

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 13th October 2023

Dear parents and carers

We hope you were able to make the most of the longer weekend last week. Here in school, we spent the day with three of the team from Surrey Wildlife Trust as part of our Wilder Schools Project. Even those of us who have been teaching for longer than we'd like to admit came away having learnt more about how to make the most of our grounds for learning across the curriculum (we also had fun too)!

One of the activities we took part in involved collecting items in egg boxes for a range of purposes - to illustrate adjectives, write a story, demonstrate a scientific idea and much more. If you have a spare, clean egg box, we'd like to build a collection so please hand any to your class teacher or the office. We also tried out pond dipping and were a bit surprised at the enormous range of wildlife we collected – we are looking forward to getting the children involved soon too!



Story-telling with our own 'stick people!'

Please have a look at the important information below about dressing-up for the 240th birthday celebration, the opportunity for you to come and celebrate with us, and the food collection for East Grinstead Foodbank. With fireworks to look forward to as well, it's going to be a very busy day!

Have a great weekend,
Mr Hogan-Fleming and Mrs Sims

Term Dates

16th October Juniors - Restart a Heart Day
16th October Parent Consultations
17th October Jaguars Junior Citizen at Lingfield Park
17th October Macaws-Residential Meeting 3.30 pm
19th October Infants - Restart a Heart Day
20th October Last day of term
3rd November 240th Birthday Celebration

Party Invites Request

If your child is having a party, please could we ask that invites are given out either via WhatsApp or at the gate – we totally understand that not every party involves whole classes, but it can be confusing for children sometimes when they don't get an invite and it is easier to be sensitive to everyone if invites aren't given out in class. Thank you.

Christmas Fair planning has begun...

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 3RD
DECEMBER 2023

We'd love you to join us any time
from 12pm to 3pm!

Restart a Heart – Monday 16th and Teddy Bear First Aid – Thursday 19th

Don't forget your teddy bear/doll 'patient' for these sessions! Key Stage 2 are on Monday morning, live-streamed by the Kent/Sussex Air Ambulance, while infant year groups will be on Thursday morning, led in school by Dr Leaman. More detailed information can be found in recent newsletters.



SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDER
KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE
"Please show you care and do not park outside or near our school"

Macaws Class - Wilder Schools Project

On Monday, Macaws had their second session as part of the Wilder Schools Project. They created nature vision maps displaying their ideas for how to improve the school grounds to encourage more wildlife and spent some time in the woodland participating in well-being activities.

During this time, Tom Barcraft-Barnes decided to write a poem inspired by the ivy he could see growing.

Green as grass,
A wonderful shape,
Stick to trees,
With no need of any tape.
Here before the dinos,
And came after the sharks,
You grow anywhere,
From gardens to national parks.
Yet here you are still,
Better than before,
You reach to the top,
From the bottom of the floor.



East Grinstead Schools Cross Country



On Sunday Miss Richardson went to East Court with 6 Felbridge representatives to take part in the East Grinstead Cross Country. There were lots of children there from different East Grinstead schools taking part. The children displayed all our values throughout the afternoon, showing courage to take part when they were quite nervous, challenging themselves when they felt they couldn't do it and showing lots of compassion to each other and other competitors by cheering them on at the finish line. Well done Beau, Lexi, Evie, Tom, Seb and Zack!



Monkeys Class - Ashdown Forest

Monkeys Class loved their trip to Ashdown Forest on Thursday. We went to learn about seasonal change. The children loved being outside all day and the weather was very kind to us! We made our own leaf trees collecting leaves of different colours. We also made our own starlings and enjoyed migrating to warmer temperatures in the south. In the afternoon we made our own hedgehogs and built warm and cosy homes for them to hibernate in over the winter.



Football Match

On Wednesday afternoon, a group of Year 5 and 6 boys went to the sports club to play in a football tournament. There were 7 other schools, so it was non-stop football. After a cracking start and a 1-0 win to us – thankyou Zack for the goal- we came across some trickier teams and after a few losses finally managed a draw. We were not defeated though, we had a good time and have found some areas we need to work on ready for the League which starts after half term. A big thank you to the parents who took us and supported us during the afternoon.



240? We don't look a day over 199!

We will be celebrating our 240th birthday on Friday 3rd November, the day before our actual anniversary on 4th November. The day will feature all sorts of fun for children; parents are also invited to come and join us at 2.30pm when we will be singing a couple of 'old-school' assembly songs and reciting the 'Ballad of Felbridge School,' a poem originally written for the 200th anniversary of the school in 1983. The PTA will be serving refreshments and children will be having some cake too. There will be a display of our local history work in the hall for everyone to enjoy and we hope this will be a lovely end to our day together.



On the day, we'll be going back to 1904, the year that the first known photo of the children of Felbridge School was taken. **We would love it if children could come on Friday 3rd November dressed in period clothing- inspired by the photo!** This doesn't have to be complicated- school shorts or trousers, long socks maybe tucked in, a dress or long skirt with a simple white cloth as an apron etc, flat caps- you get the idea!

During the day, we will be taking a couple of whole-school photos to commemorate the day and add to our collection. Maybe the children who come together in 2033 for our 250th, or even 2083 for our 300th birthday, will use it in their learning!

Don't forget to keep bringing in pictures, writing, hats and more for the 240th homework display. We've seen some amazing cakes too- yummy!

Lunchtime: it's not just football!

There are a range of options for children at lunchtime – some are totally free-flow and others are more like a weekly club. All are voluntary and children are welcome to come as they please, although some have limited numbers due to space/supervision and we may sometimes need to keep a list or allocate a place to keep things fair.

- **The Quiet Area** – outside Year 2, some of the older children organise an area with colouring, drawing and magazines for those who would rather sit down at an activity than be active.
- **Crew Trainer games** – Year 6 crew trainers will sometimes organise games or activities for younger children to help them try out new games.
- **Choir** – held on a Tuesday, children from Year 2 upwards are very welcome to attend. We do prefer a bit of commitment to this as we work towards performances, particularly in the Spring Term where children are working towards the East Surrey Festival at Dorking Halls, but enthusiasm is certainly more important than virtuosity!
- **XTB** – this is a session on a Thursday run by members of St John's Church including our own Mrs Cole. Sessions are themed on a story from the bible and usually involve lots of games, craft activities and fun as well as a chance to ask questions or have a chat about the story. Examples this week included a parachute game and making a glittery shaker to represent waves (or calm), linked to a story of Jesus and the storm on the lake. Sessions are totally voluntary and Key Stage 2 children are welcome to pop in if they'd like to take part.
- **Mindful Colouring Club** – a slightly more formal, even more chilled out version of the quiet area, run weekly by Mrs Lavington in a classroom for Years 1 to 4. Numbers are usually limited just because it's so popular!
- **Book Club and Library Time** – Mrs Lansdell-Cobb runs a weekly reading club in the library on a Thursday for anyone who would like to come and read in our beautiful old library. All Key Stage 2 children also have a dedicated slot at lunchtimes where our Year 6 librarians will help them to borrow or return books if they'd like to, in addition to their usual class slot.
- **Lego Club** – held on Tuesdays in Macaws Classroom, run by Mrs Rolfe for Year 1 to 4. This is loosely a 'sign-up' club, but there are often spare places for anyone who would like to come and join in the fun!

In addition to all these options, we are always varying the opportunities available outside including using combinations of the field, copse, top and bottom playgrounds where there is a range of equipment and resources available for traditional games as well as imaginative play – you'd be amazed what children can invent with some wooden blocks, a tyre and a skipping rope!



Action for Nature – Log Out, Log In

As the days grow shorter and Halloween approaches, why not [create a cosy log pile village for all things creepy and crawly?](#)

Log piles are perfect hiding places for insects, providing a convenient treat for frog, birds, and hedgehogs too!

Your logs can be neatly piled in a pyramid in a cool, dark corner, or loosely scattered under a hedge. Like this, they are handy for mulching the soil, but you'll get more wildlife if you do create a concentrated stack.

You could even bury your timber vertically to create a 'log pyramid', perfect for the larvae of one of our most iconic insects, the Stag Beetle!

Branches and logs can be freely available from local tree surgeons or arboriculturists, just ask nicely! Native, locally sourced wood is best.

Make a beetle bucket



Perfect for smaller gardens!

You will need

- A bucket, trug, or other durable, upcycled container
- A small craft knife
- Stones
- Bark chips and/or leaves
- Small logs (that will fit in your container when upright)
- A spade

Fill a bucket with rotting wood and leaves and make the perfect home for all sorts of beetles and other insects. Making your beetle habitat in an old plastic container means you can easily find it again to top up or examine the contents (make sure to replace everything straight away after examining).

- 1 Safely cut small circular holes (around 3cm wide) in the sides and bottom of the bucket for beetles to enter and exit.
- 2 Dig a hole just larger than your bucket and sink it into the ground.
- 3 Place some large stones at the bottom of the bucket, then stand some small logs upright on top.
- 4 Fill the rest of the bucket with bark chips and/or garden leaves, leaving around 10cm at the top to fill with some soil dug from the ground.
- 5 Top the soil with a couple more logs to tempt in beetles - from above or below!

These will rot and make lovely spots for female beetles to lay their eggs.

If you'd rather not use plastic, you can simply make your beetle 'bucket' in a hole in the soil.

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

If you don't have your own outdoor space at home, why not [help the environment by aiming for a more sustainable Halloween?](#)

Make your own costumes and decorations (or buy secondhand), and rather than giving out plastic-wrapped treats, why not bake some of your own?

If you do carve a pumpkin, try using the innards in a tasty recipe, and please don't leave it in the park or woods after Halloween, as these non-native squashes can be harmful to our wildlife - compost it instead!"

240th Anniversary Food Collection

See our needs in real-time with **Bank the Food** app



In James Evelyn's (our founder) lifetime, he arranged for 'four stone of beef (25 kilos!) to be made into broth in the huge fireplace in our library and distributed it to local people from the school house. In the spirit of that tradition, we are having our food collection around the time of our anniversary this year.

We would be grateful for any donations of long-lasting tinned/packet goods but the foodbank have particularly requested those below in order to make up Christmas parcels for those in need.

Please bring donations to school during the first week back to arrive by Friday 3rd November, after which we will arrange for them to be delivered to the East Grinstead Foodbank. Thank you for your support.



Use by dates must be 2024 or longer



**Spaghetti hoops, Tinned Meat
Tinned Fish, Pringles,
Tinned Custard, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit,
Tubs of chocolates**










Values Champion

Well done to the following children who have received certificates this week:

- Henry for Compassion - Geckos
- Clara for All the Values! - Monkeys
- Naya for Compassion - Leopards
- Vinny for Challenge and Curiosity - Pandas
- Joshua for Challenge - Toucans
- Emmi for Challenge - Macaws
- Bella and Sonny for Challenge - Jaguars



Well done!

Mathletics								
 Bronze	 Silver	 Gold	 Platinum	 Emerald	 Diamond	 Epic	 Legend	
Monkeys Ben II Fionn II Imogen III Thea I Holly V Timos IV Leopards Mudaseer III Seb W V Audrey IV Florence IV Oliver II Marietta II Jack III Leila IV Billy V Oscar III	Leopards Freya IV Pandas Everly III Alina V Lily I Freddie IV Husna III Rohan V Toucans Pavel IV Jack V Poppy II Bella III Lochie I	Macaws Florence V Jackson III Alisha V Amelie II Jenson V Seb III Mia III Jaguars Tommy I Tegan V	Leopards Jasmine I William II Naya I Pandas Darcie I Finlay I Toucans Evan II Jaguars Ayla II					

Mathletics: Sunday, 2nd October - Sunday, 8th October

Attendance								
Attendance this week:	Geckos: 99%	Monkeys: 88%	Leopards: 100%	Pandas: 86%	Toucans: 92%	Macaws: 95%	Jaguars: 95%	Whole School: 94%



East Grinstead Schools Cross Country

The PTA met for their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Minutes will be circulated in due course, however 2 important notes are:

- A new team has been elected. We now have 2 co-chairs, Kate White and Kelly Petch. Our new secretary is Sarah Rodway and our new treasurer is Rebecca Winsor. We are excited to get going!

- We agreed to change from a PTA to a 'Friends' group. All parents/guardians of children in the school plus school teaching staff continue to automatically become members, as before. The main difference is that members of the community and members of your families who may want to get involved can also join the committee. We are hoping this takes some pressure from parents as we understand how busy life can be! A full relaunch will happen over the coming months.

We are looking forward to our fireworks event on 3rd November. Tickets are on sale now and are selling well. Get yours soon if you want to join us!

Many thanks to our sponsors, Holloway Wright Hair and Roshe School of Performing Arts.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help on a stall at the event, a link will be shared shortly. We are very grateful to all those who have offered their help already.

If anyone has any questions or would like to get involved, please get in touch with us at pta@felbridge.surrey.sch.uk

Many thanks, Kate and Kelly

FELBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA
FIREWORKS NIGHT 2023

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

5:30-7:30PM
FIREWORKS START AT 7PM

KINDLY SPONSORED BY

HOLLOWAY RIGHT
RESPOND HAIR

ROSHE SCHOOL

LIMITED STOCK

TICKETS EVERY TICKET INCLUDES A BURGER OR HOTDOG FROM FLANAGAN BUTCHERS (VEGGIE OPTION AVAILABLE)

ADULT £11	CHILD (2-16YRS) £7
FAMILY OF 4 £32	FAMILY OF 5 £38

CHILDREN UNDER 2 GO FREE (NO FOOD INCLUDED, TICKET REQUIRED)

ORDER NOW

PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/FELBRIDGEPRIMARYPTA





Celebrate

Winnie-the-Pooh's Birthday!

Join Ashdown Forest in celebrating Winnie-the-Pooh on
Saturday 14th of October.

Follow a scavenger hunt from Gills Lap car park around Pooh Walk, and help Pooh find his missing items.

Finish the day with afternoon tea and birthday cake at the Visitor Centre.

All activities 11am-3pm - booking not required - no entry fee.



www.ashdownforest.org - 01342 823583

PTA Squirrel Club

Congratulations to the following winners:

July

1st Prize Mrs Bodey £30;

2nd Prize Mrs Hobbs £20

3rd Prize Mrs Parsons £10

Winnings will be sent home via your child.

Please return the receipt to the office to confirm you have received your winnings.



An exciting sensory adventure this October half-term

14 – 29 October 2023

Children
go free!

We're Going On A Bear Hunt

Wakehurst

Visit kew.org/wakehurst
Pre-booking strongly advised



Kew
Royal Botanic Gardens

