



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

## Hove Learning Federation Holland 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, 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**

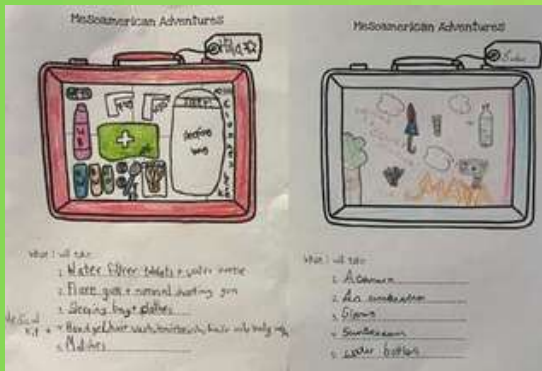
**EQUAL  
ACCESS  
SCHOOL  
2025**

YEAR 5

# STUNNING START

Our Friday started with a message from a famous American explorer, John Lloyd Stephens. He informed us that he built a time machine to go back to the time of the ancient Maya. These mysterious people lived many years ago and not much is known about them. He asked if we wanted to go with him... of course we agreed!

Before starting our journey, we had to know where we were going, so we used our geography skills to locate Central America on a map and then look more closely at the countries that make it up. We had then arrived! We ventured deeper into the forest and stumbled upon the Temple of Kukulcan. With its stone carvings and 91 steps to the top, we couldn't help but document our findings with some descriptive writing.





In the afternoon, we spent some time learning the Maya craft of weaving to make our own Oja de Dios, or God's Eyes, which are said to be symbolic of the power of seeing and understanding. Have a look at some of our amazing work!

Temple of Kukulcan - Chichén Itzá



The great story was told, ordinary and new under the sunlight. The corners of the birds being central built like purple shapes in the air. Through the swaying palm, a magical temple which was silent but powerful. The evening the golden sun shined so gently that even if you could it the only thing you could feel is the warmth of it. The smiling faces that the birds made seem to be asleep. The people could almost be temple like a snake. The birds would fly over like a garden and protect everyone. Rays of the sun shined at the ground like cracks on the soil. The sky glowed as the ceremony was about to begin. Friends and family chatted excitedly as the story was passed special. As late

Temple of Kukulcan - Chichén Itzá



The sun dipped behind the jungle, and then all you could hear was the birds, monkeys, in the wind gusting, the crickets, or the orange yellow fire and whispers being made to the gods. You could see the navy they stretching out with the opal twinkling dots dancing in the sky. Beetle cases fill your mouth and your already on your 4th bowl! Herbs, spices and other delicious foods are being absolutely devoured by you, and all the other villagers. After all that food, your getting quite sleepy, fall asleep and wait for the next adventure tomorrow.

by Penelope

Temple of Kukulcan - Chichén Itzá



This morning, I went to the temple and was met with the sight of a steaming sunrise blended as a mix of golden yellow, orange, cinnamon and a slight grey, faded by the clouds. As I went over to pay to the gods with the rest of the community, I embraced the comforting smell of herbs and spices burning as an offering to the mighty ones (gods). As minutes, seasons and years passed, we all waited, hoping for the sun to rise and create a harmonious way of colors being and look to us all. Life all started - started look...

The sun did NOT rise...

Made by: Ellie

Erin

Temple of Kukulcan - Chichén Itzá



I was about to take another step. I looked up and there it was... the mighty Temple of Kukulcan. The temple was so powerful you could see it for miles with its impenetrable glow as the choir of insects sang. The sun beamed like they were in the spotlight.

