



Dear Families,

Welcome to this week's Newsflash!

The last week has been packed full of exciting adventures and learning across the school. It has been wonderful to see the children taking part in those extra experiences that help enrich their childhood through our 'Fantastic 50'. I always love hearing about the exciting adventures they have been having and the new memories they are making.

Possibly the biggest highlight—although rather soggy!—was this morning's dancing in the rain. Turning the playground into a outdoor disco floor certainly brightened up everyone's day!

I have also thoroughly enjoyed seeing the incredible dedication and passion from our school choir as they continue their preparations for *One Voice* at Glyndebourne! Giving up their lunchtimes and staying after school to make sure they know all the words and sign language shows true commitment. I know they are going to make us all incredibly proud when they take the stage in December.

Thank you as always for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy reading about everything our pupils have been up to this week!

Miss Emmett
Head of School

Celebration Assembly

All the children work hard to follow our Golden Rules and to use their Learning Powers, and in the last two weeks we especially congratulate ...

Maple Class Y1 – Sophia & Saylor
Willow Class Y2 – Rosie & Adah
Chestnut Class Y3 – Freya & Ruby-Marie
Spindle Class Y4 – Max & Chloe
Ash Class Y5 – Tilly & Henry G
Sycamore Class Y6 – Riley & Hugh

Prayer from Celebration Worship

Dear God,

Thank you for our school and the people that help us to learn.

Thank you for guiding us through the path of righteousness.

Thank you for forgiving my sins.

I am thankful for the food and my family.

Amen

Written and read by Oskar - Sycamore Class Y6

Attendance

Good attendance is key to your child's success, learning, and happiness at school. Arriving on time every day ensures they never miss out on vital lessons, exciting activities, or time with friends.



Congratulations to our winning class this week...

Oak Class with 98.93% attendance

Oak Class - Reception	98.93%
Maple Class - Year 1	98.33%
Willow Class – Year 2	96.55%
Chestnut Class – Year 3	95.77%
Spindle Class – Year 4	96%
Ash Class – Year 5	95.94%
Sycamore Class – Year 6	96.55%



Thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils achieve their very best by prioritising regular attendance!

Calendar dates

Please visit our website to keep up to date with all school events. This is the easiest way to keep an eye on everything school life.

<https://www.herstmonceux.e-sussex.sch.uk/Calendar/>

Inset Dates

Just a reminder of the Inset dates. Full details are on our website <https://www.herstmonceux.e-sussex.sch.uk/Parents/Term-Dates/>

Monday 2nd November (Children will return from half term on Tuesday 3rd November)

Friday 28th May

Mon 21st June

Reminder Reception Seasonal Walk

Oak Class is going on a Seasonal Autumn Walk on Friday 23rd October (1:15pm–2:30pm)

What You Need to Know:

Permission: Please give consent via the Trips section on Arbor.

Clothing: We go ahead rain or shine (unless there are high winds)! Children need warm school uniform, waterproof coats, and wellies to change into.

Parent Helpers: Parents are welcome to join us—please let Miss Prior know and meet us at the Rec (by the bowls club) at 1:15pm. To ensure full supervision, no siblings may attend.

Early Pickup: Children whose adults join the walk may go home directly afterwards. All other children will return to class until the normal end of the day.

We can't wait for a fun, outdoor afternoon! Please speak to Miss Prior if you have any questions.



Our harvest festival is coming up, and the School Council is teaming up with Hailsham Food Bank to support local families. After last year's amazing response, we're aiming to beat our previous record!

Donation Date: Tuesday 20th October

Drop-off: Key Stage 1 playground from 8:30am

All in-date, non-perishable items are welcome, but the food bank urgently needs:

- Tinned meat
- Long-life juice
- Tinned / cuppa soup
- Tea & coffee
- Tinned vegetables



Your kindness helps keep our community fed, supported, and hopeful. Thank you for your generosity!

Fantastic 50 Update – it has been a busy week!

Whole School – Dancing in the rain!

What a way to start a gloomy Friday morning! The playground turned into a vibrant disco as we set out to "Dance in the rain" and brighten up the damp weather.

