



March 2026 NEWSLETTER No 7

27th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Unbelievably Easter is almost upon us and the Spring term is virtually over! The children and staff have worked incredibly hard this term and the classrooms and displays around the school are a real celebration of all the wonderful learning that has gone on. The milder weather, sunnier days and appearance of spring flowers have also given us all a much-needed lift!

Gold Rights Respecting School Award

We are proud to share with our school community that we have been reaccredited the prestigious UNICEF Gold Award!



During a recent visit the assessor spent time with children, staff, governors and parents to hear first-hand about the amazing work that goes on every day at our school. The assessor commented that: "It was evident during the reaccreditation visit, and from the evidence, that children's rights continue to be embedded across the school and underpin every facet of school life."

The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. Gold is the highest accolade given by UNICEF UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life. There are over 600 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales that have received Gold.

The school has been a Rights Respecting School since 2011 and we look forward to continuing our journey in future years.

Scholastic Bookfair – a Big Thank You



We were delighted to see so many parents come along with some very enthusiastic young readers. We sold a total of **£594.71** worth of books at the book fair earning us 50% back as rewards for the school. Therefore, we have **£237.88** to spend with Scholastic on brand new books for the school.

We would like to thank you for all your support, which makes a massive difference.

Red Nose Day



Thank you to all those who supported Red Nose Day – it was lovely to see a sea of red across the school.

We are pleased to share that you raised **£63** for this worthy cause – many thanks!



St Georges Day – Thursday 23rd April

On this day children are invited to wear their uniforms from clubs such as Cubs, Beavers, Rainbows and Brownies. Blackbirds class are at Forest school on this date, so they may wear their uniforms on Wednesday 22nd April.

Stay & Play Workshops

In the Summer Term the teachers will be running workshops where you will be able to observe part of a 'WriteStuff' writing lesson in practice. These sessions will last approximately 30 minutes and one session will run each day. Closer to the time, you will be able to sign up for a session. Please see the diary dates section for the week in which your child's year group will be holding the sessions.



Message from the School Council about Birthdays

As you know, the School Council invite children to come into school in their own clothes on their birthday for a donation of £1.00 for the School Council Fund. You can either donate £1 via the MCAS app or bring in a £1 coin.



Children who celebrate their birthdays either during a school holiday or weekend may come into school on a day of their choice wearing their own clothes but please remember the donation!

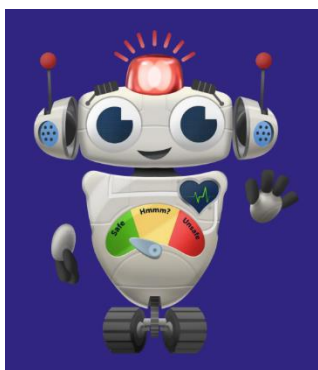
Thank you.

The School Council

Spotlight on Safeguarding – Clever Never Goes



In assembly this month we talked about 'Clever Never Goes'. The 'Clever Never Goes' programme has been developed to replace the out-dated 'stranger danger' approach. Research shows that teaching children simply to avoid strangers fails to keep them safe. Strangers are often more likely to help a child than to harm them. It can often be people known to children that pose the greatest threat.



'Clever Never Goes' moves the focus away from strangers and instead teaches children to recognise when someone (whether they are known to the child or not) is trying to persuade them to go with them. The programme is designed to be fun and positive, whilst at the same time delivering a serious message and giving children practical safety skills and confidence to engage with the outside world.

You can find out more information at the website www.clevernevergoes.org/parents. The home pack at the bottom of the page contains some ideas for how to approach this topic with your children as well as games and activities. On the website, you can also see a series of cartoon sketches which are a good way of reinforcing the Clever Never Goes message and checking that your child has understood the key Clever Never Goes message. Please do make use of these resources.

3 clever, easy steps

1. Don't tell your kids to fear strangers, instead talk to them about who they are allowed to go with: Mum, Dad, Grandma, the childminder, best friend's parents, etc. Settle on a short list of 'safe' people. Kids usually love this bit and always come up with some funny suggestions.
2. Tell your kids how clever they are and that you want them to use their cleverness when they're outside so they can stay safe.
3. Tell them there's one easy rule to remember: CLEVER NEVER GOES.



**CLEVER NEVER GOES MEANS NEVER GO
ANYWHERE WITH ANYONE UNLESS IT WAS
PLANNED BEFOREHAND.**



*Philippa Moulson
Designated Safeguarding Lead*

Governors' Corner

The Easter holidays are nearly upon us - a great time to rest and recharge after lots of hard work not only from our children and staff but also parents and carers. With that in mind, it is a perfect opportunity to look back on some of the fantastic things the children have been doing in relation to wellbeing recently and to remind you of some of the great resources available on our website.



We ended last half-term with a 'what makes you 'you' day where children were able to come to school dressed to express for Children's Mental Health Week. It was lovely to see children simply being themselves.

Moving into this half-term, we were thrilled to see our children taking part in the annual East Preston's Got Talent assemblies. These were an excellent opportunity to further celebrate the individuality of our children who took to the stage to perform for all sorts of wonderful skills for the audience, encouraged by their classmates and teachers. We are so proud of their bravery. Hobbies and extra-curricular activities are a wonderful way to keep a strong and healthy mind.

A favourite hobby of many on our Governing Board is reading; a great way to de-stress and immerse oneself in an imaginary world. For World Book Week we enjoyed seeing our children transform into their favourite literary characters, exploring the world of books and sharing favourite reads. Parents and carers were able to come to the school library to share books with their children. It was a great turnout and we thank you for your support with these activities and last week's Scholastic Book Fair which provided further opportunity for children to discover new stories.

Part of wellbeing includes feeling able to speak out and this month our Y2 classes participated in NSPCC's Speak Out, Stay Safe Assembly where they learnt ways they can keep themselves safe. Parents can find information on NSPCC's website at <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe>.

Our school website has a whole page under the 'parents' section dedicated to supporting your child's wellbeing and mental health which includes a number of useful links, webinars and videos which can help you to support your children at home. The page includes details on how to access support via a self-referral to the school nursing team and provides resources from CAMHS, Young Minds, West Sussex Mind and others which you may find useful. Please do take a look when you have some time.

We hope you all have a wonderful Easter Break!

The Governor Body

INSET Days 2026/27



There are five INSET days each year where the school is closed to the children. INSET days are **extra** days that teachers are required to work each year in addition to the 190 pupil days. The dates for 2026/27 have been agreed as follows:

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Friday 28th May 2027

We hope that this advance warning will be useful to you in making childcare arrangements or for an extended break away.

Parking Issue – Lime Tree Close

We have received several complaints this week from residents who live in Lime Tree Close regarding inconsiderate and dangerous parking at school drop off and pick up times.



Whilst we understand that parking at drop off and pick up times can be very frustrating the safety of the children is paramount and we once again ask that all parents/carers are considerate. Please also respect local residents by not blocking driveways or access in and out of roads.

You can also make reports to Operation Crackdown at Sussex Police - <https://operationcrackdown.org/> with regard to nuisance parking and anti-social driving.

Diary Dates

Attached are some dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and thank you again for your continuing support.

Claire New

Claire New (Mrs)
Headteacher



Diary Dates

Monday 13th April	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 14 th April	School restarts for pupils
Thursday 16 th April	2.30pm YR Reception Early Goal Info Meeting
Friday 17 th April	Monster Phonics Dress Up Day – details to follow
Wednesday 22 nd April	Blackbirds can wear cub, brownie etc uniforms
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day children can wear cub, brownie etc uniforms
Thursday 23 rd April	Y2 Stay and Play – Writing
Friday 24 th April	Y2 Stay and Play – Writing
Monday 27 th April	YR + Y1 Stay and Play – Writing
Tuesday 28 th April	Y1 Stay and Play – Writing
Friday 1 st May	YR Stay and Play - Writing
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday – school Closed to pupils
Friday 8 th May	School Grounds Morning – details to follow
Thursday 14 th May	New YR Parents Meeting – 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Thursday 21 st May	Class Photos
Friday 22nd May	INSET Day – school closed to pupils
Half Term Monday 25th to Friday 29th May	
Monday 1 st June	School restarts for pupils
Wednesday 3 rd June	9.30am/1.30pm – New YR Sing-a-Long sessions – details to follow
W/C Monday 8 th June	Y1 & Y2 (retakes) Phonics Screening week
Tuesday 16 th June	9.30am/1.30pm – New YR Sing-a-Long sessions – details to follow
Wednesday 17 th June	Sports Day – 9.30am – 11.30am
Thursday 18 th June	9.30am/1.30pm – New YR Sing-a-Long sessions – details to follow
W/C Monday 22 nd June	Annual Reports home to parents
Wednesday 1 st July	Transition Morning – children visit new classes
Tuesday 7 th July	9.15am – Puffins Class Assembly 2.30pm – Starlings Class Assembly
Wednesday 8 th July	9.15am – Wagtails Class Assembly 2.30pm – Blackbirds Class Assembly
Thursday 9 th July	9.15am – Robins Class Assembly
Monday 13 th July	Early Transition – children move into new classes until end of term (details to follow)
Wednesday 15 th July	Open Evening – Meet the Teacher presentations at 3.45pm and 5pm
Tuesday 21 st July	9.15am – Y2 Leavers Assembly FEPIS Discos – details to follow
Wednesday 22nd July	Term Ends for Pupils at 3.15pm

Learning, Playing and Laughing Together