



December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The second part of the Autumn term is usually a very busy one as it is the run up to Christmas. We have had a lot of fun this term with different Christmas activities. The school is a lovely place to be in December with all the Christmas decorations up, and a few naughty elves causing mischief around the school!

Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes put on a heart warming Christmas performance for the school and the parents. They did such a good job, and we were proud of the good attitude and excellent behaviour they displayed.

We had our Christmas dinner and festive clothing day, which made us all very excited about the Christmas season.

The parent evenings for all classes have now been completed. Everyone who requested an appointment was provided with a time to meet with their child's class teacher.

We had a good turnout for the Maths and English Workshop, and the Phonics Workshop, which all parents of children in Reception were invited to attend. This really is a good way of knowing how to support your child's learning at home.

We were finally able to hold our Come & Share our learning event, and thank you to all the parents that were able to attend. We know it is not possible for all parents to attend as it is not that easy to take time off work. However, it really was lovely for the children to have you join them for a short time if you were able to make it.

We had a 'dress to impress' day to join in the Diwali celebration. We had a lovely day and everyone looked very smart.

Our Year 2 and Year 3 class put on a djembe drum performance for their parents. It was extremely loud, and also very impressive!

The school were invited to take part in a carol concert at Crawley Baptist Church. The children sang beautifully and, once again, they were extremely well behaved. Crawley Baptist Church always make us feel so welcome, and we would again like to thank them for their continued support over the years.

From all the staff at West Green Primary School, we wish you a very merry Christmas. We hope you enjoy the holiday with your friends and families. Have a happy new year and we will see you again when school reopens on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024.

West Green Primary School



KEYSTAGE 1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 worked really hard to deliver a memorable Christmas performance.

The children sang so well, and they filled us with Christmas cheer. Well done to all the children for their hard work in the rehearsals, and in the performances.



RECEPTION CLASS

Our Reception class have now completed their first term at school. It is a very big change for a child to go from a few hours in nursery, to a structured day at 'big school'. They have all done so well, and the nervous children we saw at the start of term are now very settled and have all found their voices! They are a lovely class and Mrs Whitlock and Mrs Delgado are very impressed with their enthusiasm. Here are some of the pictures they created after they read the 'Supertato' book (a class favourite).



AUTUMN TERM LEARNING IN SCHOOL

The classes have some fabulous displays of their work around the school, which not all our parents get to see. Here is a snapshot of some of the work the children have produced.

YEAR 1



YEAR 2



YEAR 3



YEAR 4



YEAR 5



YEAR 6



WEST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were very fortunate to be visited by the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. The children were very well behaved, and were keen to hear what the fire & rescue workers had to say. They also enjoyed exploring the fire engine, and even had a chance to direct the water hose across the playground. Thank you to the fire & rescue team, we are very grateful you were able to visit us.





QUICK STICK HOCKEY AND YEAR 2 AND YEAR 3 LIBRARY VISIT

Unfortunately the quick stick hockey event at Hazelwick School was cancelled due to bad weather, but we are hoping that the organisers will provide new dates so that the event can take place as previously planned.

Also due to bad weather we had to cancel the Year 2 and Year 3 trip to Crawley library, but this has now been rearranged for 12 June 2024. Crawley library is a lovely environment so if you haven't visited it yet it is a great (and free) resource for you to experience with your child.

GIRL'S AND BOY'S FOOTBALL

We were represented by some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children in the Crawley Primary Football League at Thomas Bennett Community College. The children played really well as a team, they put in so much effort and never gave up. They should all be extremely proud of themselves at how well they represented the school. Well done to Ismalia, Belinay, Francesca, Maria, Tia, Mario, Abarna, Dolly-Rae, Hayden, Elisha, Salaar, Blake, Ilyas, Molly, Leo and Noah.

LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

We are visited on occasion by the Lighthouse Project who lead a week of assemblies for the different year groups. As we are an all inclusive school we welcome visitors to our school to learn about different faiths. The children really enjoy these assemblies and we love learning about all faiths around the world. The Lighthouse Project is led by a team of staff and volunteers and we are very grateful to them for visiting us, and for their continued support over the years.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our new school council representatives have done a great job this term by selling poppies on behalf of the Poppy Appeal. They have managed to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause. They have also been selling Christmas wristbands, pencils and keyrings to raise money for improvements to the school pond area. Well done to all our school councillors.



REGULAR REMINDERS

If your child is new to the school please familiarise yourself with the regular reminders page. We attach these reminders to every newsletter so we know that sometimes they might get missed. Please try to give them a quick read even if your child has been with us for a few years as sometimes they change, or get added to. Thank you.

DJEMBE DRUM PERFORMANCE

The children in Year 2 and Year 3 put on a djembe drum performance for their parents to show them what they have been learning this term. They were so enthusiastic, and we are so proud of all the hard work they put into showing off their skills. Well done to everyone who took part. Here are a few pictures of their rehearsals, and then the final performance where the parents got to join in at the end.



DIVALI DAY - DRESS TO IMPRESS

We had a non-uniform day to join in with the Divali celebration. Everyone made a great effort and we all had a lovely time. Here are some pictures of the day.



COME & SHARE OUR LEARNING

We had a great time this term when some parents joined us for the *Come and Share Our Learning* morning. The children were keen to show their parents what they have been learning in school, and hopefully the parents and carers were able to pick up some tips on how to help their children continue with their learning at home. We had over 100 parents join us in school which is an amazing turnout. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, we do realise that some parents were not able to attend due to work commitments. If you were not able to attend and have any questions about come and share our learning, please speak to your child's class teacher.



YEAR 5 VIKING DAY

Year 5 had an exciting time in class in December when they had their Viking day. Many of them chose to dress up as Vikings/Anglo-Saxons for the day. This is what their class teacher had to say:

“On Anglo-Saxon v Vikings day, the children had a go at writing their own name, and their family and friends names, in Runes. They were challenged with writing secret messages or jokes in Runes which the adults would then crack. Afterwards, we practiced our marching skills and had a go at scaring the opposition. We enjoyed this as we got to be very loud and extra scary.

After lunch, we designed and made our own brooches out of air-dry clay. We also got to do some baking and we made ‘Anglo-Saxon oat and honey cakes’ and ‘Viking blueberry pancakes’. “

Miss D Stone

Year 5 Teacher



WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS BEING AN ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL



Unfortunately at this time of year the children in our school who suffer with asthma often experience a worsening of their condition due to the change in temperature. This can impact children in many different ways either by a child being absent from school, or not being able to take part in PE lessons or play outside with their friends as often as they would like.

We were informed of the Asthma Friendly School Campaign by the parent of one of our pupils who suffers with asthma, and we are currently working towards being an asthma friendly school. All our classroom and office based staff will undertake the training so that there will always be a member of staff nearby should a child with asthma need any assistance. Although we already met most of the criteria that is required to join up to the Asthma Friendly Schools Campaign, there is always room for improvement and the staff that have already undertaken the training have said that it has highlighted things that would not have been obvious before the training.

Once we are a fully fledged member of this campaign we will update our school website with the information.

The following information has been provided by the Asthma Friendly Schools Campaign:

Has your child got asthma or been prescribed a blue reliever inhaler? Many children with asthma and viral wheeze get worse over the autumn and winter months with coughs and colds that can trigger asthma and wheezing symptoms. There are some simple steps that you can take to make sure your child stays well over the winter.

Every child who has asthma should be reviewed once a year by their GP or asthma nurse. At this review you should be given a personal asthma action plan for your child detailing which inhalers they are on and when they should be taken, please bring a copy into your child's school. If you haven't had a review recently ring your surgery and book an appointment.

Here is a link to Asthma+Lung UK's children's asthma action plan. <https://shop.asthmaandlung.org.uk/collections/health-advice-resources/products/child-asthma-action-plan>

Your child's inhaler technique will also be checked at the annual review. Most school age children should be able to use a spacer through a mouthpiece like the ones below rather than needing a spacer with a mask. Make sure you are familiar with how to use the inhaler and if you're not sure ask your GP, asthma nurse or pharmacist. Make sure that you provide the school with an inhaler that is in date and let them know if there are any changes to your child's treatment.



Your school is working towards becoming recognised as 'asthma friendly' meaning that you should feel confident that your child is in the care of staff who have had additional training and understand how to manage asthma symptoms should they arise during the school day.

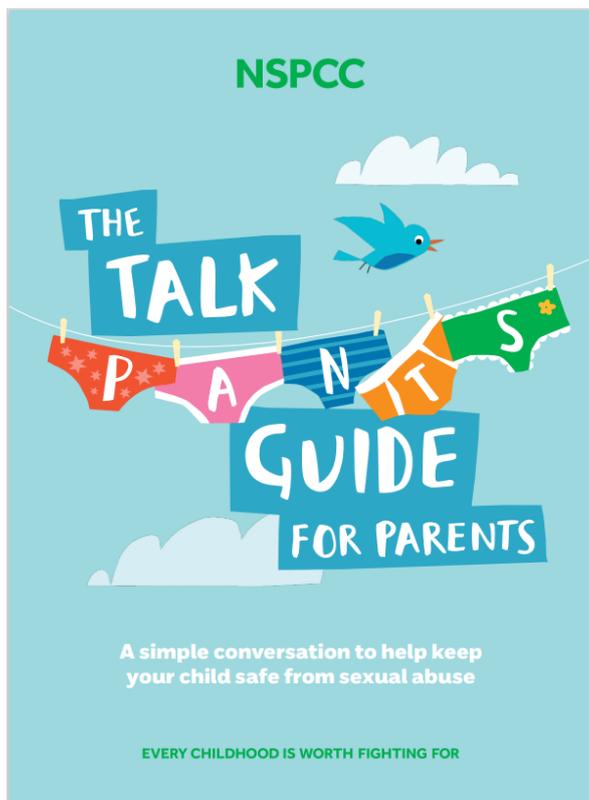
Edwina Wooler

MSc, RGN, RSCN, Dip Asthma Care, PGCert Child Health

Clinical Lead for Children and Young People with Asthma, NHS Sussex

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

The following information has been sourced from the NSPCC website. To see the full guide, please follow this link: www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/pants/pants-2018/pants-parents-guide-online.pdf

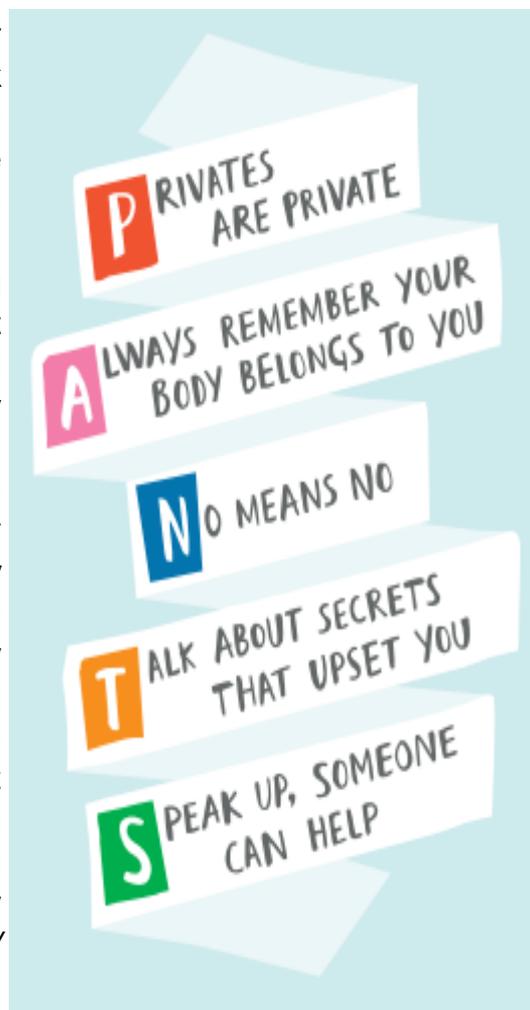


Talk PANTS is here to help you have a simple but important conversation with your child to help keep them safe from sexual abuse. From P through to S, each letter provides a simple but valuable message that can help children understand their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. You've probably already talked to them about things like crossing the road safely. Having this conversation can feel just as natural, and be just as easy.

Why Talk Pants?

It is an important conversation to have. Of course, no parent ever wants to think their child will be affected by sexual abuse. But that's exactly why it's vital you have this conversation. It is also understandable that talking about this topic might feel difficult, but it doesn't have to be. Talk PANTS has been created specifically – with the help of parents and professionals – to make sure these conversations are easy and appropriate for children as young as three.

Talk PANTS never mentions sex. You might feel your child is too young to talk about sex, and that's why Talk PANTS never mentions it. The messages for children are practical, reassuring and age-appropriate. These messages help children understand their body belongs to them and they have a right to say no. Children are encouraged to tell a safe adult who they trust if anything happens that makes them worried or upset. They also let children know if anything happens that makes them feel that way, it's never their fault. You've probably already talked to them about things like crossing the road safely. Having this conversation can feel just as natural, and be just as easy. The Talk Pants guide never uses scary words. Talking PANTS is about using simple, child-friendly language to give your child the confidence and knowledge to understand what is and isn't OK. When you are ready to teach your child the five PANTS rules, the Talking PANTS guide will take you through each letter of PANTS so you know what to say about each one. You can start off by having a simple chat with your child about keeping safe – and then go into more detail when you are both ready. To view the full Talking PANTS guide please follow this link: www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/pants/pants-2018/pants-parents-guide-online.pdf



VISITORS COMMENTS

"This is a lovely school. Thank you for making me feel so welcome."

Agency temp worker

We absolutely love coming to visit, it is a really lovely school. The children are all so engaging and lovely, and they love their singing!

The Lighthouse Project

STAFFING UPDATES

There have been a few starters and leavers this term, we say a fond farewell to...



Mr Linford has worked at West Green Primary School for 5 years. He has decided that the time is right to seek new teaching opportunities. We wish him all the best in his new job.



Although Miss Blunden is no longer working here at West Green (she worked at the school for 8 years), she has decided to remain on the school governing body as one of our school governors. This is great news for us as a school. Thank you Miss Blunden!



Our Year 1 teacher Mrs Trafford is leaving after 4 years. She is going to take the opportunity to spend some time with her family in Australia. We wish her a restful trip, and good luck in the future.



It was short but sweet as Miss Goodman has made the decision to leave the school and seek pastures new. We wish her good luck in her future endeavours.

...but we are also welcoming in some new members of staff which we will update you with in the next newsletter.

We will keep you updated on our new starters as and when they arrive. You can find information on school jobs that are currently available by visiting: www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/

You can then type in the location where you are searching for jobs, i.e. Crawley, Horsham etc.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

CRAWLEY SIGNAL BOX (BRIGHTON ROAD)

Many of you may have noticed the old railway signal box by the railway crossing at the end of Brighton Road. They often have open days where you can have a look around the signal box. It really is an interesting piece of our Crawley history and is well worth a look. It is a great experience for children (especially if you happen to be in the signal box when a train is going past). Their next open day will be on Saturday, 16th December 2023, between 12:00 midday – 4:00p.m. The signal box is only kept open and in such good condition due to the volunteers who give up their time to preserve it's history, so your support would be greatly appreciated. It's a lovely opportunity to make a memory with your child.



1ST CRAWLEY SCOUT GROUP

If your child is aged between 6 and 14 years of age there are Beaver, Cub and Scout groups available for them to join.

Beavers is a great starting point for any child aged between 6 and 7 years of age (if they are under 6 you can still put them on the waiting list). The weekly (term time) meetings are full of fun and their activities are based around making things, outdoor activities, singing, playing games, going out on visits, investigating nature, listening to stories, learning how to be safe and most importantly, making new friends. All the activities they do are always working towards a badge. It gives a child a real sense of achievement when they have put in some effort and receive a badge at the end of it, which can then be sewn on their uniform. It also gives the children some skills that will stay with them for life.

All the Beaver, Cub and Scout sessions take place at the scout hut in Oak Road, Southgate. If you would like to find out more then please follow this link:

Contact Us – 1st Crawley Scout Group (1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk) , or search

www.1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk

JUNIOR PARK RUN AT TILGATE

St Catherine's Hospice have organised a 2023 Reindeer Run. They are linking up with **Junior Park Run at Tilgate Park on Sunday, 17th December at 9:00a.m.**

This event is open to all juniors aged from 4 – 14 years old.

It is a free event but Park Run ask you to please register at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/tilgate-juniors/> before you first come along. You only need to register with Park Run once.

The QR code below may be used to go straight to the Tilgate Park Junior Park Run website to register.



The Park Run is a **free** event, St Catherine's representatives will be on hand with free antlers for all children who take part.

St Catherine's Hospice representatives will also be running a bucket collection at the event.



COST OF LIVING CRISIS — WHERE TO FIND HELP IF YOU NEED IT

turn2us

This website is designed to help you find out if you are able to get help with your energy bills. There are many grants out there you may not know about. Some energy suppliers have their own grant scheme in place. You can ask your supplier if they have a scheme, and what the criteria is for claiming a grant. Turn2us also has other useful links in relation to other household bills e.g. water bills. To search for grants that you may be eligible for, you can use an easy tool on <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>. Tel: 0808 802 2000

StepChange Debt Charity

If you are worried about any debt, you can contact the StepChange Debt Charity for free advice on <https://www.stepchange.org>. Tel: 0800 138 1111

Food Banks in Crawley

There are a number of food banks in Crawley, if you do a web search you should be able to find some details. Listed below are some contact details to help get you started:

Freeshop - info@freeshopcrawley.com - Tel: 07861 907133

Crawley Food Bank Partnership (they are The Easter Team and also Crawley Open House who are working together)

Tel The Easter Team: 07940 900948/Tel Crawley Open House: 01293 447702

Government and Local Council Resources

The government have an online tool to help people check the benefits and financial support they might be able to apply for. You can check at:

www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support you can also find help at:

www.crawley.gov.uk/moneyworries

Your local council may be able to help you pay for things like:

- Energy and water bills;
- Food;
- Essential items such as clothes or even an oven.

This help is known as Welfare Assistance or the Household Support Fund. Each council runs its own scheme. The help they offer, and who can get it, varies. Ask your local council if they run one of these schemes. You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from your local council. If you are in receipt of benefits, they will not be affected if you get help from one of these schemes. See below for information on the WSCC Community Hub.

COMMUNITY HUB

WSCC have a community hub for anyone who may need help. You can request support from the Hub, including accessing the Household Support Fund, and where to get advice.

WSCC are focused on making sure they continue to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

If your request is urgent, for example, you are going to run out of food within the next two days, please phone [033 022 27980](tel:03302227980) so that they can make sure you get the help you need as quickly as possible.



CHANGE OF DETAILS

If any of your contact details change (address, home phone, mobile etc), please inform the school office so they can update the school records accordingly.

MEDICATION

From time to time we will sometimes administer paracetamol to a child if they are feeling unwell, but it is not necessary to send them home. The brand we use is either Calpol paracetamol 6+ sachets or meltlets (so cannot be administered to anyone under 6 years old). For this to be administered to your child you will have needed to have signed a form giving your permission. We will always telephone you to get your permission before we administer any paracetamol, but without the signed consent form we cannot administer it in any event. If you have already signed a permission slip you do not need to do anything else. The above is also relevant for antihistamine's. We use Piriton, but only if the parent has provided written consent and also verbal consent just before it is administered.

TRIM TRAIL AND TYRE TRAIL

At the end of the school day it has been noted that parents are allowing their children to play on the trim trail outside the classrooms. If you do allow your child to use the trim trail (or tyres) at drop off/collection time it is **your responsibility** to ensure they use it safely. Please keep an eye on your children at all times during drop off/collection to/from school to ensure their safety.

UNIFORM

We no longer take school uniform orders via the school office. When you require new uniform for your child you can order it from: www.myclothing.com

Tel: 0800 069 9949

MOBILE PHONES

Please can you remind your child that if they bring a mobile phone to school with them, they must **not** use the phone whilst on the school premises. All phones must be turned off when your child has arrived at school, and handed to their class teacher. All phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

BIRTHDAYS AND TREATS

We love birthdays, and we love celebrating them even more! If you provide sweets for a class in order to celebrate your child's birthday, we would ask that you ensure they are individually wrapped, nut free and, if possible, vegetarian. This will mean all of your child's classmates can celebrate their birthday with them. We are not able to hand out any cakes or sweets that are homemade.

Also, from time to time throughout the school year, we will give out sweet treats to children. We will ensure we always meet a child's dietary requirements. **Please inform the school if you do not want your child to be given any sweet treats.**

ASTHMA INHALERS/AUTO INJECTORS

If we hold an asthma inhaler or auto injector for your child, please be aware that we need two, one in the classroom, and one in our medical room. When that item is out of date we will contact you and ask you to provide us ones that are in date. **Please make sure that you provide us in date items as a matter of priority. It is for your child's safety and must be acted upon immediately.**

FILMS AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER (AND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR)

Mainly at Christmas and Easter time we will sometimes arrange for the children to watch a film as an end of term treat. The films will either be a 'U' or 'PG' certificate. We would never show a film that we judged to be inappropriate. **However, if you do not wish your child to watch a 'PG' certificate film then please let the school office know so that a different film can be chosen for your child's class to watch.**

NO NUTS REMINDER

Please remember that we are a 'No Nuts' school. This means that no food brought into school by either children or staff should contain nuts. This includes Nutella (there are other alternative chocolate spreads available that do not contain nuts).