Many children joined Miss Emmett to strut their best moves as they arrived, and it was wonderful to see parents joining in with the fun too!



Did we play your favourite? Could this be something to repeat next Friday? Let us know what you think!

Song requests can be handed in via the school office.

Year 4 – River Walk



Today, Spindle Class walked along the Cuckmere River exploring their learning first-hand. Full details and lots more photos of their adventures are included in the Newsflash below!

Year 5 & Year 6 – Represent the school in a sporting event

Herstmonceux was proudly represented by 24 brilliant Year 5 and Year 6 pupils at the Burwash cross-country event. It was a fantastic afternoon overall, and what a wonderful group of children to take along!

Special mentions go to Etta, who delivered a confident 6th-place finish in the Year 6 girls' race, earning strong encouragement to pursue running further. Henry G from Ash Class matched that success with an impressive 6th-place finish of his own. Congratulations to all who took part!



PTA Events

We have plenty of exciting events coming up over the next few months! Please take a look at the dates below and make a note in your diaries.

- Thursday 22nd October – School Disco & Non-Uniform Day

- **KS1:** 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- **KS2:** 4:15pm – 5:15pm
- *Children may wear non-uniform to school today.*



- Friday 20th November – Non-Uniform Day (Chocolate Donation)



- Children can come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a donation of **chocolates** for our Christmas Fayre tombola.

- Friday 4th December – Non-Uniform Day (Bottle Donation)



- Children can come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a donation of a **bottle** (e.g., wine, spirits, soft drinks, or toiletries) for the Christmas Fayre bottle tombola.

- Saturday 5th December – Christmas Fayre (12:00pm – 2:30pm)

- Join us for festive stalls, games, and holiday treats!



- Tuesday 15th December – Elfridges School Christmas Shop

- Children can visit the secret gift shop during the school day to purchase and wrap presents for family members.



- Thursday 17th December – Christmas School Disco & Non-Uniform Day

- **KS1:** 3:15pm – 4:15pm
- **KS2:** 4:15pm – 5:15pm
- *Children may wear non-uniform to school today.*





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KS1 - Free

Thursday 5 November 2026

LET'S ROCKET

MAINS
Chicken Goujons
or
Vegan Meatball Sub (Ve)

SIDES
Whizz Bang Chips
Peas
Baked Beans

DESSERTS
School Cake
or Fresh Fruit

Also available: All other daily options

*Menus may be subject to change

Chartwells

Oak Class

We have had another action-packed couple of weeks in Oak Class (embracing the rainy days too)!



In English, we have been busy learning even more sounds in phonics and strengthening our recall through lots of fun, interactive games. The children are doing a fantastic job identifying initial sounds in words and using their sound mats to help them write them down. We've also made handwriting practice super engaging, focusing on forming the letters **c** and **a** correctly.



Meanwhile in Maths, we have continued to secure our counting and subitising skills, while taking a deeper look at how numbers up to 4 can be made. We even stepped into data handling by creating our own hands-on block graphs and pictograms!

Alongside this, we have placed a big focus on our social and emotional well-being. We've been discussing how to work and learn together well, focusing on using kind hands, feet, and words, as well as "pressing pause" when our emotions start to feel a bit too big. The children have also learned how to stand up for themselves positively by using clear, confident phrases like *"Please stop, I don't like that."* Some of them have even created wonderful posters to help keep these ideas in mind! To support them further, we set up our very own Oak Class 'Worry Box', which the children decorated themselves. If anyone has a worry, they can drop their personalized monster card inside, letting Mrs. Climpson or me know that it's time for a little extra check-in or a quiet catch-up.



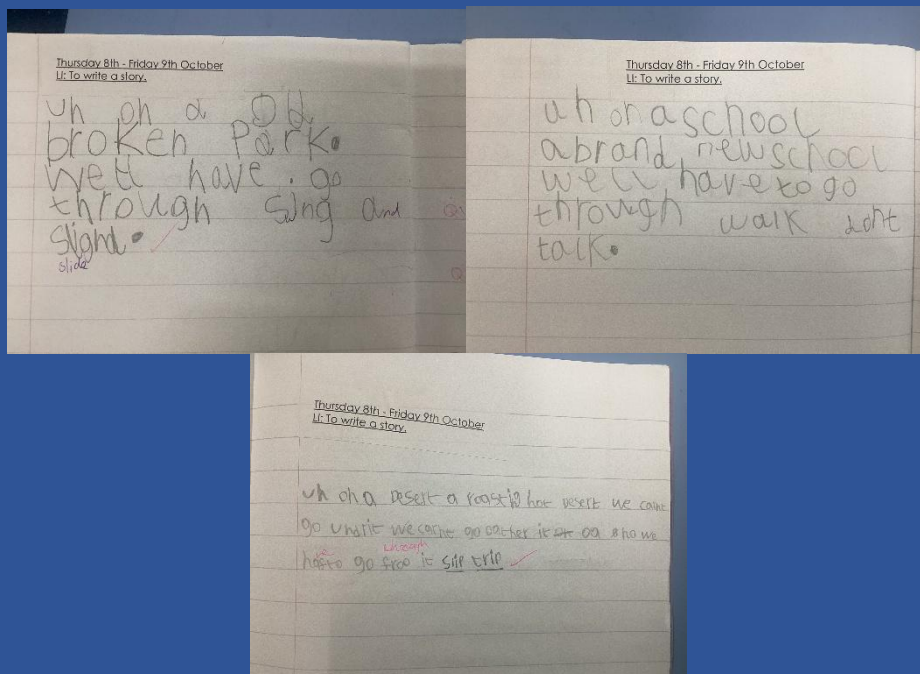
This week, we wrapped up our learning by exploring the Harvest Festival and discovering our five senses, using some catchy new songs to help everything stick! It's been incredible to see how maturely and thoughtfully the children are approaching both their schoolwork and their friendships every single day.

Miss Prior and Mrs Climpson

Maple Class

It's been another great two weeks in Maple Class, and we've almost reached the end of the term. The children have done so well adjusting to the increased demands on them in key stage 1, and we feel they have almost well earned a week off... just one more week to go! When the half term arrives, we hope you get up time to relax, and get up to lots of fun, exciting adventures.

In English, we have been really enjoying our new phonics scheme, Little Wandle. We are getting used to the structure, and the children have been great at reading the graphemes, tricky words, and new words from the cards, with increasing speeds. We have also written our own verses for a new take on the classic book, We're Going on a Bear Hunt. We changed it to a dinosaur hunt, and thought of new places we could go, using adjectives to describe them, and thinking of sounds and actions of how we would travel through these places. We have also started researching dinosaurs, in order to write a non-fiction book next week. I'm really looking forward to reading them next Friday!



In maths we have learnt the whole rhyme to help us with our number bonds to ten. We have played a pairs game to show our understanding, and matched up the pairs. We are getting quicker, and quicker with our recall of them. We have also been learning about finding one more, and one less than numbers, building the bridge to addition and subtraction. We have been creating tables to show the most popular favourite things, and this week we have been reading block graphs to find out which item was chosen the most, and which was chosen the least.

In history we have moved on from Mary Anning and her work on fossils to looking at the three different periods of history that the dinosaurs were around for. Did you know, that some dinosaurs would never have met because they lived millions of years apart? The three periods were – Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous (that's a difficult word to spell!). We learnt the order they go in, and next week we will look at which periods the different dinosaurs lived in.

Mr Toms, Miss Hunnisett, and Miss Roberts

Willow Class

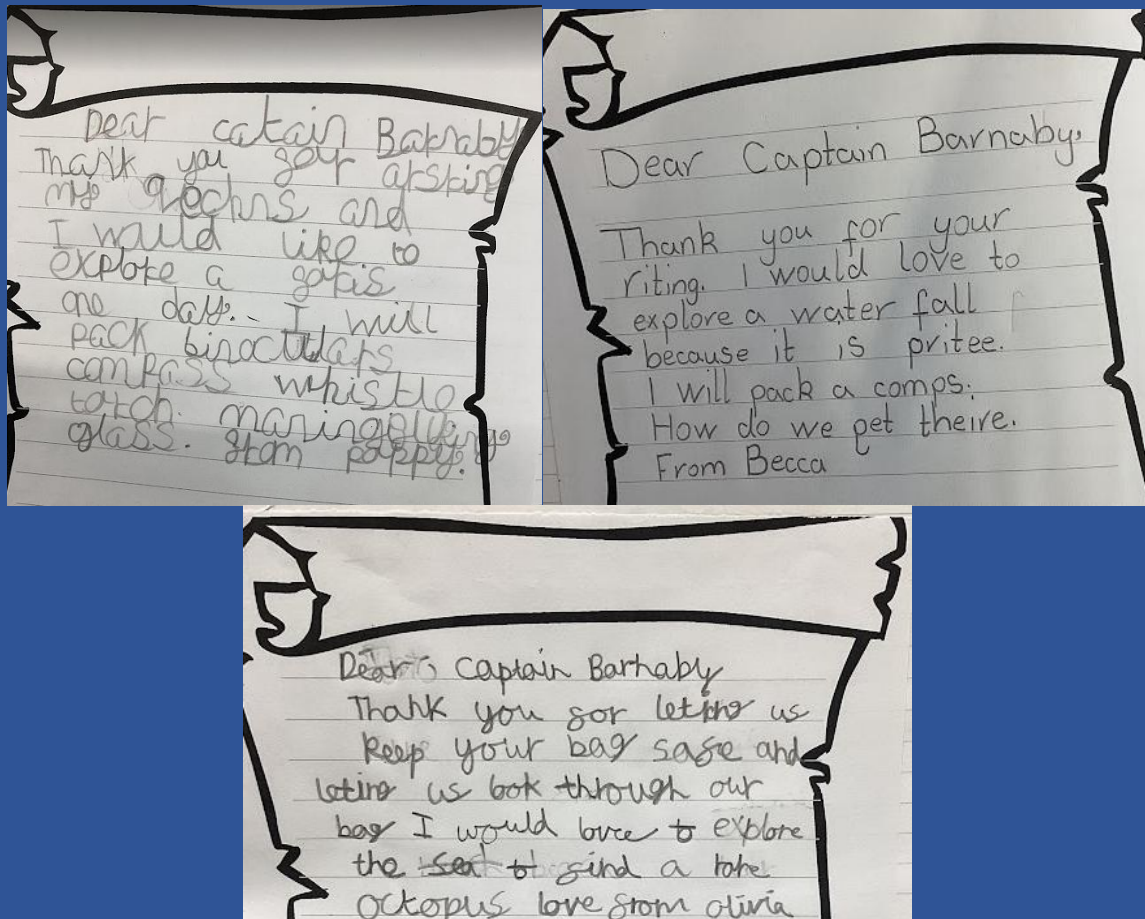
It's been another great fortnight in Willow class!

In maths, we have been getting to grips with partitioning two-digit numbers in lots of different ways. In science we have continued our learning about the four survival needs of different types of animals. In art we have been creating art pieces based on leaves – using rubbings, sketching and zentangle!

English has been very exciting this week! We discovered that someone had left their bag in our classroom. As nobody claimed it, we decided to investigate further. Inside, we found a pair of binoculars, a compass, whistle and flashlight. Using these clues, we wondered if our mystery visitor had been a pirate, a climber, or even a spy!

The next day, we found a letter that had been left for us by our mystery visitor, who explained that he was an explorer! A cheeky monkey had made off with his bag and left it in our classroom! After discovering who he was, and what he enjoyed exploring, we decided to create our own Explorer's Club. The children have written a letter back to our mystery visitor; written a set of instructions about how to be a good explorer, and will continue next week by creating information leaflets about our beautiful planet.

All the children have been working so hard on their presentation and handwriting, and are making great progress! They are also making amazing progress with their reading and Numbots – thank you for your support with this!



Chestnut Class



Another week passes us by, and with it we say goodbye to our 'Leon and the Place Between' topic. But fear not! The children have enjoyed a very big, and explosive welcome to our new literacy book 'Escape from Pompeii!' The week started with an archaeological discovery. We found some hidden items covered in volcanic ash and lava fragments (Sand!). Using a brush, the children very carefully removed a set of artefacts to piece together what our new topic could be. The children loved finding out what was buried and made great links to the front cover of our story.

In Geography the children took a virtual journey around the world to discover what some of the most famous volcanoes actually look like. We were able to zoom in and move around them in 3D to gather just how huge many of them are. The children absolutely loved discovering Mt. Etna which had smoke billowing out of the top of it when the aerial photo was taken!



In other areas this week, the children have been learning to take on more responsibility in their Maths lessons by becoming 'Mini-Mr. Allerys'. After a period of talking partner work, a child will come up to the board and explain how they reached the answer by manipulating my activity slides. They will also take questions from the children and try their best to explain their thinking. It's been a joy to watch their confidence grow!

Another subject the children have really taken a shine to this term is Art. We have been gradually building up our skills including block colouring, watercolour painting, shading, crosshatching and detailing. This has resulted in some stunning final pieces. The children drew inspiration from Andy Warhol's **Vesuvius** painting to design their own and I couldn't be prouder of how they turned out.

Mr. Allery & Miss. Hodgson



Spindle Class

Year 4 had a fantastic trip to Cuckmere Haven, where we explored the beautiful surroundings and learned all about the features of a river [#fantastic50](#). The children put their geography skills to the test by identifying different river features and discussing possible sources of river pollution, thinking carefully about how human activities can affect our natural environment. There were lots of thoughtful observations and interesting ideas shared throughout the day!





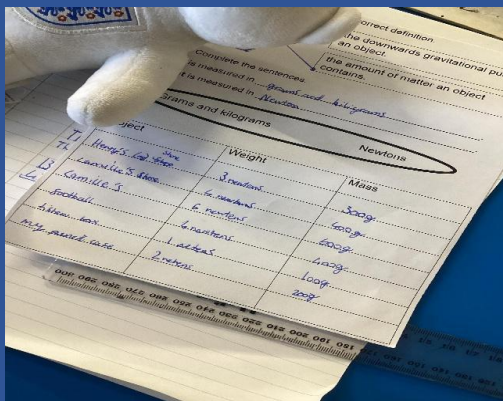
We also enjoyed a wonderful walk up and down the ridge, taking in the spectacular views across the countryside and coastline. The stunning landscape provided the perfect opportunity for the children to put their artistic skills into practice, creating beautiful landscape drawings in their art books. It was a brilliant day of learning, exploring and appreciating the natural world!

Ash Class

It's been another action-packed couple of weeks in Year 5, which has seen us get slightly medieval, as we've been commemorating the 960th anniversary of the Norman invasion. We don't kick off our learning about the Anglo Saxons and Normans until term 3, but with October 14th being the date it all went down just up the road, we had to dip our toes in and discover some of the incredible history right on our doorstep. More to come in term 3, but you may have noticed your (not so) little one suddenly has a taste for conquering!



In science, we have continued our learning about forces, investigating water resistance (to build on earlier knowledge of air resistance), and looking at gravity. We learnt the difference between weight and mass, what gravity is, and why everything falls towards the centre of the Earth. More to come next term when we blast off into space!



Our English has been all about creating a character description of Kensuke, both before and after Michael got to know him. We explored the difference in how he was presented in the book and his motivations, as we gathered and practiced the skills to create an engaging, descriptive, 'show don't tell' description of Kensuke. We used, among other things, modal verbs, fronted adverbials, and different types of sentences to create a flow and style to our writing.

Non-number maths saw us walking between 'cities' from Kensuke's Kingdom to understand how a distance matrix is completed, read and interpreted, while the most recent number lessons have been getting to grips with rounding. If it means I get to use the sheep dog rounding up joke (again), it's all good with me.

There's been so much else happening, but I'll wrap it up there. Just to say, well done to everyone for all the hard work and perseverance shown when times might be tricky. We chase challenging in year 5, so keep it up, Ash Class!

Speaking of chasing challenging, congratulations to **Mrs Pavitt**, who ran a half marathon last weekend. An incredible effort, and she made Ash Class proud!



Mr Valder & Mrs Pavitt

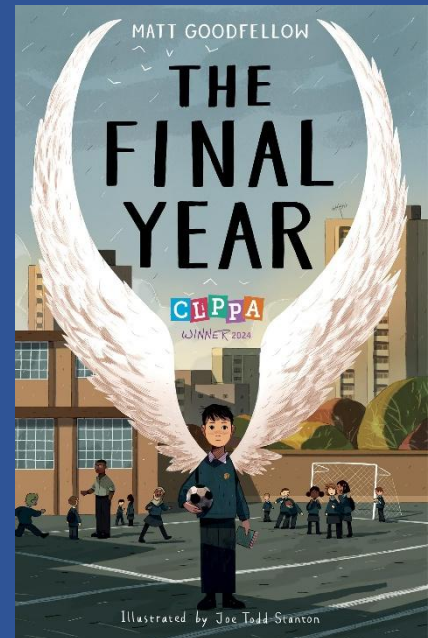
Sycamore Class

What a busy and exciting couple of weeks we've had in Year 6! The learning momentum is in full swing, and the children have been throwing themselves into every task with brilliant enthusiasm.

We've dived right back into *The Final Year*, and the timing couldn't be better! Nate has just embarked on his Year 6 residential trip—a huge milestone that had our classroom buzzing with excitement.

Inspired by Nate's experience, the children have been stepping directly into his shoes to write vibrant first-person recounts. We've been sharpening our grammar toolkit by using fronted adverbials to make our writing flow seamlessly and build strong cohesion across paragraphs.

Alongside our recounts, we've been investigating how good writers adapt their tone. The children have been analysing the form (What kind of text are we creating?), the purpose (Why are we writing it—to inform, entertain, or persuade?) and the audience (Who are we writing for, and how should our language choices change?) to strengthen their choices as independent writers. It's been wonderful watching them carefully craft their words with their readers firmly in mind!



In Maths, we are continuing to build a rock-solid understanding of place value—the ultimate foundation for all mathematical thinking! This fortnight, we've been working heavily with number lines. They might seem simple on the surface, but learning how to accurately position, estimate, and navigate numbers on a visual line helps the children truly see the relationships between numbers. This visual model is going to be a crucial tool in our kit as we tackle more complex calculations and problem-solving throughout the year!

Our learning journey hasn't stopped there—we've also been getting hands-on in Science and diving into modern languages!

In Science, the children have been stepping into the shoes of taxonomists! We've been creating branching diagrams (classification keys) to group and identify different organisms. The class did a brilliant job asking precise 'yes/no' questions to sort living things into their correct categories.

Ooh la la! We've been training our ears with French phonics. The children showed fantastic enthusiasm during our listening challenges—tuning in closely to hear subtle sound patterns and practicing their native-sounding pronunciation!

To wrap things up, we just want to say a huge well done to all the children for their hard work, energy, and determination over the past two weeks. We are so proud of the fantastic attitude they bring to the classroom every single day, and we can't wait to see what they accomplish next!

Miss Mortland, Mrs Hibbert and Miss Fisher

Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Safeguarding at Herstmonceux CE Primary School

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects staff, including volunteers and visitors, to share this commitment.

No worry is too small.
If you see or hear something that concerns you, speak to one of our safeguarding team.
We are always here to listen and help.

If you have safeguarding concerns or would like to discuss any issues that arise, please contact us in person, via the school office or by using the email address safeguarding@herstmonceux.e-sussex.sch.uk.



Helen Emmett
Head of School
Safeguarding Lead



Catherine
Cottingham
Executive
Headteacher
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead



Kally Livingston
SENCO
Deputy
Safeguarding lead

You can also get advice if you have a concern about a child from the following helplines:

East Sussex Single point of Advice :01323 464222

NSPCC Safeguarding advice line: 0808 800 5000

*Chair of Governors: Liz Ford
Safeguarding Governors Nina Jabang and Emma Robinson*

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

ChildLine: <https://www.childline.org.uk/>