

NEWSLETTER

Message from Mr O'Regan

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, COVID-19 infection rates for school aged children are currently high in East Sussex. There are some key actions that we can all take to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our lives and help us prepare for Christmas and the winter months ahead. I thank you in advance for taking the time to read the letter from the Director of Children's services in East Sussex - Alison Jeffrey - which can be found in the next two pages. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, the number of cases is increasing locally and our aim is to be proactive in order to minimise the impact on the children's learning. Thank you for your continued support with the measures we have kept in place since September.

Keeping safe online

Last week, we shared the link to [NSPCC Net Aware](#) which allows parents and carers to learn more about popular social media apps and other streaming platforms. Needless to say, apps such as [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) have age restrictions due to the content that children could be exposed to. However, apps such as [Roblox](#)—which have a much lower age restriction - also contain parental controls that could support you and your child's use of them. The search engine from [Net Aware](#) gives you direct access to all age restrictions and instructions for parental control, including for sites such as [Netflix](#) and for the chat/sharing options on popular video game consoles. Further information can be [found here](#) to support you and your child to make the best of their online time and remain safe at every available opportunity.

Reminder of dates for your diary

Please have a look at the events below for the remainder of term— note that these may be cancelled at short notice.

Reception and Year 1 Nativity	07.12.2021 9:10 A.M. in hall (reception parents to attend)
Reception and Year 1 Nativity	08.12.2021 9:10 A.M. (Year 1 parents to attend)
Outdoor carol singing at front of school	Year 2 13.12.2021 2:30 p.m.
Outdoor carol singing at front of school	Year 3 14.12.2021 2:30 p.m.
Outdoor carol singing at front of school	Year 4 15.12.2021 2:30 p.m.
Outdoor carol singing at front of school	Year 5 16.12.2021 2:30 p.m.
Outdoor carol singing at front of school	Year 6 17.12.2021 2:30 p.m.
Christmas Non Uniform day- Last day of Term	17.12.2021
Classes resume	05.01.2022

Children's Services

Alison Jeffery

Director of Children's Services

County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UE
www.eastsussex.gov.uk



Parents and Carers

25 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Parents' and carers' role in reducing the impact of COVID-19 this winter

COVID-19 infection rates for in school aged children are currently high in East Sussex. There are some key actions that we can all take to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our lives and help us prepare for Christmas and the winter months ahead.

We would like to ask for your help with:

- continuing to test for COVID-19
- supporting the vaccination programme, particularly for 12–15-year-olds
- the contact tracing process for children who test positive
- supporting any existing or additional measures at your child's school to protect the school community

Testing for covid 19

Secondary school pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home, with a lateral flow device (LFD) test.

Schools are reporting high levels of LFD test positives, but these are not always being followed up with a PCR test to confirm the result. It is important that pupils self-isolate when they have received a positive LFD test result, in line with the stay-at-home guidance for households. **They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.** If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, the pupil can return to school if they don't have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms can order a PCR test. Symptoms include:

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

There are a number of ways to get a PCR test, including through the post. See 'Get [a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.gov.uk) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)'

Vaccinations

Coming forward for a vaccination is one of the best things young people can do to protect themselves and those around them. It reduces the likelihood of getting COVID-19, helps limit the spread within schools and reduces the need to take time off school.

If you have children aged 12-15 years who missed their vaccination at school, you can:

- [book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment online](#) for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
- check if there is a [walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#) near you to get vaccinated without needing an appointment

Contact tracing process

Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing and this is now done by NHS Test and Trace. For children aged under 18, contact tracing should be completed by parents and carers. Following a positive PCR test result, parents and carers will receive calls from the national test and trace service. These calls will take approximately 30 minutes. If the national NHS test and trace service cannot reach parents, a local tracing team will contact you to complete the process.

Completing contact tracing helps break chains of COVID-19 transmission, reduces disruption to work and education, illness and saves lives. If you need additional support, contact tracing teams can also put you in touch with the help that you need.

