOOL REMINDER

Effective from January

Dear Families,

A reminder that from the start of **January** our **Smartphone-Free School** policy will be in **permanent effect**.

If a Child Brings a Smartphone to School:



Device will be taken to the **School Office**



Office will contact the **Parent/Carer**



Parent/Carer will need to collect the device.



Our Staff Commitment:



No Smartphone Use Around Students



Phones **Off Desks** During Staff Training



Thank you for supporting our efforts to set a positive example for our children!

Madeline Southern

Executive Headteacher



Are you concerned about a child's mental health?



- Anxiety
- Low mood
- Difficulties regulating emotions
- Self esteem and confidence
- Sleep difficulties
- Fears and phobias
- Separation, loss and bereavement



Scan the QR code below to *refer* your concern to Hove Learning Federation's Child Mental Health Lead, Bridget Rennie. Link also available on our school website.



Bridget Rennie (Mental Health Lead) will contact you via email within 2 weeks of your referral.

NB: If you have an urgent concern about a child's mental health please call 03003040061 during office hours or 03005000101 outside of office hours.

Shifting Cultures: Brighton & Hove's Anti-Racist Education Strategy

INVITES YOU TO

GET INVOLVED WITH ANTI-RACIST EDUCATION
IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

We want to give parents a voice and listen to parents' views on their children's experiences in schools.

When: Monday, 26 January 2026
5.15pm - 6.45 pm

Where: Brighton Jubilee Library

All Black & Racially Minoritised parents/carers and parents of BRM children are welcome. We want to empower parents to help shape the future of anti-racist education in Brighton & Hove



**SHIFTING
CULTURES**


Brighton & Hove
City Council



Would you like to work or volunteer at our Federation?

Our wonderful Federation of schools, are currently looking for reading volunteers as well as paid exciting opportunities to boost your income. For reading volunteers we are keen to provide a volunteer reader to a year group in your child's school site, so they can get to know the children and provide additional support for fluency if you have a free afternoon or morning each week. Grandparents or other family members are also encouraged.

For our federation job roles these can be flexible and part time if you're wishing to add extra regular income - these might just be for you!

Vacancies at Holland Road/Portland/School Road

Breakfast club - these could be anything from 1-5 mornings a week 7.40am until 8.40am. You would be welcoming and supporting the children with breakfast and a relaxed start to the school day.

Midday Supervisor (MDSA) roles - This runs from (12-1pm at Holland Road and 12.20-1.20pm at Portland Road) daily and can be a combination of days that suits your needs. During this time you will be helping guide children to the lunch area and supporting them in play within the playgrounds.

School run Afterschool club - The clubs run from 3pm-6pm daily, working on days where the need is higher. During this time the children wind down from a busy day of learning and take part in crafts, play and a snack time. Joining our already strong teams will help maintain a safe and fun environment for our children.

Please get in touch with Emma Barrell via emmabarrell@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk for a full job description and application form.

If you wish to volunteer, please send interest to our front office staff at the following addresses:

Holland Road - hollandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk

School Road - admin@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Portland Road - portlandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk



Easter Holiday Netball Camp **Tuesday 7th-10th April '26** **10am-3pm @ Cardinal Newman**

BUILDING CONFIDENCE & IMPROVING PERFORMANCE:

- Engaging & fun drills that enhance an understanding of the rules of netball
 - Lots of game play to put learnt skills and techniques into practice

Led by Tracy Lewis (Hove Juniors netball coach & PE Teacher)

Meet and form new friendships with other netball enthusiasts!

- School Years 4-6
- Mixed Gender/Mixed Ability
- £30 per day - 4 day discount available



Book now to secure your place!!
www.sportlearning.co.uk
or use the QR code on the back of the flyer

Additional camp information & policies found
when booking at www.sportlearning.co.uk

Email:
tracy@sportlearning.co.uk

FRED THE SHED

Fred the Shed is a school community non profit sharing shed that can help with non perishing items to those who are finding it especially hard in the current climate.

Our aim is to help as many families in our school community as possible and it is run by volunteering parents and carers, the sharing shed completely relies on donations of non perishable items which can be dropped into either school reception areas.

OPEN every Friday
after school

along with Fred's free bakery
which comes from generous
volunteers from Olio

Fred the Shed is located in the juniors front playground just next to the main gates

If you don't feel comfortable with approaching the sharing shed, please email our anonymous email address fredshedschoolroad@gmail.com

and items can be requested and left in the school reception area.

If you'd like to support Fred the Shed with your time, contact fowhis@gmail.com
To keep Fred stocked, there are collection bins in both school receptions.



AFTER-SCHOOL SKATE CLUB

HOVE JUNIOR SCHOOL
PORTLAND ROAD

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
SKATE TUITION AND
GAMES

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

AND
VOUCHERS ACCEPTED


Ofsted
SkateboardGB



EVERY TUESDAY 3:20PM - 4:20PM
£128.50 FOR THE TERM (£12.85 PER SESSION)

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

Brand Vaughan
are proud to be
partnered with
West Hove Infant
School and Hove
Junior School.

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vaughan

Sell or let your property with Brand Vaughan and receive
20% off our standard selling or lettings fee.

Each time you sell or let your property through Brand
Vaughan, West Hove Junior School will receive **10%** of
the referred selling or letting fee.

Our partnership with West Hove Junior school, not only
benefits you, but also benefits your children's school.

**Speak to our team today, we offer free, no
obligation valuations.**

Use code **WESTHOVEBV20** to claim your
20% discount.



Sales

Jimmy Atkins
01273 22 11 02



Lettings

Jenna Miles
01273 22 11 01

SAMA HOVE **ST. ANDREW'S** **PRIMARY SCHOOL**



KIDS KARATE 4YRS+
MONDAY 5:20PM - 6:20PM

FAMILY KICKBOXING 6YRS+
MONDAY 6:30PM - 7:30PM
FIRST CLASS FREE!

WWW.SAMAGROUP.CO.UK

TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE PLEASE VISIT OUR SITE & CLICK 'JOIN A CLASS'
Please Note; After 2 x trial sessions a SAMA membership/insurance is required

 SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD

It's talk about phones

Judgment & self-awareness in a smartphone childhood

Come along to an open, non-

Where

When 202 Brighton Primary School

18:30-20:30 Lewes Road,
Dorset Road Brighton BN2 4PN

Reserve your seat by www.brightonprimaryschool.co.uk/parents



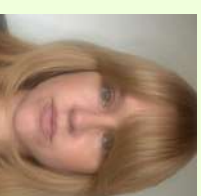
Our guest speakers include:

Mandy Marshall-Taylor - Panel Host



As a member of the Brighton Parent Forum, Mandy is a

Dr. Eleanor Mason



Eleanor brings unique insights into
the impact of smartphones on
children's mental health.

DCI Luke Kyriakides-Yeldham & DI



Child Abuse Team discuss
the dangers of mobile phones and

Drew Dower - Head of Schooling.



primary schools in the city. He will talk
Drew has also written a new policy
One to watch about the process and the

Jack Davies - Principal



BACCA Principal Jack Davies will have staff led.
joined by year 11 students

Smartphone Free Childhood is a partnership between Brighton Primary School and Brighton Parent Forum.

WEBSITE: WWW.SFCBRIGHTON.CO.UK
SOCIALS: @SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD