



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

Hove Learning Federation School/Portland Road Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Families,

It has been a busy and exciting time across the federation, with a range of workshops and events taking place for families. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers engaging with our recent maths and reading volunteering workshops.

During these sessions, families gained a greater understanding of how maths is taught across the school and the methods children use in lessons. Parents explored strategies for developing number fluency, calculation skills and mathematical reasoning, and were shown practical ways to support their child's learning at home.

The workshops also provided opportunities for parents/carers to experience some of the resources and activities used in class, and helping them to build confidence in supporting reading fluency. We are grateful for the positive feedback received and appreciate the strong partnership between home and school. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making these sessions such a success. We look forward to welcoming more families to future workshops and events throughout the year.

We are pleased to be introducing our new KS2 Class Reading Spine:

This year, we are excited to introduce a new KS2 Class Reading Spine as part of our work towards the **Brighton & Hove Reading Charter Bronze Award**. Each class will enjoy a carefully selected, high-quality book during each half term, alongside a poetry collection which will be shared throughout the year. The books have been chosen to inspire a love of reading, introduce children to a wide range of authors, characters, cultures and experiences, and support our work around themes such as **belonging, empathy, resilience and identity**. Most importantly, we want every child to have the opportunity to enjoy being read to every day.



This term, our class readers are:

Year 3: The Wild Robot by Peter Brown



Year 4: Anisha, Accidental Detective by Serena Patel



Year 5: A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll



Year 6: Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick



Attendance at Hove Learning Federation

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 well-being 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 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:

Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe.

If you need to drive to school, please park safely and considerately, keeping the safety of our pupils, families, and residents in mind. Please do not double park, stop on double yellow lines, or block residents' driveways. By working together and showing consideration for our neighbours, we can

help ensure the area around school remains safe and welcoming for everyone.

Please remember that there are now traffic enforcements between 8:15am - 9:15am and 2:45pm - 3:45pm on School Road and Marmion Road. Motor vehicles are not allowed to enter the restricted area during enforcement hours unless exempt.

Any vehicles without an exemption ignoring the restrictions may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) of £70, reduced to £35 if paid in 21 days.

Scooters and bikes:

A gentle reminder that scooters and bikes are not to be ridden on the school premises before or after school. Please safely walk them in to school at the beginning of the day and avoid riding them at the end of the day until you have left the school gates.

Afterschool club contact info:

The ASC number (07342536023) can be used to get in touch for last minute changes for collections. Use the enquirieshlf.afterschoolclub@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk email if notifying us in advance and for any other enquiries.



Donations of good-quality play equipment:

As a school, we would be hugely appreciative of any donations of good-quality play equipment suitable for children of all ages.

Our funds for purchasing additional play resources are limited, so every donation really does make a difference to the play opportunities and environments we can provide for our children. As we begin the lead-up to Christmas, if you are having an autumn clear-out at home, we would be very grateful for any good-quality items that you no longer need.

I have created a poster with some ideas of the types of resources we would welcome, but this is by no means an exhaustive list!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school and our children.



GET READING! AT HLF

WEST HOVE
INFANT SCHOOL
A family of friends



READING

News!

Looking for some fun reading activities to do at home? The Book Trust have a great page for you to try:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home>



Why did the librarian slip over?

They were in the non-friction section!

The World of READING

Summer Reading Challenge! Begins July 4, 2026 at [East Sussex Libraries](#). Under-4s can join the Pre-school Challenge to collect stickers for every book read.

OUR TOP BOOKS



5Amber recommend *Rumble Star* by Abi Elphinstone because it's 'imaginative, adventurous and wonderful!'



NEW releases



5+
The Turtle who Turned the Tide by Rachel Bright and Jim Field



7+
Squid Bits: That's a nice hat by Jess Bradley



9+
The Poisoned King by Katherine Rundell



Year 5 beach trip

Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the beach so that they could apply the perspective art skills they have been learning. They sat and sketched the landscape first hand, looking carefully at how the perspective lines went diagonally to the horizon. Then, they had some fun on the beach and made Andy Goldsworthy style sculptures from beach materials. A fun day was had by all and we were blessed with excellent weather!



Staff Spotlight

Empathy



Miss Jeffers -
Head of School at Portland Road

This newsletter's value is Empathy.

What empathy looks like

- Noticing feelings: Watching a friend's face or body language to see if they look sad, scared, or excited.
- Listening: Hearing someone out without interrupting them.
- Imagining: Asking yourself, "How would I feel if that happened to me?"

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
Executive Headteacher

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

October:

Monday 12th - School Nurse drop-in sessions,
8.30-9.30am. (Infant school)

Tuesday 13th - New parent visits, 9:30am and
10:45am (Infant school)

Tuesday 20th - Spooky disco (Junior school)

Thursday 22nd - Last day of term. Dress down day.

Friday 23rd - INSET Day.

November:

Monday 2nd - First day of term

Tuesday 3rd - Parent's Evening - info to follow

Thursday 12th - Parent's Evening - info to follow

Friday 20th - Nasal Flu Vaccination





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.



DONATE HERE

FRED SHED

Fred Shed is a school community non-profit sharing shed that stocks non-perishable items and school uniform for 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 and school uniform which can be dropped into either infants or juniors school reception areas.

OPEN every Friday
after school

along with Fred's free bakery which comes
from generous donations from
Real Patisserie and The Flour Pot Bakery

Fred's shed is located in the juniors
front playground just next to the main gates

If you need help, and don't feel comfortable approaching the sharing shed
please email us at portlandroadenquiries@hovjun.brighton-hove.sch.uk

If you'd like to support Fred Shed with your time contact hovejuniorpta@gmail.com

To keep Fred stocked, there are collection bins in both Infants and Juniors school receptions.

Co-opted governor vacancies

Do you know someone who would make a fantastic school governor?

Hove Learning Federation (HLF), the governing body for West Hove Infant School and Hove Junior School, is looking to recruit two co-opted governors who share our vision to nurture the promise and magic that is inside all our children.

Governors play a vital role in our schools, working as a team with school leaders to provide both support and constructive challenge. The governing board helps set the vision and strategic direction of our schools, oversees their performance and ensures they are well managed, accountable and providing the best possible education and opportunities for every child.

Governors are not involved in the day-to-day running of the schools. Instead, we take a strategic view, asking questions, seeking assurance and bringing different perspectives, skills and experiences to the decisions we make.

You do not need to have worked in education or have previous experience as a governor. Training, guidance and support are provided, and we welcome people who can bring skills and experience from their professional, voluntary or personal lives.

A co-opted governor is someone from the community appointed by the existing governing board because they have skills, knowledge or experience that can strengthen the board. We welcome applications from parents, carers, family members and people from across the wider community.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people who are willing to collaborate, build strong working relationships, listen and work in partnership, while also being prepared to ask questions, contribute to courageous conversations and constructively challenge where needed. Our governors are open minded, curious and self-reflective critical friends to our schools, and we are looking for people who want to play an active role in the life and development of HLF.

Why join HLF?

Being a governor is a hugely rewarding role. It is an opportunity to make a real difference to children's education, give something back to your community and use, and develop, your own skills and knowledge.

We are a friendly, committed and engaged board and provide new governors with support, training and guidance as they get to know our schools and the role.

To apply

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining us, you can download an application form [here](#).

Hopscotch Holiday Club – October Half term:

Fang-tastic news... Hopscotch Holiday Club October bookings are officially open! We can't wait to welcome you all back for a week filled with fa-boo-lous Halloween fun!

Whether your child loves to get cosy with a good book and embark on an exciting adventure, Hopscotch Holiday Club has something for everyone! Book now by following the link below, or scanning the QR code above! Once again, our Early Bird discount is valid for the first week of bookings! Use code: Halloween26 by midnight on Sunday, September 20th to get 20% off your booking!

✨ Open to children from Reception to Year 6

✨ 8.30am to 5.30pm

✨ £45 for a full day

✨ 7% discount when booking a full week

✨ 5% sibling discount

To find out more, [click here](#)



The poster features a light pink background with a green wavy border at the top. The title 'Hopscotch Holiday Club' is in black, with 'October Bookings' in orange and 'Are Open!' in black. A QR code is on the left, and a hopscotch grid with letters 'h, o, p, s, c, o, t, c, h' is on the right. The grid is decorated with a paintbrush, a soccer ball, and a paint palette. Below the grid is the text 'Holiday Club'. A signpost points left with the text 'This way'. Pumpkins and a tent are at the bottom. The background is decorated with stars, a crescent moon, and birds.

Hopscotch Holiday Club

October Bookings

Are Open!

Scan the QR code or use the link in our bio to book your place today!

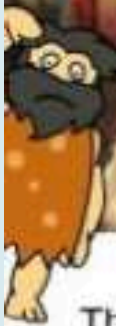
Holiday Club

This way



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL FUND!

DONATE
£30!



The Hove Learning Federation School Fund helps provide extra experiences, opportunities and resources that enrich our children's learning beyond the curriculum. Thanks to the generosity of families, it has supported a range of exciting activities and workshops, including:



Curriculum enrichment activities and special events like our EYFS 'Under the Sea' Singing Workshop, Stone Age Workshops, Viking Workshops, WW2 Victory Tea Parties



Using school fund to support gaps in funding for external year group school trips to Paradise Park, The Wetlands and Drusilla's.



Additional resources to enhance children's learning experiences

The School Fund is supported by a voluntary annual contribution of £30 per family. Every donation helps us provide these additional opportunities for our children and is hugely appreciated. There is no obligation to contribute if families are unable to do so, and no child will ever miss out as a result. Payments can be made easily via ParentPay.

For more information, please visit <https://www.westhoveinfants.co.uk/parents/school-fund-information/or> contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.





HOVE LEGO CLUB

BUILD • CREATE • IMAGINE

EVERY WEDNESDAY

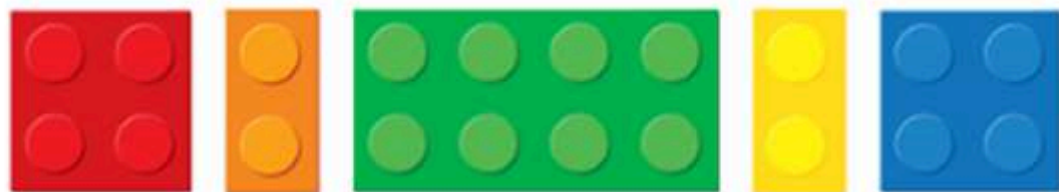
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

EXCLUSIVELY FOR YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 STUDENTS!

PLEASE GET IN

TOUCH VIA

HOVELEGOCLUB@GMAIL.COM



Volunteers needed

We need parent volunteers to help
with reading, Saplings and more!

Looking for a change of career? Volunteering at
our schools could lead to job opportunities
within the school including Midday Supervisor,
Learning Support Assistant, Breakfast & After
School Club assistant or roles within our Office
teams.

Did you know that if you work in one of our
breakfast or afterschool clubs, your child(ren)
attend for free?

For more information, a volunteer pack or
application form contact:
emmabarrell@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk



**Want to know more about DLD
(developmental language disorder)?**

**Want to meet with other parents/carers
living with children and young people with
DLD?**

**Join Claire Edwards, Specialist Language teacher (BHISS),
Lydia Marsden, Speech and Language Therapist and Mandy
Leahy, Specialist Family Support Worker (BHISS) on:**

- **Tuesday 24th November 2026 9:30 -11 at Roundabout
Children's Centre, 178 Whitehawk Road, BN2 5FL**

This is a great opportunity to:

- Find out more about DLD: what it means and what support is out there.
- Meet other parents/carers of young people in primary school to share experiences.
- Find out what parent/carer groups will be available in future.

**There are limited places available so if you'd like to join us,
please reply ASAP to: Jane Hale at Jane.hale@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

**We will email you 2 weeks before the meeting to confirm you
have a place.**

We look forward to seeing you there!

West Hove Infants & Juniors

Play Equipment Donations Needed

We are looking for donations of play equipment to support our children's play and learning.



Dressing up clothes



Small world toys



Puzzles



Maps



Scooters



Trikes



Play area equipment - kitchens, stools and tills



Wet play games



Top Trumps



LEGO



Jenga



Dolls

If you are able to donate any clean, good-quality items, we would be very grateful.

Please bring all donations to the Reception Office area.

Thank you for your support!

Schools Mental Health Service



Support for children who have sibling(s) who are neurodivergent

The Schools Mental Health Support Team are offering term time support to the siblings of children and young people who are neurodivergent. Each session will be co-facilitated by two Education Mental Health Practitioners from the MHST Team.

We offer a space for siblings of neurodivergent children to socialise and connect with each other. The group is play based and we offer a safe space for children to explore their feelings, strengths and needs by sharing their experiences with others if they wish to.

You can refer children in Y4-6 who could benefit from attending the 6 term time sessions.

Venue: Turner Family Hub, Ivory Place, Brighton, BN12 9QE.
Spaces are limited, please refer via your child's school.

"Siblings can often be overlooked, which can lead to feelings of isolation. If this continues, children can become vulnerable to a range of emotional and mental health problems. However, if siblings are acknowledged, and connected to sources of support, they are likely to become more resilient". (Siblings Australia)



THE HOLIDAY SKATE CLUB

AGES 6 - 13YRS

BRIGHTON ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY (BACA)



EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
MOBILE SKATEPARK
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GAMES AND ACTIVITIES


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MON 26TH – FRI 30TH OCTOBER | 9AM-3PM

£45 PER DAY | FULL WEEK

**TAX-FREE
CHILDCARE +
VOUCHERS
ACCEPTED**

For bookings, [click here](#)



AFTER-SCHOOL SKATE CLUB

HOVE JUNIOR SCHOOL
PORTLAND ROAD

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
SKATE TUITION AND GAMES
WET WEATHER ARTS & CRAFTS
TAX-FREE CHILDCARE AND
VOUCHERS ACCEPTED


Ofsted
SkateboardGB



EVERY FRIDAY 3:20PM - 4:20PM

11/9, 18/9, 25/9, 2/10, 9/10, 16/10, 6/11, 13/11, 20/11, 27/11, 4/12, 11/12, 18/12

£167.05 FOR THE TERM (£12.85 PER SESSION)



Join us for our Open Events



Open Evening: 5:30pm – 7:30pm Wednesday 23rd September 2026

**Open Mornings: 9am Monday 28th September,
9am Thursday 1st October and 9am Friday 2nd October 2026**

Pride • Respect • Success

Dear Prospective Patcham High School Families,

We know what a big decision choosing a secondary school is. It's the place where your child will spend the next five years, making new friends, discovering new interests and growing from a Year 6 student into a young adult taking their next steps in life.

We are a proud, ambitious and inclusive school at the heart of our community. Every student is known, supported and challenged through great teaching, strong relationships and high expectations.

There is so much on offer at Patcham High, both in the classroom and beyond it. We want our students to achieve well, enjoy coming to school, get involved, try new things and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

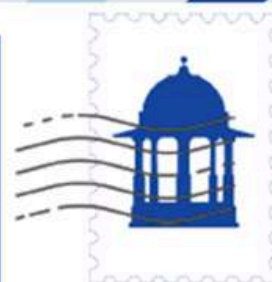
We would love the opportunity to show you what life at Patcham High is like.

Join us at our Open Evening or one of our Open Mornings. Meet our students and staff, explore the school, see lessons in action and ask us the questions that matter to you and your child.

We'll also be organising some additional events for Year 6 children and their families over the coming weeks, so keep an eye on our website and social media for details.

We look forward to welcoming you to Patcham High

Scan the QR
code to visit
our school
website, watch
our video &
view our
prospectus



To: *Prospective*
Patcham High School
Families

From: *All of us at*
Patcham High

📍 Ladies Mile Road, Brighton, BN1 8PB

✉ office@patchamhigh.org.uk

🌐 <https://www.patchamhigh.brighton-hove.sch.uk> 📷 @patchamhighschoolofficial



Open House Event - Thursday 22nd October 2026

In previous years there have been schools who hold their residential trips during the week in which our Open Event falls. We have anticipated this by offering two alternative dates for a small tour for Year 6 parents and students.

This is **ONLY** if you cannot attend the main event and not an extra visit. This will also cover any exceptional reasons you have as to why you and your child cannot make Thursday 22nd October.

The link to book tickets for our main event can be found [here](#)

The dates we have arranged for those of you who cannot attend our Open Event on Thursday 22nd October are:

- Monday 12th October at 9.30am - 10.20am
- Thursday 15th October at 9.30am - 10.20am

If you would like to join one of the above tour dates, please email admissions@cncs.co.uk with the reasons and a form to complete will be sent out directly to you.



King's School
Hangleton Way
Hove
BN3 8BN

01273 840004
admin@kingsschoolhove.org.uk

5th October 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Primary Transition Discussion Event, Thursday 15th October 4-5pm

In partnership with other academy schools in Brighton and Hove, we are pleased to invite you to an event at King's School on Thursday 15th October, 4-5pm. We intend to facilitate a discussion on transition from primary to secondary school and enable a sharing of expertise and best practice which we hope might be useful for people.

We do appreciate it's fairly short notice and people are busy so we'd grateful if you could let us know if you intend to send someone by RSVP'ing to head@kingsschoolhove.org.uk

Parking in our school car park is limited, but parking on all surrounding streets is free of charge. Please park considerately with our neighbours in mind.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Colin Mackinlay
CEO Russell Education Trust

Ms Sarah Price
Headteacher, King's School Hove

Years 1 and 2:

Al has recently been in to school and given drumming assemblies to Year 1 and Year2 , if your child is interested in learning the drums, please use the contact information below.



Is your child interested in learning the drums? Lessons are now available in school, hosted by Al's Drum School.

**IN SCHOOL
DRUM LESSONS
NOW AVAILABLE!**

To book simply contact

 07548 502 453

 info@alsdrumschool.co.uk

 alsdrumschool.co.uk



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

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Sales
Jimmy Atkins
01273 22 11 02



Lettings
Jenna Miles
01273 22 11 01

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FAMILY KICKBOXING 6YRS+
MONDAY 6:30PM - 7:30PM
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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