We ask that all parents and carers engage with this important process when needed.

End of term events

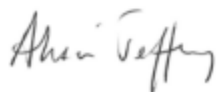
Schools are currently considering how best to manage events at the end of term that may bring large groups of people together. There is currently no national guidance on this issue and decisions will need to be made at a local level, based on infection rates and risk assessments at individual schools. Like us, I am sure that you will support school leaders if they need to change plans due to the rising number of cases in East Sussex.

From Monday, we have asked secondary schools to reintroduce face masks in communal areas to reduce the risk of infection. Over the coming weeks, your school may introduce further measures, such as putting pupils into 'bubbles' and having meetings online. These will help to protect the school community and we thank parents, carers and their children for supporting these measures. We really appreciate the support of all our families and would like to thank you for your continued support in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours faithfully,



Darrell Gale FFPH
Director of Public Health



Alison Jeffery
Director of Children's Services

Breakfast and After school club bookings

Please remember the cut off for booking your child's breakfast and after school club place is Wednesday 23:59 the week before. Children **will not be allowed to attend the club** unless a place has been booked and their name is on the printed register. If you have any queries regarding booking a place for breakfast or after school club please email finance@wslprimaryacademy.org.uk. Staff are not allowed to book on behalf of parent/carers as this has led to debit balances.



Lunch bookings

Please remember to book lunches for your children. Staff are not allowed to book on behalf of parent/carers as this leads to debit balances.



Nut Free School

This is just a reminder that we are a nut free school. Please make sure that all lunch box items are nut free. Chocolate spread is also not allowed in school as many contain nuts and others cannot guarantee to be nut free.

Please take this into consideration when packing your child's lunch.



Golden Bugs

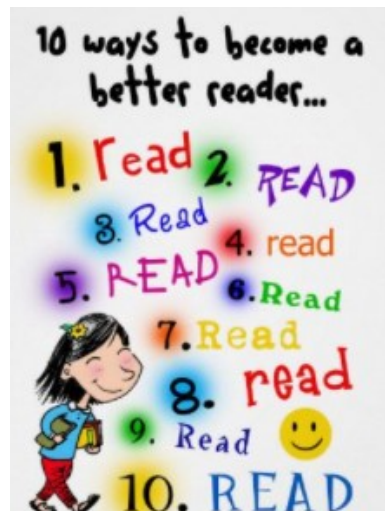
Congratulations to our glittering GOLDEN BUGS this week! Your patience, perseverance and resilience with your reading will help you to make super progress across the CURRICULUM!

KS1: Tula, Tristan, Nikita

KS2: Teddy, Neyen, Evie

This week's overall CHAMPION BUG is **Eluney** who completed 32 books! Well done!

Stay golden!



Y1 Handwriting Heroes

Well done to everyone who practised their handwriting last week and a big shout out to **Tristan** (Blackbirds) and **Henry** (Robins) who are our Handwriting Heroes.

Our next focus is part one of the "Down and Retrace" family. Click [here](#) for videos to support the correct formation.

Please return your handwriting practice on Monday with your name on it. Good luck heroes!

Year 1 would also like to remind parents and students to bring in pupils' reading records, reading books, phonics books and reading for pleasure books each week to ensure that these are regularly changed. Please keep phonics books and reading books inside the reading record so they are always together.

Phonics books and reading for pleasure books are changed each week, whereas the children's reading books are changed daily.



The Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you very much to all the parents, carers and children of West St Leonards that visited our Book Fair this week and purchased a book. We were able to raise £ 740.95 which will go towards the school purchasing poetry books to support children to learn about writing their own poetry.

We will look to continue having the Book Fair in future years too so there is always next year if you didn't get the chance to buy a book this time around!



School Office

We welcomed Mrs. Lowe to our school office team this week. You may have met her if you came to the school office since Monday.

