

Important Please Note

Worthing Schools Cross Country - 14th

October

Parents Consultations – 16th & 18th October

Year 5 Pop Up Planetarium visit – 17th October

Year 4 Weald & Downland Trip – 17th & 20th

Treat Day – 20th October

Wear Red Day – 20th October

Deadline date for Year 6 Secondary school applications – 31st October

Homework

Please <u>Click here</u> for information and guidance regarding your child's homework.

Do you have a concern?

We hope you and your child have a great school experience. However, if you hold a concern about an experience at Chesswood Junior School, please share it with us. We always try to provide the best school experience we can for all members of the school community and we are interested to know where we can make improvements, small or large. Please use this email to share concern@chesswood.wconcern: sussex.sch.uk We will always respond within 5 working days and often much quicker than that. You may also tag specific individual professionals but we would ask that the concern@ email address is always used to ensure senior leaders are kept well informed of experiences for children and families.

Keeping up to speed

We are very aware, both professionally and

personally, how hard it is to keep up with communications from school and from everywhere else for that matter.

We hope the very clear links and organisation below will ensure you are able to find any school communication quickly and easily. You may find the current and all previous newsletters for this academic year for reference on our website — Chesswood Junior School - Latest Correspondence

Newsletter from previous academic years may be found at –

<u>Chesswood Junior School - Previous</u> <u>Academic Year Newsletters</u>

You may find all current term correspondence for the whole school –

<u>Chesswood Junior School - Current Academic</u> Year Correspondence

Current and previous correspondence for specific year groups

Year 3 - Chesswood Junior School - Year 3

Year 4 - Chesswood Junior School - Year 4

Year 5 - Chesswood Junior School - Year 5

Year 6 - Chesswood Junior School - Year 6

Assembly information - click here

Weekly Attendance

Bright Sparks – Turn up, Turn up on Time, Turn up Ready for Action!

The following classes have won the year group attendance trophies for Week beginning 2nd October. Well done!!

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3EL	4CH	5EV	6AH
100%	99%	96%	97%

Chesswood Calendar 16th October 2023 – 10th November 2023







Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 th October	18 th October	19 th October	20 th October
Year 5 Pop Up Planetarium visit Year 4 Weald & Downland Trip 4HC/4LB	Parents Consultations		Treat Day Wear Red Day Year 4 Weald & Downland Trip 4PB/4UO
24 th October	25th October	26th October	27 th October
Half term	Half term	Half term	Half term
31st October Deadline date for Year 6 Secondary school applications	1 st November	2 nd November	3 rd November
7 th November	8 th November	9 th November	10 th November
	17 th October Year 5 Pop Up Planetarium visit Year 4 Weald & Downland Trip 4HC/4LB 24 th October Half term 31 st October Deadline date for Year 6 Secondary school applications	17 th October Year 5 Pop Up Planetarium visit Year 4 Weald & Downland Trip 4HC/4LB 24 th October Half term 31 st October Deadline date for Year 6 Secondary school applications	17 th October Year 5 Pop Up Planetarium visit Year 4 Weald & Downland Trip 4HC/4LB 24 th October Half term Half term 31 st October Deadline date for Year 6 Secondary school applications 18 th October Parents Consultations Parents Consultations Parents Consultations Parents Consultations 19 th October Parents Consultations 26 th October 26 th October Half term Parents Consultations 26 th October Parents Consultations



Important

Pop-Up Planetarium

We are sorry to inform you that the Pop-Up Planetarium visit due to take place on Thursday 28th September has had to be re-scheduled to **Tuesday 17th October** due to circumstances outside our control.

If you have any queries, please contact finance@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

Christmas Lunch

Bookings will be available after half term.



Reading Book Amnesty

We are holding a reading book amnesty in school over the next 3 weeks ahead of the end of term. If you have any Chesswood reading books at home or at the bottom of a school bag that your child is no longer reading, please can these be returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. These can usually be identified by having a white label on the spine of the book which contains a reading level and points. They may also have a white label stating 'Reading for All Mr Gilbert'.

Why is this important?

As you will be aware, we use Accelerated Reader to help support and monitor reading within school – this is particularly useful in identifying books which are the right level of challenge for each child, through their zpd. For children in Years 3 and 4, these are typically between 0.5 and 4.0. We are finding a significant number of children in both year groups need to access books levelled between 0.5 and 2.5. We have made sizeable investment in books of these levels, however, are finding that these books are not routinely being returned to trays in school once they have been issued to or selected by children, meaning they aren't available to support children as hoped. Whilst we will continue to work on systems within school and support children in learning to and remembering to return these, we are asking if you could please carefully check at home in case any additional books can be returned.

Important

Tricks and Treats Day

Friday 20th October will also include a treat day for children, with a few Halloween tricks to purchase too!

Children can bring in a small amount of money to purchase toys or food items (we suggest a maximum of £5).

Treats (and tricks) will be served at lunchtime and after school.

Wear Red Day 2023

Show Racism the Red Card's annual Wear Red Day will be taking place on Friday 20th October 2023

Chesswood Junior Governors have chosen to support this day to raise awareness of racism.

Children are invited to wear a red item of clothing (t-shirt, jumper, trousers or shorts) or a red accessory (hair band, wrist band, laces, badge, etc. - not dyed hair) along with their school uniform to show their support against racism. Please note, there is no donation linked to this event.

4PB and 4UO are requested to wear a red accessory and full school uniform due to their trip to Weald and Downland museum.

Measles / MMR vaccination

Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease. We are asking education settings to share key messages from the NHS about MMR / measles and how to get vaccinated.

The <u>Back to school MMR Guidance</u> from the NHS includes information to share, as well as example social media posts which can be found here: <u>NHS Vaccine Poster</u> and <u>NHS MMR Poster</u>.

Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a classroom can catch the disease if just one child is infectious. Please share these resources with colleagues, parents, and where suitable, community organisations to increase awareness and encourage parents to get their children vaccinated.



Chesswood Tob Opportunity

Would you like to work in a thriving and busy school?

Chesswood Junior School is a large school catering for the needs of over 560 children and over 100 staff – so it is certainly busy.

The Administration Assistant's fundamental task is to take the Attendance lead focus in the school and support the admin office, ensuring that all office processes and communications are carried out to the highest standard, in a timely and sensitive manner.



Chesswood Junior School

Chesswood Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2AA Tel: 01903 204141

Email: jobs@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk Head Teacher: Andrew Jolley



School Administrator with Attendance Focus

N.O.R: 566: Years 3 to 6

Position: School Administrator with Attendance Focus to commence as soon as possible. Hours: Term Time Only – 12.5 hours per week – Monday to Friday 8.45am-11.15am

Pay scale: Grade 4 Point 5 (Pro-Rata £3,504)

Contract: Temporary position until 31st March 2024 - pending amalgamation

Potential for temporary contract to be extended or permanent contract to be offered

Would you like to work in a thriving and busy school? Chesswood Junior School is a large school catering for the needs of over 560 children and over 100 staff – so it is certainly busy. The Administration Assistant's fundamental task is to take the Attendance lead focus in the school and support the admin office, ensuring that all office processes and communications are carried out to the highest standard, in a timely and sensitive manner.

If you:

- Are confident in working with a wide range of people and are consistently friendly and helpful.
- Are well organized and confidently undertake administrative duties to a consistently high professional standard.
- Would enjoy working within a very busy environment undertaking a wide range of tasks (often at the same time!).
- Are confident to administer first aid to pupils and staff; training will be provided if necessary.

We would love to hear from you!

Please contact Treena Beech, Administration Manager, to arrange a preliminary visit to the school. Please download a job application pack from the 'Employment Opportunities' on the 'School Info' page on our school website and email the application form to jobs@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk.

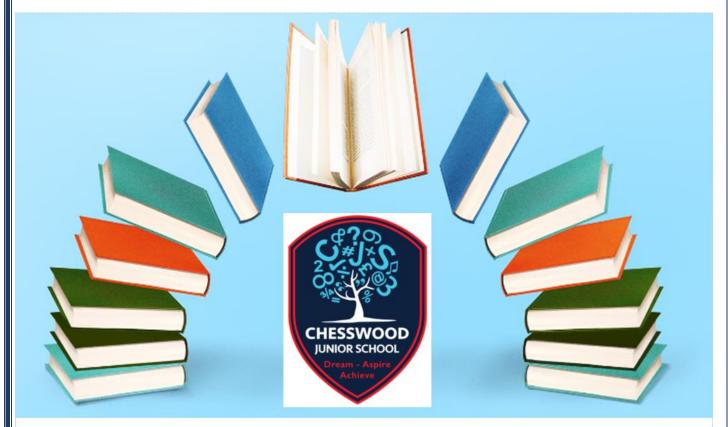
- Closing date & short listing: 10am on Monday 30th October
- Interviews from 8.30 a.m. Wednesday 1st November

Chesswood is committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The post will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Reading Helpers

We are looking for adults to help with reading in year 3 and 4. Ideally, helpers would be able to come in during the afternoon but any help at any time would be greatly appreciated.

This is a great opportunity to support children with their reading which will be a huge help to their education and enjoyment of reading throughout their life. Please contact Sylwia Switalska if you are interested: sswitalska@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk



Helpers needed for reading in year 3 and 4

School Competition

To celebrate National Coding Week at Chesswood, we are running a 'make your own computer game' competition! The best entry from each year group will receive a prize to help them develop their coding skills.

All entries must be in by Friday 20th October.

Please use the below websites to start building your games:

Microsoft MakeCode Arcade

Scratch - Imagine, Program, Share (mit.edu)

Kodu Game Lab | Kodu Game Lab

Please send all entries to Mr Barnard and Sam Masters:

smasters@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk
pbarnard@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

You may also enjoy visiting these websites to continue having more fun with coding!

Learn - https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn

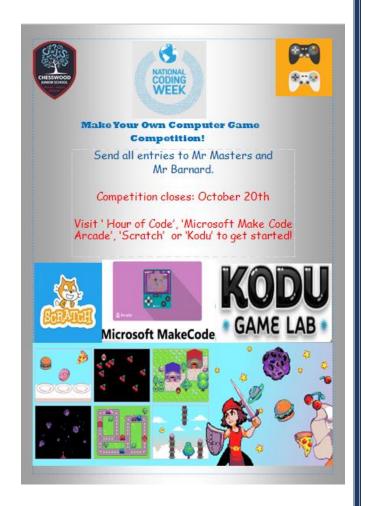
Learn today, build a brighter tomorrow - https://code.org/

https://www.barclayscodeplayground.co.uk/

https://codingweek.org/

Computer Coding for Kids: A unique step-bystep visual guide, from binary code to building games: Vorderman, Carol:

Amazon.co.uk: Books



Important Year 6 Transition Information

To all year 6 parents

Please note that you have all been sent an email this week regarding the process around the Secondary Transfer process. Please note that the closing date for all applications is **Tuesday 31st** October 2023. Any applications received after this date will be counted as late applications.

Please refer to recent information sent out via Bromcom for further information.

Education and Skills: Children, Young People and Learning

Pupil Admissions Team Durrington Bridge House, Floor 3 Barrington Road Worthing West Sussex BN12 4SE

Chart Way Horsham West Sussex RH12 1XB

Pupil Admissions Team
County Hall North
West sussex county council

admissions.north@v Tel: 03330 142 903

September 2023

To the Parents of: All Year 6 Pupils in West Sussex schools

Dear Parent

Transfer to Secondary School - September 2024

You have been sent this letter because your child needs to change school at the end of this academic year and it contains information about applying for a secondary school place for September 2024.

If your child has an Education Health Care Plan, or you are resident outside West Sussex, different arrangements apply. Please see overleaf.

This letter contains important information about applying online and the benefits of doing so. We strongly recommend that you keep the letter safe until after you have received confirmation of your child's school place for September 2024. We have also enclosed with this letter a checklist of actions parents need to consider before submitting your preferences, we hope you find it useful. To check the catchment school for your address please go to www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions.

Apply online from Monday 4 September 2023

It is easy and safe to apply for a <u>secondary</u> school place online by logging on to www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. Please read the relevant pages on the website before you begin your application. Please be aware that the email address that you provide will be shared with the allocated and preference schools, as parents and schools increasingly communicate electronically.

If you do not have access to the internet, either at home or at work, free internet access to make school applications is available at all West Sussex libraries and Children and Family Centres.

Preparing to make an online application

To make an application using the online system you will need an email address, and to create a password if you do not already have an account on parent portal.

The username will be your email address.

The password must adhere to the following rules, it must be:
• At least 8 characters long

- At least one character UPPERCASE
- At least one character lowercase
- At least one special character (i.e. *! \$ not a number or letter)

The deadline for receipt of all applications is Tuesday 31 October 2023.

If you have to apply using a paper form, please telephone 03330 142 903 to request one. It is your responsibility to ensure the form is received by your local primary school one. It is your responsibility to ensure the form is received by your local primary school or the Pupil Admissions Team by 31° Cotober 2023. If sending to the Pupil Admissions Team, the application should be sent using recorded delivery. Parents should note that schools are closed for half term between 23°d and 27th October and will be unable to take receipt of forms during this period. You may also wish to check if your local school will be closed for an INSET day before or after half term. Any application received after the deadline will be considered as out of time or late and will not be processed until after all on time applications. The Pupil Admissions Team will not acknowledge receipt of paper forms and you must engus you provide a valid e-mail address with your application. forms and you must ensure you provide a valid e-mail address with your application to receive the outcome of your school offer.