Temple of Kukulcan - Chichén Itzá



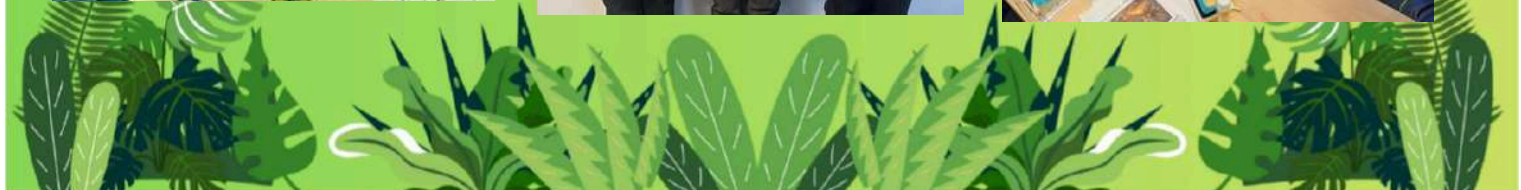
From the village facing the temple, you could hear the sound of fire crackling whilst the sound of insects buzzed the choir of noises. The sun slowly descended down over the horizon, casting a glow over the village. The temple stood proud in the center of the clearing, with steps leading up to an orange light. The trees seemed to be swaying in a rhythmic rhythm. I climbed the 91 steps leading up towards

Temple of Kukulcan - Chichén Itzá



The second I arrived at the temple of Chichén Itzá I started my ascent. I saw the towering stone temple of Kukulcan. I immediately climbed the 91 steps. At the top the sunset had set on the horizon. I walked down the steps and smell the waxy smoke coming from the sunset orange fire and the smell of the amazing food they were cooking made my day. As I took a turn around the area I could feel the sun rays beat my feet and as I stepped closer to the fire, my hands suddenly were warmed up. The sound of the crackling fire filled the village as the distant sound of the insects settled into the mix of noises. I thought the day was coming to an end so I decided to end my exhibition.

Erin



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](mailto:admin@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
01273 916707

Hove Junior School  
[hollandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:hollandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
01273 916707

Hove Junior School Inclusion Team  
[inclusionteam@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:inclusionteam@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
01273 916609

Best wishes,  
Maddie Southern



Maddie Southern  
Executive Headteacher



Lorna Cummings  
Co-Executive Headteacher



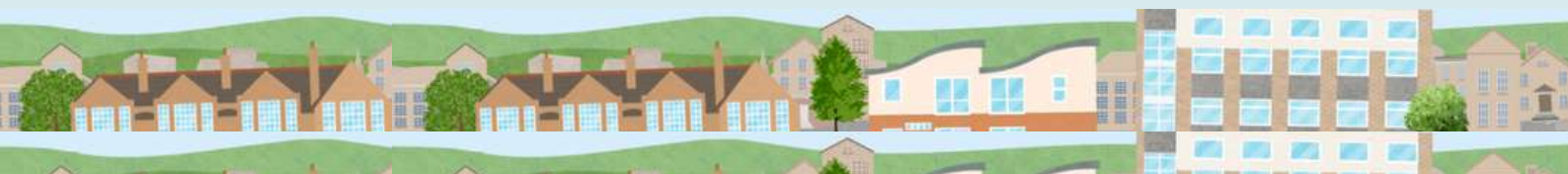
Sam Ledger  
Head of School

## Diary Dates

**20<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Y6 Evacuee Day

**29<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Y6 Air Raid Shelter trip to Downs  
Junior school

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb** - Last day of term





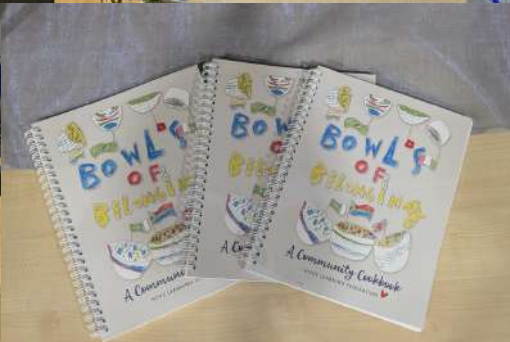
# Bowls of Belonging



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.





# 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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:hollandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk)**

**School Road - [admin@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk)**

**Portland Road - [portlandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:portlandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk)**



# 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





# **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](http://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](http://www.sportlearning.co.uk)

Email:  
[tracy@sportlearning.co.uk](mailto:tracy@sportlearning.co.uk)

