



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

Hove Learning Federation School/Portland Road Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear families,

It has been a fantastic half-term and as you can see our Year 6 pupils have been busy visiting 'Take Shelter' at Downs Junior and the children got to chance to step back in time to discover a unique part of Brighton's wartime history with one of our local air raid shelter tours. During the war, every school would have had its own air raid shelter, now 'Take Shelter' is one of the only surviving examples in the UK under the playground at Downs Junior School.

The Year 6 team have also invited in local veterans into speak with the classes, learning about life in the war and building up their empathy and understanding of their WW2 topic.

Our PSHE team have been working on a project called 'Building Voice' as part of our work on Anti-Racism and sharing their experiences and we are all looking forward to World Book Day which will be taking place after half term on Thursday 5th March. There will be lots of activities taking place across the federation to celebrate the school's love of reading.

We hope you all have a restful half term holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Monday 23rd February.**



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:

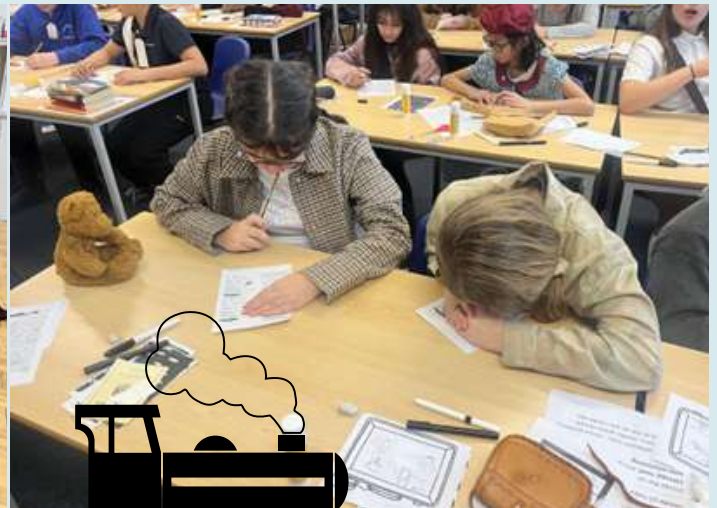
<https://www.westhoveinfants.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/> and <https://www.hovejuniorschool.co.uk/uniform>

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.

Year 6 Evacuee Day!

A few weeks ago, Year 6 stepped back in time with an immersive Evacuee Day, bringing their WWII learning vividly to life. The children travelled to their “new” countryside destinations before experiencing a taster of wartime school life – including a rather different style of PE! They created powerful blackout poems, took part in a realistic air-raid experience, and enjoyed traditional wartime games such as battleships and marbles. The day also included handling real WWII artefacts and listening to a fascinating talk from a local resident, who shared her memories of growing up in Hove during the war. It was a memorable, moving, and highly engaging day that Year 6 will not forget.





Take Shelter!

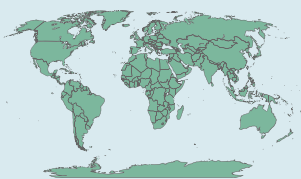


Year 6 continued their WWII learning with a visit to a local air raid shelter that is still in position beneath Downs Junior School. The children explored inside the shelter, discovering a range of intriguing artefacts that brought the past to life, before taking part in a powerful air-raid experience from within the shelter itself. They were also lucky enough to hear first-hand accounts from local residents who shared their memories of life in Brighton and Hove during the war, along with fascinating photographs and historical items. While the trip was fun and exciting, with dressing up and memorable experiences, it also gave Year 6 a deeper understanding of what communities across the UK endured during World War II.

Building Voice Pupil Group Spring Term

The 'respectful, unique, talented, cat's pyjamas group' (named by the children!) 'Building Voice' pupil voice session took place this week. We re-visited our shared UK based connections and began a conversation about our global connections. The children did some exploration and had a discussion around the meaning behind the question 'Where are you from?'

Catrin Pearce and Rachael Dawson (PSHE and
Anti-Racist Leads)



Safer Internet Day – 10 February



We marked Safer Internet Day on 10th February with a range of activities across the school. Pupils in Years 3–6 took part in assemblies, while classes explored this year’s theme through age-appropriate sessions in class. Many classes also joined the BBC Live Lesson.

Children learned how to stay safe, kind and responsible online, developing their understanding of how to use the internet positively and with confidence. Activities were carefully adapted to suit each year group, encouraging thoughtful discussion and practical strategies for everyday digital life.

Staff Spotlight



“Empathy”

This newsletter **Miss O'Shea's** value is **Empathy!** But what is empathy? Empathy is about trying to understand how others feel. When we know how they are feeling, we can take steps to help them. So how can we show empathy?

“Empathy”- Reflection points

Here are some engaging reflection points that can encourage and inspire our children to show empathy:

- **Listening** - Listening is one of the most effective ways to show empathy. Give your friends and peers your full attention and look them straight in the eye.
- **Building Trust** - Being a good listener and building trust with a friend will help them to open up. Always try to put yourself in their place and act in a way that you want to be treated.
- **Helping Others** - Helping others is a great way of showing empathy because it shows you are willing to take time out of your day to do something for someone else without asking for anything in return. Offering help can be as simple as holding the door for someone or letting a friend borrow something that is yours.
- **Volunteering** - volunteering to be a play leader or eco council to help others and raise awareness. Empathy is a really important life skill for all of us and trying to understand how others feel is a kind and compassionate thing to do.

Here are some ways we can model empathy at home:

1. **Model Empathy Everyday** - Children are emotional mirrors, when you comfort a friend who is upset, show respect to each other, you are giving them a lesson in compassion and empathy.
2. **Encourage Perspective-Taking** - Encouraging perspective-taking gets your children to understand that everyone sees the world differently. In various situations ask your child “how do you think that made them feel” this could be to another child, parent or even a character in a movie or book!
3. **Praise Acts of Kindness** - When children act with empathy, it is important to notice and name it. This will make your child feel proud of their acts of kindness and encourage them to seek more opportunities to behave empathetically.
4. **Talk About Emotions Openly** - Empathy starts with self-awareness, children will not recognise emotions in others if they do not understand their own. You can use an emotions wheel or feelings chart to help your child name their emotion.

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

Follow HLF on Facebook and Instagram-



Search on Facebook-
hovelearningfederation



Search on Instagram-
hovelearningfederation



Maddie Southern
Executive Headteacher



Lorna Cummings
Co-Executive Headteacher



Niamh O'Shea
Head of School, School Road



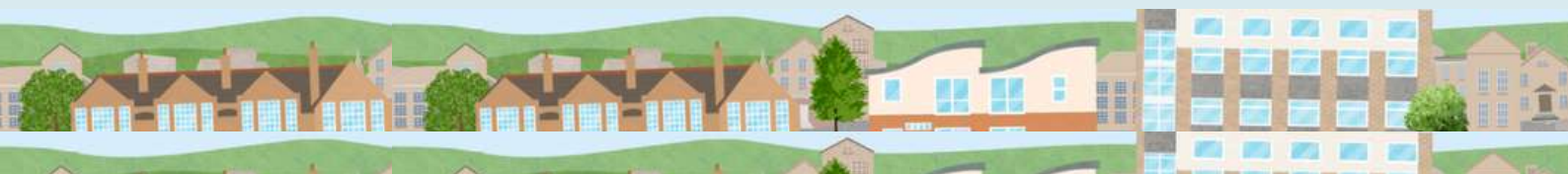
Rachel Jeffers
Head of School, Portland Road

Diary Dates

- 13th Feb** - Last day of Term
- 16th Feb - 20th Feb** - Half Term Break
- 23rd Feb** - First day of term
- 24th Feb** - Reception Maths workshop (Turtles)
- 24th Feb** - Headteacher for the Day!
- 25th Feb** - Reception Maths workshop (Sealions)
- 26th Feb** - Reception Maths workshop (Seahorses)
- 27th Feb** - Reception Maths workshop (Dolphins)
- 3rd Mar** - Parents evening
- 5th Mar** - World Book Day
- 10th Mar** - PINS Parents coffee morning
- 10th Mar** - Juniors Easter disco Years 3&4 4:15pm-5:30pm, Years 5&6 6:00pm-7:15pm
- 12 Mar** - Parents evening
- 16th Mar** - Drusillas Zoo trip (Lizards & Marmosets)
- 17th Mar** - Lets Dance at the Brighton Dome
- 18th Mar** - Red Nose Day for Comic Relief
- 20th Mar** - Drusillas Zoo trip (Treefrogs & Toucans)
- 26th Mar** - Spring Disco

Reminder:

As a way of reducing the number of e-mails which were sent out, our school bulletin is now sent out to all parents/carers every Thursday afternoon. It's a great way to keep up to date with what's happening in school, both during the current week and in the weeks ahead. You'll find reminders about events, information on clubs, school trips, and lots more.



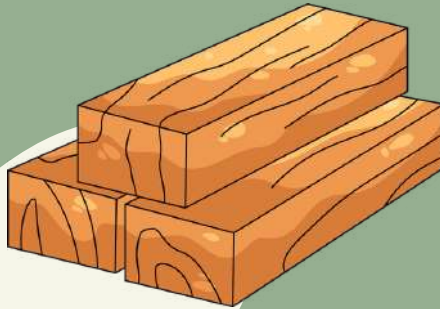
Donation Drive!

Can you help resource our
Outdoor Development Plan? We
need:

Tires!



**Plastic
crates!**



Planks!



**Log
stumps!**

LITTLE GARDEN FACELIFT

07799117229

@littlegarden_facelift

Thank you!

A massive thank you
to little garden
facelift for trimming
our hedges, amazing
job!



**FEB
24TH**

Do you want
to be



HEADTEACHER FOR THE DAY?