Whilst we continue to welcome parents and carers to the school office to discuss important safeguarding matters or information that needs to be shared as a matter of emergency, we would like to thank our school community for continuing to use email as the key line of communication for queries and concerns as this allows questions to be sent directly to those that can resolve the matter and eliminates the need to wait at the school office at the start and end of the day where it can become busy.



Young Writer's Competition

Are you looking for something to do in the evenings or weekends? Do you have a love for writing? If so, please enter the following competition.

The Rotary Club are running a national writing competition for young writers (7-11 years old) based on the theme the '**Environment**'. Children are invited to write either a fiction or non-fiction piece (a maximum of 550 words) or a poem (maximum 40 lines) linked to this theme. Entries can be typed or written.

To enter, you need to collect a form and information pack from your class teacher, complete it and attach it to your entry. Please return your entries to the school office by **Wednesday 8th December**.

Prizes: At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a certificate of participation along with a brand-new reading book!



Politeness Cup

Celebrating our children with impeccable manners who put a smile on our faces. We focus on many POW values each week but we know how politeness can support them all. Well done to **Anastasia** and **Teddy** for always being polite across the week and showing others how to remain positive about their learning!

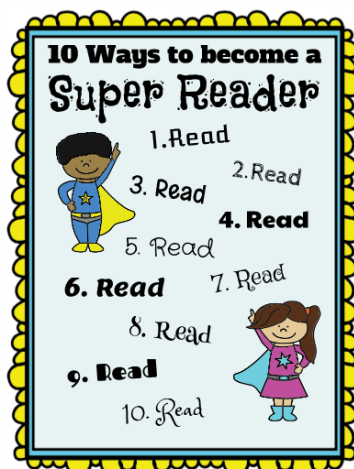
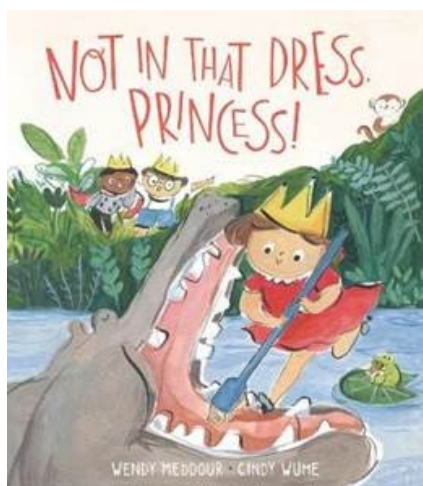


Recommended Read (Ages 4-5 and up)

Not In that Dress, Princess! | Author: Wendy Meddour

Princess Bess is infuriated that she is treated differently from her two brothers, Prince More and Prince Less, who are free to do whatever they choose. When Bess wants to play football, climb trees or feed the pigs, she is repeatedly told 'Not in that dress!' Frustrated at this inequality, she is determined to prove that being a girl is not a hindrance to having fun and trying new things. She proceeds to launch a rocket, ski through a blizzard and brush a lion's mane, all while wearing a dress.

The repetitive, rhyming text is great to read aloud and will encourage children to join in with the words. Colourful, lively illustrations fill every page and provide lots of humour and visual interest to engage the reader. This light-hearted, imaginative picture book contains an important underlying message, that gender is not a barrier to following dreams and embarking on adventures, big and small. Featuring ethnically diverse characters, this inclusive tale joyfully celebrates gender equality, individuality and self-expression.



Reception and Year 6 National Childhood Measurement Programme

This week, parents/carers in Reception and Year 6 would have received a Parentmail sharing information about school visits by East Sussex School Health Service. They have asked us to share this information with you:

The National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP)

Every year in England, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Your child's class will take part in this year's measurement programme. The NCMP provides information to help build an understanding of national and local trends in children's weight. It is important to have a good understanding of how children are growing, so that the best possible advice and support can be provided for them and their families.

