News Update Friday 23rd October 2026

Herstmonceux
Church of England Primary School
Learning, Loving, Living



Dear Families,

Well, we made it!

After what feels like approximately 47 weeks squeezed into one half-term, we have finally reached the finishing line – albeit with slightly wild eyes, an alarming dependence on caffeine and a growing inability to remember what day it is.

It has been an incredibly busy few weeks, packed with learning, laughter, exciting activities and enough lost jumpers and water bottles to open a small department store.

The children have been fantastic, the staff have worked tirelessly (and are now largely running on biscuits and goodwill), and I suspect parents are equally ready for a break from the daily hunt for matching socks and PE kits.

A huge thank you to everyone for their enthusiasm, patience and support throughout the term, I know that the changes to morning and afternoon routines have been challenging this term but we have got through it together.

I hope you all enjoy a thoroughly deserved half-term break, with plenty of rest, a little relaxation and, ideally, absolutely no mention of homework. We'll see you all back, refreshed and ready to do it all again – once we've remembered where we put the school keys!

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 …

Oak Class Reception – Robyn & Beau, Poppy & Erik
Maple Class Y1 – Oscar & Aiden
Willow Class Y2 – Harlow & Olivia
Chestnut Class Y3 – Nelly & Ruby D
Spindle Class Y4 – Sienna & Freddie
Ash Class Y5 – Saskia & Albie
Sycamore Class Y6 – Etta & Elliot

Prayer from Celebration Worship

Our Father in Heaven,
Thank you for all the times you have helped us to pick the right paths to be a strong person,
Thank you for our friends and family, for all the courage and wisdom you have given us
Thank you for our school and our clubs to do the best we can do, to make us upstanders not by standers,
Thank you for forgiving our sins and all the food and drink you have given us,
Thank you for making us brave and honest, for all the time you have made us loved,
Thank you for everything.
Amen

Written and read by William G - Sycamore Class Y6

Attendance

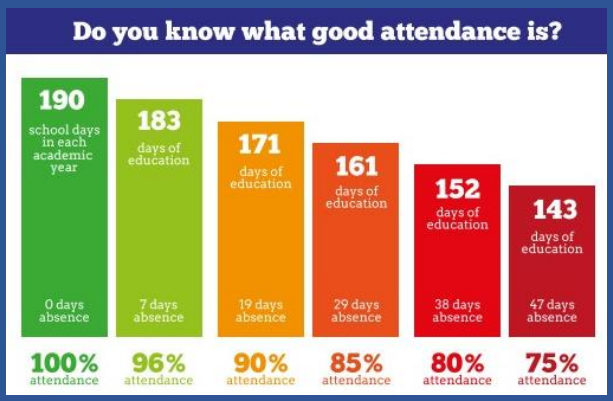


Good attendance is key to your child's success, learning, and happiness at school. Arriving on time every day ensures they never miss out on vital lessons, exciting activities, or time with friends.

Congratulations to our winning class this week…

Ash Class with 98.75% attendance

Oak Class - Reception	98.57%
Maple Class - Year 1	96.33%
Willow Class – Year 2	96.9%
Chestnut Class – Year 3	96.15%
Spindle Class – Year 4	93%
Ash Class – Year 5	98.75%
Sycamore Class – Year 6	97.24%



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/

Update from our building works

With our fantastic building team back on site, work has really kicked up a gear over the last 2 weeks. A range of trades people have been working hard and the building is beginning to take shape. This area will soon become our new entrance and admin offices.



Meanwhile, inside we are benefitting from new working spaces.





Year 1 update.

This week we welcomed back Miss Hunnisett to Maple Class. It was so great to see how excited the children were when they arrived in class on Monday morning to find Miss Hunnisett ready to greet them. Our staff never want to be away from school but sometimes this cannot be helped.

I want to say a massive shout out and a big thank you to a team of staff that have supported Maple Class over the last few weeks. I want to thank **Mr Toms** to stepping up and supporting even when he hasn't been in the building, and to **Mrs Charrett** who supported last week helping give the children a face they knew.

But special thanks go to the ever-smiling **Miss Roberts** who has guided, supported and nurtured the class and all of us throughout the weeks – myself and Mr Toms could not have done it without you!

Message from the Governors

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of our first Term of 2026-27 Governors wanted to share our appreciation for the team at HMCX, and for all they have done over the past months for our pupils and this community.

It was also wonderful to see HMCX represented so well at a local Cross-Country event this term, and to see the determination of the pupils to complete a course which would have finished off most of the watching adults! Well done all.

Next term Governors look forward to visiting HMCX to meet with pupils, staff, and the Head of School to discuss all the important work going on in the school. We also hope to see you at the Christmas fair, but in the meantime, we wish you all a blessed and restful half term.

Kind regards,

The Sussex Spires Governors

Celebrate Our Pupils' Artwork with Unique Keepsakes

Our talented pupils have been busy creating amazing Christmas themed artwork, and you can now view and order their designs online! We have partnered with **My Child's Art** to turn your child's masterpieces into wonderful personalised gifts, cards, and keepsakes—perfect for family and friends. Best of all, **20% of every purchase goes directly back to supporting our school!**

To view your child's artwork and place an order, visit mychildsart.co.uk/find-artwork and use the following details below. To view your child's specific artwork, please input their first name and last initial.

- **Username:** Herstmonceux
- **Access Code:** cy2wuxms

Use the code HerstmonceuxX26 during checkout for 10% off your order.

Thank you for supporting our young artists and helping raise funds for our school!

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival collective worship on Wednesday was a wonderful occasion filled with gratitude, led by Reverend Deborah Scott-Bromley. Together, we gave thanks to God for the wonderful bounty and generous donations provided by our school families.

During the service, the children took time to reflect on everyone involved in getting food from the farm to our tables. They discussed and celebrated the essential efforts of farmers, lorry drivers, factory workers, and shop staff, as well as the loving care of Mums and Dads at home.



A special thank you goes to our dedicated School Council, who worked tirelessly to organise and collect all the contributions. We now look forward to welcoming the Hailsham Food Bank to our school to collect your gifts.







Everything donated will go directly toward supporting local families who need a little extra help right now. Last year we collected the weight of a large ostrich, what animal will it be this year?

Thank you all for your remarkable kindness and generosity!

Information From Herstmonceux Parish Council

"Further to HPC information to local businesses, when confirmation of the works dates was still awaited, I am writing to reassure those who raised concerns about drop off and pick up safety concerns for school families accessing the school while construction works remain ongoing there in addition to the planned Rec footpath works. Arrangements have now been finalised between the key stakeholders responsible for delivering the works in and around the school and Recreation Ground. We can therefore provide the following update.

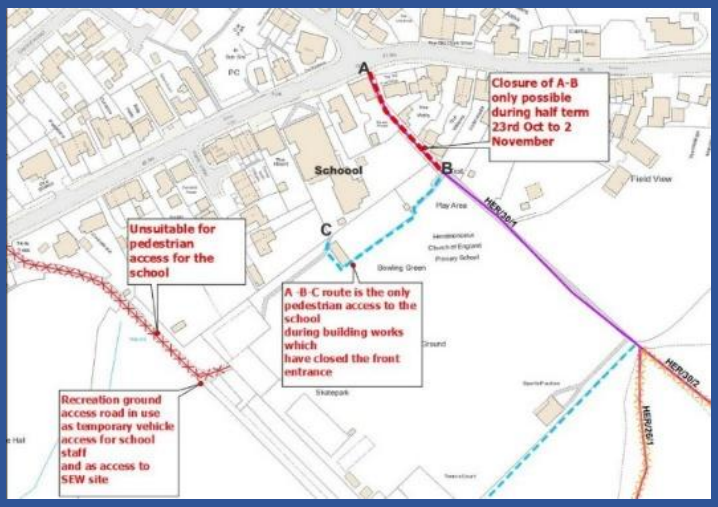
Although formal notices from East Sussex Rights of Way are still awaited, it has been agreed that the works at the road end of the footpath, shown as section A–B on the attached image, will take place during the October half-term, commencing on Saturday 25 October. As a condition of East Sussex Rights of Way's approval, this section of the footpath must be reopened in time for the return to school on Monday 2 November.

Final resurfacing of section A–B is initially planned for the February 2027 half-term. However, the contractors will take account of the progress of the school construction works before proposing and agreeing the final dates, to help minimise disruption and ensure that access arrangements remain as practical as possible for school families.

We hope this update provides reassurance that the timing of the works is being coordinated with the school and other relevant parties to minimise disruption wherever possible.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do get in touch, and we will do our best to obtain the information you need."

Clerk to Herstmonceux Parish Council



Support us through the Co-op Local Community fund

We are thrilled to announce that **Herstmonceux C of E School** has been selected to take part in the **Co-op Local Community Fund**!

If you shop at the Co-op—or have friends and family who do—you can help raise vital funds for our school every time you shop, at no extra cost to you. Whenever Co-op members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, a portion of what they spend goes directly to supporting our school.

How to choose us as your cause:

1. **Sign in** to your Co-op Membership account (online or via the **Co-op App**).
2. Head to the **Local Community Fund** section.
3. Search for **Herstmonceux C of E School** and select us as your chosen cause!

Other Ways to Support Our School

- **Amazon Wishlists:** Each class has its own Amazon Wishlist featuring items that directly benefit the children's learning and classroom environment. If you'd like to purchase an item please see the links on the school website.
- **Join the PTA:** The PTA is always looking for extra hands! Whether you can offer a little time to help run an event, share ideas, or assist behind the scenes, new volunteers are always warmly welcomed. Please get in touch with the school office or a PTA member if you'd like to get involved.

Thank you so much for your continued support—every bit of help makes a huge difference to our school community!

Appeal for Learning and Play Resources

As many families begin clearing out toys and games ahead of Christmas, we are appealing for donations of any of the items listed below. Items need to be in **new or very good condition**.

If you are decluttering and have any of these gathering dust, we would be incredibly grateful!

Wishlist:

- Bubble wands
- Latex Free Balloons
- Marbles
- Chalk & chalkboards
- Playdough
- Large and small ball
- Connect 4 games (travel size)
- Beads & thread
- Plastic letters, numbers & shapes
- Large plastic storage box
- Throwing beanbags
- Airflow ball
- Coloured pens
- Tea towel
- Dominoes
- Matching pairs game
- Building blocks
- Variety of jigsaws
- Pegboards and pegs
- 2D design cards & building blocks
- Blindfold

Thank you so much in advance for your kind support and generosity!
Please send us a message or drop off any items at the School Office.





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/