**ONE CHILD FROM EACH YEAR WILL
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND
TUESDAY FEB 24TH AS
HEADTEACHER**

Tickets on sale
Feb 11th to 20th
online

**WINNERS
ANNOUNCED
22ND FEB**

**FOLLOW THE LINK ON YOUR
WHATSAPP OR THE BELOW
QR CODE FOR YOUR YEAR**

RECEPTION



YEAR 1



YEAR 2



**JUST £1
PER
ENTRY**

Ensure you choose the correct qr code -
tickets are non transferable.

please contact fowhis@gmail.com for non online sales

BRIGHTON AND HOVE READING NEWSLETTER



EDITION 1

World Book Day Events

From **Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March**, Scholastic Book Club Live is hosting **17 exciting virtual events** designed to spark a love of reading in every child. Children can enjoy a brilliant mix of activities, including live draw-alongs, Q&As with authors, sneak peeks at new books, and even behind-the-scenes looks at how books are created.

Here are just a few highlights on offer:



Become a Wild Apprentice with conservation expert Sarah Roberts (7+)

Wednesday 4th March 10am



The Velveteen Rabbit with David Litchfield

Storytime and draw-along (2+)

Friday 6th March 11am



How Books are Made: How your favourite stories reach your shelves (8+)

Thursday 5th March 12pm

New Releases



*Meanwhile
Back on Earth*

Oliver Jeffers
Age 3+

*The Lost
Dragon of Roar*
Jenny McLachlan
Age 8+



*Nadia Islam, On
the Record*

Abida Jaigirdar
Age 9-14

authorfy.

FREE



For the National Year
of Reading 2026!

GO ALL IN!

authorfy.com

Have you signed up for free access to Authorfy yet?

This fantastic online platform brings thousands of videos, book extracts, writing challenges and ready-made schemes of work from some of the UK's best-loved children's authors. To celebrate the National Year of Reading 2026, Authorfy is offering schools completely free access to its full range of resources. Click [here](#) to explore the free resources and get your school involved.





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



HOLIDAY SKATE CLUB

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

MOBILE SKATEPARK

ARTS AND CRAFTS

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES



**TAX-FREE
CHILDCARE
+ VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED**

FEB 16TH-20TH | 5 DAYS | 9AM-3PM

BOOK: [THESKATECLUB.COM/HOLIDAYSKATECLUB](https://theskateclub.com/holidayskateclub)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

SPRING TERM 2026



"MY SON HAD SO MUCH FUN. HE WANTS TO GO BACK FOR MORE TOMORROW!"



"MY DAUGHTER WAS FULL OF BEANS AND BURSTING WITH LOVELY STORIES WHEN I COLLECTED HER"

FUN, EXERCISE, FRESH AIR & DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

YETI DINNER PLATES CAMPFIRE COOKOUT:
MARSHMALLOWS CUDDLY TOY CATAPULT
ASSAULT MINIBEAST MAYHEM: BUG
HUNTING VIKING RUNESTONES & CODE
BREAKING BUSHCRAFT: FIRELIGHTING
TECHNIQUES BUSHCRAFT: HEAD SHELTER
MAKING FAIRY DOORS & TREE SPIRITS & AS
USUAL: FUN TIMES & ADVENTURE!

WATCHING CHILDREN'S
CONFIDENCE GROW &
NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORM
AT OUR CLUBS IS ONE OF
THE MOST REWARDING
THINGS WE DO.

HOVE JUNIOR SCHOOL &
WEST HOVE INFANTS

EVERY TUESDAY UNTIL 4:20/4:30PM

YEARGROUPS 1 - 6

6TH JANUARY - 24TH MARCH 2026

PRICE: £88 (11 WEEK TERM)

The
Outdoors
Project

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK

HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SABLINGS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP
OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



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.

Does your child struggle to go to school? Regular drop-in sessions for parents and carers

Hosted by the Family Support team, the sessions are a friendly space to access information and support and meet other parents/carers facing the same challenges.

Online sessions

24 February 7-8.30pm 19

May 7-8.30pm

Face to face sessions

Modelo Lounge (145 Church Road, Hove BN3 2AE)

17 March 10 -11.30am

Alcampo Lounge (84 London Road, Brighton BN1 4JF)

21 April 10-11.30am

23 June 10-11.30am

To Find out more or book onto the online sessions, please email:


schoolsmentalhealthservice@brighton-hove.gov.uk or Jo Roeg:
jo.roeg@brighton-hove.gov.uk



FRED THE SHED



Fred's 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's 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's Shed with your time, contact fowhis@gmail.com
To keep Fred stocked, there are collection bins in both school receptions.



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

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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
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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**



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MONDAY 5:20PM - 6:20PM

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

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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



Have your say on smartphones in Brighton & Hove schools

Please complete this survey to **share your views on smartphone policies** in Brighton & Hove schools.

- It only takes 2-3 minutes, is completely anonymous and no personal data will be stored
- All schools in Brighton & Hove will be asked to share this survey with their parents / carers
- The survey will close on 28th Feb 2026
- Please share with friends and families in Brighton & Hove



<https://sfcbrighton.co.uk/survey>