The measurements will be carried out by trained school health staff at school in a private space away from other pupils. Children who take part will be measured fully clothed except for their coats and shoes. Routine data, such as your child's name, date of birth, gender, address, postcode and ethnicity will also be collected.

Data from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by East Sussex County Council's Public Health Team. Please note that your child's information is stored on their child health record. **No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children and all information will be treated confidentially.**

Year 6:

The School Health Team will be visiting the school in roughly two weeks' time, so please access the link before this so that you can receive the results or opt out of the programme.

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/3232/p/ESh123/140179>

Reception: Vision Screening and NCMP

Please follow the link below and register your details and fill in some contact information and set a password. You will be asked to add some details about your child and then you will be able to read the information provided about this year's health programmes. You will also be given the opportunity to opt out if you would like to but otherwise submit the form and once the form is accepted by the School Health Team you will be ready to receive any results letters generated about your child.

The School Health Team will be visiting the school in roughly two weeks' time, so please access the link before this so that you can receive the results or opt out of the programme.

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/3232/p/ESh124/140179>

Gold Awards

We continue to award children each week for showing their POW values and showing Excellent Learning and Friendship. Here are the gold awards for this week.



Puffins- Janna

For showing all your POW values this week I am very proud and impressed by your confidence when visiting other classes.



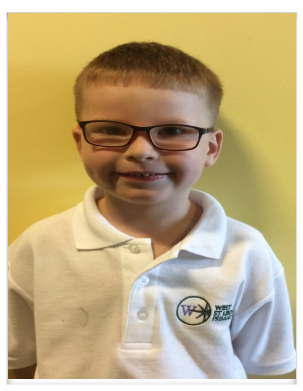
Ducklings - Lilly-Rose

For her positive attitude and showing her self-control. Well done also for her fantastic contribution to class singing as you obviously have been practicing your words and actions at home!



Robins - Callum

For showing responsibility this week holding the door for other children and also showing self-control whilst sitting on the carpet. You are always helpful in the classroom!



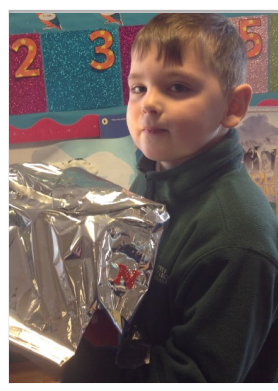
Blackbirds - Rocco

For being kind and helpful to others. Rocco has supported classmates by assisting them in taking their coats off, having resources ready and being attentive in class.



Warblers - Immie

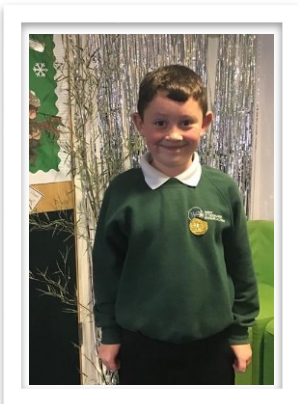
Immie has worked hard across the curriculum this week and made great progress with division. She can confidently divide by sharing or grouping—super effort Immie! Mrs Williams is very proud of you indeed!



Kingfishers - Nikita

You have completed fantastic homework! Your creativity POW tick is well deserved and your igloo looks great on our display. Thank you and well done!





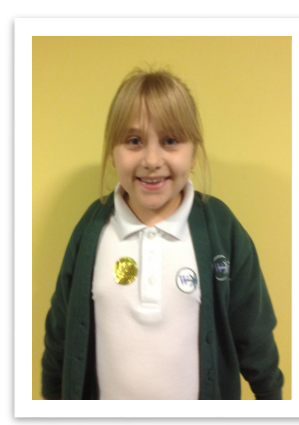
Nightingales - Riley

For his excellent work in maths this week with estimating and then measuring different lengths Riley also demonstrated his cooperation POW value by helping his peers when they were finding it tricky. Well done Riley!



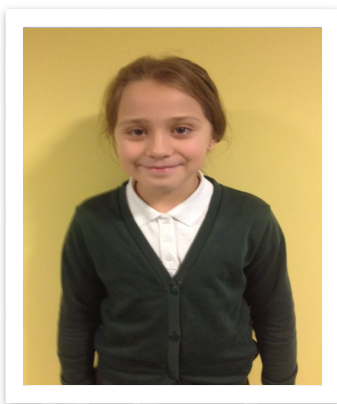
Sandmartins- Nina

Nina has shown great resilience in all areas of school life. Her determination in her maths learning and effort in her handwriting has been amazing. Always striving for a 5.



Avocets - Emily

For her fantastic use of generalisers and conjunctions during her explanation of why dragons are extinct. Well done Emily!



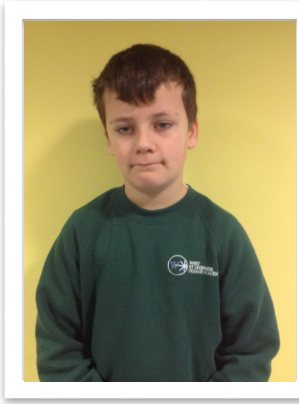
Oystercatchers - Beritan

For being so helpful and thoughtful towards her peers especially when they are struggling with their work. Well done Beritan!



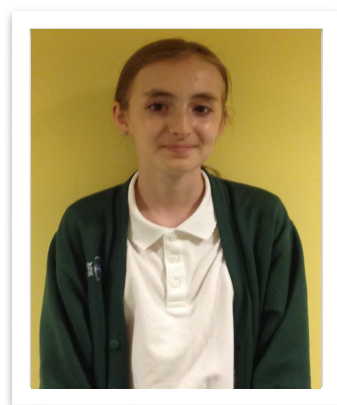
Herons - Summer W

For persevering with her maths work when dividing using place value counters, and for showing patience by showing her excellent learning and friendship when support her peers.



Cranes - Alex

For working incredibly hard on his POW values this week. Alex has been going above and beyond to be a superb role model in the classroom. Keep up the fantastic hard work Alex!



Razorbills - Rennie

For showing responsibility in the classroom by completing her work, focusing during lessons and participating to ensure she is getting the most out of her learning.



Swifts - Brooke

For identifying where she needs support in maths and asking specific questions to aid her understanding. She has also shown great empathy and understanding towards her classmates this week - well done!



Doves - Alesha

For working so hard in her maths this week, using her number bonds to 5. Well done



Supporting children,
young people and families

St. Nick's Holiday Space



Holiday food and fun!

FREE for families receiving
benefits-related free school meals.

For children aged 5-11

Dates: Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd December 2021

Time: 10am - 2pm

fun - craft activities and cooking

Sport - energetic games

nature - enjoying the outdoors

**Please complete the application form and
return to Felicity at**

Holidayspace@fsncharity.co.uk

or call 01424 377114 to book a place.



Department
for Education

Eligibility will be verified by East
Sussex County Council



East Sussex
County Council



Address: 66 London Rd, St. Leonards on Sea. TN37 6AS Reg. Charity No. 208446



Supporting children,
young people and families

Drop in and play

For fathers, grandfathers
and male carers and
their children

**INSIDE & OUTSIDE
SPACE FOR PLAY**

**BACON ROLLS and
other refreshments**

**FUN, HANDS ON
ACTIVITY SESSIONS**

**10-12 SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE
ST LEONARDS CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

CLYDE RD, SAINT LEONARDS-ON-SEA TN38 0QE

For further information,
contact Michelle Sterrick

Phone 01424 423683 ext. 2011
07923236746

Email msterrick@fsncharity.co.uk

Charity Number 208446

20th Nov
18th Dec
8th Jan
22nd Jan
5th Feb
19th Feb
5th March
19th March