# Hopscotch Holiday Club

## Bookings Now Open!



Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February  
8:30AM - 5:30PM

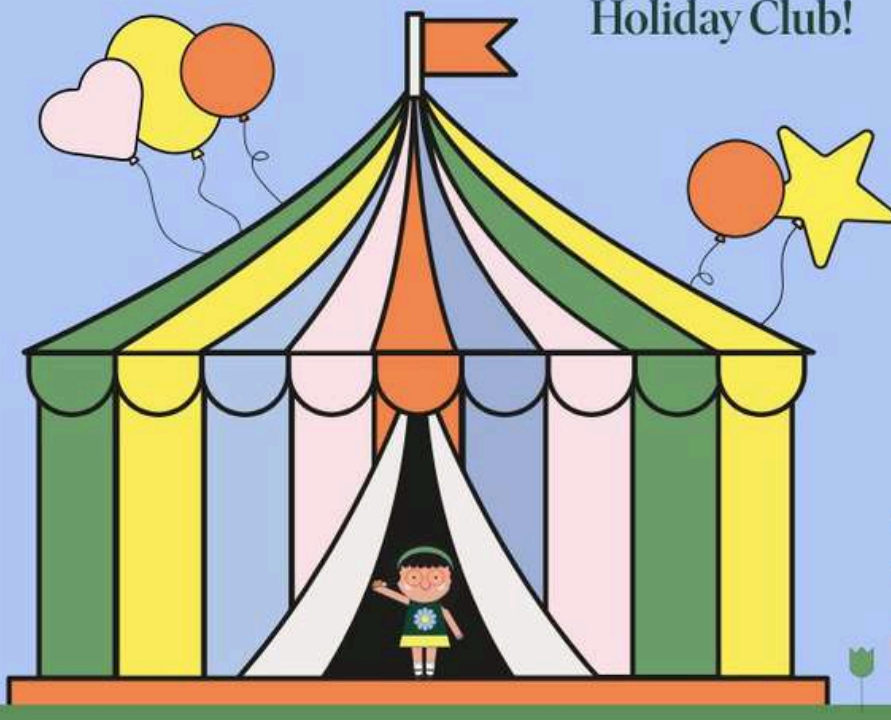


Located at West Hove Infant and Junior School  
Holland Road Site

Join us for a week of circus-themed fun at the Hopscotch  
Holiday Club!



Scan here to join us:





## **Hove Learning Federation is going fully smartphone-free.**

From January 2026, no internet or photographic devices will be allowed to be brought to school. This means no smartphones, camera phones or smartwatches will be allowed.

For those of you who wish to contact your children on their journey to and from school, Year 5 and 6 pupils will be permitted to bring in brick phones. These will be handed into their teachers at the beginning of the day to be locked away.

Our new policy aims to:

- Support your child's wellbeing and safety.
- Encourage positive social interaction.
- Limit unnecessary distraction and promote focus during the school day.
- Take away the peer pressure to get expensive devices.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing Maddie Southern, or speaking to your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Maddie Southern  
Executive Headteacher



# AFTER-SCHOOL SKATE CLUB

WEST HOVE INFANT & HOVE  
JUNIOR SCHOOL

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

SKATE TUITION AND  
GAMES

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

AND  
VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



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.

brand  
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**  
The **When** 202 Brighton Primary College,

18:30-20:30 Lewes Road,  
Df0r s d p o r e m i g t a t e u k . c o m / x v s e g e g m

Reserve your seat by [www.brightonprimarycollege.com/xvsegagem](http://www.brightonprimarycollege.com/xvsegagem).



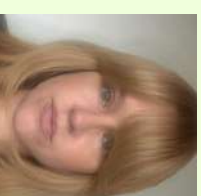
## Our guest speakers include:

**Mandy Marshall-Taylor - Panel Host**



As a **Naked Truth** author and a former **Primary School** head, Mandy will be sharing her experiences of **smartphone** use in schools.

**Dr. Eleanor Mason**



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

**DCI Luke Kyriakides-Yeldham & DI**



Child Abuse Team, they will discuss **the dangers of online gaming** and **online grooming**.

**Drew Dower- Head of School**

primary schools in the city. He will talk response to the school's new policy. Drew has led the way on becoming one of the first **smartphones** in the area.



**Jack Davies-Principal**

BACA Principal Jack Davies will be **smartphones** and the online world. who will share their experiences of **smartphones** joined by year 11 students



Smartphones Free Childhood is a partnership between Brighton Primary College and the Brighton and Hove City Council.

WEBSITE: [WWW.SFCBRIGHTON.CO.UK](http://WWW.SFCBRIGHTON.CO.UK)  
SOCIALS: @SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD