

Hove Learning Federation

School/Portland Road

Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what a fantastic start we have had to the new school year.

It has been wonderful to see so many exciting events, stunning starts and opportunities taking place across the school sites, alongside the hard work, enthusiasm and determination shown by our children every day. I have been incredibly impressed by the way they have embraced their learning, challenged themselves and demonstrated our school values. There is so much to celebrate, and it has been a real pleasure to see our children growing in confidence, developing new skills and achieving so much in such a short time.

As we move into the half-term break, I hope you enjoy some well-deserved time to recharge and spend time together as a family. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for Autumn 2, refreshed and ready for another successful half term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure the very best outcomes for all of our children.

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.
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.

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.



GET READING! AT HLF

WEST HOVE INFANT SCHOOL
A family of friends

Autumn Term – 23rd October 2026

READING News!

Saturday 24th October 2026 Jubilee Library | 10am-5pm

Brighton Family Bookfest

Free admission

For the first time ever, Brighton Bookfest is joining forces with independent bookshops Book Nook and Afrori Books to present a book festival dedicated to children, young people and families.

There'll be craft, storytime, open mic, a graphic novel workshop, a draw-off competition and lots more to make this a festival for all ages!

Click here for the Brighton Book Festival website



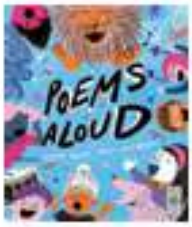
Why was the book so good at keeping secrets?

Because it always kept things under cover!

OUR TOP BOOKS

Year 3

Year 3 have been enjoying listening to poetry from 'Poems Aloud' by Joseph Coelho.



Year 5



Year 5 are loving 'Bright Bursts of Colour' by Matt Goodfellow – a collection of fun poems.

NEW releases



Any age!

Gruffalo Granny by Julia Donaldson

Age 7+

Bunny Vs Monkey – Day of the Heroes by Jamie Smart





Age 9+

The Starmaker by Catherine Doyle

The World of READING

Events at... THE BOOK NOOK

Wed 28th Oct Author event with Alice Hemming 'The Pumpkin Thief'

Fri 30th Oct Artist, illustrator and designer Kirsti Davidson and 'Paint Your Own' mini book bench!

Visit bookbnookuk.com/events for more information



After School Club

We have loved welcoming everyone back to After School Club for the new school year! It has been wonderful to see familiar faces again, and our Reception children have settled in brilliantly and are becoming more confident in their new surroundings.

We've had a fantastic first half term filled with creativity, imagination and lots of fun! The children have been busy building amazing creations with Lego, exploring their creativity through junk modelling and getting stuck into a variety of autumnal arts and crafts.

We've also made the most of the lovely weather, enjoying outdoor games, fresh air and time together outside while the sun has been shining!

It's been a brilliant start to the year, and we're looking forward to lots more funand exciting activities next half term. We hope everyone has a lovely half-term break!















Year 6 Marble Treat

The children in 6 Blue enjoyed their well-earned marble treat by taking part in a game of The Traitors. They worked together brilliantly, using their detective skills to work out who the traitors were. Around the 'round table', pupils shared their ideas, writing the names of their suspects on whiteboards and explaining the clues and evidence behind their choices.









Staff Spotlight

perseverance






School Office Team at School Road

<u>This newsletter's value is 'Perseverance'.</u>
<u>What Perserverance looks like</u>

- Keeping going even when something is hard.
- Not giving up when you find something difficult.
- Trying again and again until you succeed.
- Being determined to do your best, even after mistakes.

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.u
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:
Thurs 22nd - End of term bake sale, 3.15pm - Infants back playground.
Fri 23rd - INSET Day.

November:
Mon 2nd - First day of term.
Tues 3rd - **Parent's Evening.**
Weds 4th - Reception Spooky Disco, 4.00pm-5.00pm
- Year 1 & Year 2 Spooky Disco, 5.15pm - 6.00pm
Tues 10th - FOWHIS AGM, 8.00pm - 9.00pm. Zoom link to be sent in Infant whatsapp chats on the day.
Thurs 12th - **Parent's Evening.**
Fri 13th - Smartphone Free Childhood talk. All welcome to the Junior school, 9.00am - 10.00am.
Tues 17th - 3 Green & 3 Blue Brighton Museum Trip. Snack & packed lunch needed.
Thurs 19th - 3 Yellow & 3 Red Brighton Museum Trip. Snack & packed lunch needed.
Fri 20th - Infant & Junior 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.

Half Term Spooky Reading Challenge

Flashlight Fiction



Read a picture book under a blanket fort using a torch.

Black Cat



Find and read a book that features a cat or a familiar animal.

Witchy Voice



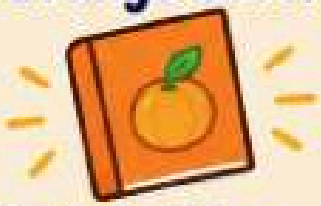
Read aloud (or have an adult read) in a funny, cackling witch voice.

Nature Walk



Read a story outside surrounded by autumn leaves or under a tree.

Orange Cover



Find a book to read with the colour orange on the front cover.

Spooky Whisper



Read a whole page using only a quiet, dramatic whisper.

Bedtime Chills



Complete a cozy story session right before falling asleep.

Friendly Ghost



Look for a story with a helpful ghost or a friendly monster.

Sound Effects



Make funny wind "whoosh" or floorboard "creak" noises during the story.

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





DONATE £30!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL FUND!



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

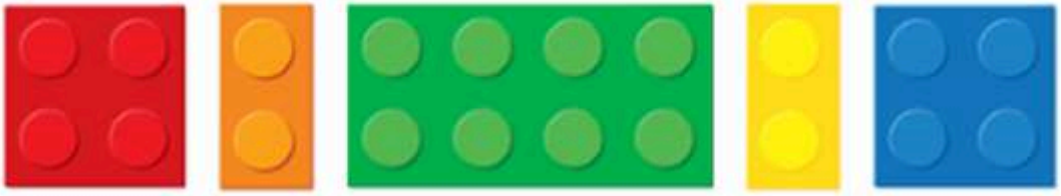
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

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

NHS
Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust



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!

Schools Mental Health Service

Public Health Schools
NHS Sussex
Brighton & Hove City Council

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: Tarner 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)



SAMA KARATE

WEST HOVE INFANTS SCHOOL

AFTER-SCHOOL KARATE

EVERY MONDAY | 3:15PM – 4:15PM | £6 PER CLASS

FITNESS | CONFIDENCE | SELF ESTEEM | DISCIPLINE | RESILIENCE

2x CLASS OPTION AVAILABLE

BOOK ONLINE AT
WWW.SAMAGROUP.CO.UK

A SAMA MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED AFTER TWO TRIAL SESSIONS

ESTABLISHED 1970

THE SKATE CLUB

THE HOLIDAY SKATE CLUB

AGES 6 - 13YRS

BRIGHTON ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY (BACA)



EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

MOBILE SKATEPARK

ARTS AND CRAFTS

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Ofsted

SkateboardGB

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)

CFC

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Player Development Centre Trials give young players the chance to showcase their skills and join one of our local centres. Successful players will be invited to join our Player Development Programme (PDP).

CLICK HERE to view the full list of trial sessions taking place near you and register your child today!

Price:	Free to attend
Age groups:	Under 6 – Under 16 (Boys & Girls)
Locations:	Chichester, Crawley, Cuckfield, Horsham, Haywards Heath, Lancing, Littlehampton, Ringmer and Steyning



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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.



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