You can express up to three preferences for secondary schools. All your preferences will be considered against the oversubscription criteria of your preferred schools. If your child can be offered a place at more than one school listed on the application, they will be offered a place at the higher listed school. Please do not put down the same preference more than once as your child can only be ranked once for each preferred school. Please do not include independent schools, schools where you do not want a place for your child or Elective Home Education as preferences

- Children with Education Health Care Plans: parents should already have been contacted by the Special Educational Needs Assessment Team (SENAT). If you have not, please contact them using the details shown on our website or call the telephone number above.
- . Children resident outside West Sussex: parents are required to complete a transfer application through the local authority responsible for their address, even if the preference is for a school in another local authority's area. If you have any questions, please contact your local authority, or visit their website for information on how to apply.

If you wish your child to be considered for a place at their catchment school, must include this as one of your three preference

We look forward to receiving your online application before the **national closing date** of Tuesday 31 October 2023. The national allocation date is Friday 01 March 2024 and parents who provide a valid e-mail address with their application will be sent an email advising of the school offered to their child on this day.

Pupil Admissions Manager (South)

Pupil Admissions Manager (North)

LindaBubb

Apply online at:



Is your child due to transfer to secondary school in September 2024?

Apply online!

Deadline: Tuesday 31 October 2023



West Sussex SENDIAS Service

Is your child starting primary school or transferring to junior or secondary school in September 2024?

- Do you think, for whatever reason, you
- may struggle with the
- Admissions process?

Secondary School

Online applications open:

Monday 04 September 2023.

Deadline for applying for a secondary school place for your child is: Tuesday 31 October 2023.

Primary School (inc. infant/junior) Online applications open: Monday 02 October 2023. Deadline for applying for a school place for your child is:

Monday 15 January 2024.

For more information on the admissions process www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

If so, the West Sussex SENDIAS Service can:

- explain the admissions process to you
- help you to make an informed decision about your child's schools of preference
- help you to fill in the online application form.

Please contact the SENDIAS Service:

Helpline: 0330 222 8555 Email: send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk

www. westsussexsendias.org



Admissions - key dates

Monday 4 September 2023

Information on how to apply online will be sent to all parents of children living in West Sussex whose child attends a West Sussex state-funded school.

Online applications open. You must provide an email address to apply.

Schools will have their prospectuses available and will have arranged open

Tuesday 31 October 2023

National closing date for secondary transfer applications.

You must submit your completed application by this date. Failure to do so will affect the priority attached to your application.

Friday 1 March 2024

Applicants will be notified which school their child is offered by e-mail, where an e-mail address is supplied.

Apply online at: westsussex.gov.uk/ admissions

Making an online application

To make an application using the online system you will need:

Your password must adhere to the following rules. It must:

- have at least one character that is UPPERCASE;
- have at least one character that is lowercase;
- have at least one special character (such as: *! \$); and

To apply for a school place please visit westsussex.gov.uk/admissions or call 03330 142 903.



Transferring to Secondary School

Deadline:

Tuesday 31 October 2023



- **West Sussex Matters**
- @WSCCNews
- wsccvideo



Upcoming Trips and Events

Year 5 Pop-Up Planetarium visit – on **Tuesday 17**th **October 2023** we will have the Pop-Up Planetarium in school. Please see the letter below for more information.

Year 4 Weald & Downland trip – Year 4 will be going to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. **Tuesday 17th October 2023** – 4LB and 4CH and **Friday 20th October 2023** – 4UO and 4PB



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL Chesswood Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2AA Head Teacher: Mr Andrew Jolley

www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk Tel: Worthing (01903) 204141/2



September 2023

Dear Parents

Year 4 - Weald & Downland Museum trip - October 2023

As part of our History topic of 'Were the Dark Ages Dark?', we intend to take Y4 pupils to the Weald and Downland Museum in order to study how people lived in Anglo-Saxon times. During the visit children will attend two workshops:

At Home with the Anglo Saxon: Anglo Saxons artefacts

We will be leaving Chesswood at 9am and returning at approximately 3.30pm/3.45pm. The trip will take place

Tuesday 17th October 2023 – 4LB and 4CH Friday 20th October 2023 – 4LIO and 4PB

The children will need to wear old clothes for the visit and depending on the weather, they may require waterproof clothing. The children will need to wear comfortable shoes or trainers for walking on uneven ground. They will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink in a carton or bottle; no glass please for the trip. No spending money will be needed for this visit.

The cost of the visit to the school is £23.00 per pupil. We are asking parents/carers to make a voluntary contribution of £23.00 to cover our expenses and ensure that the trip can proceed. If you are not able to provide the donation of the full amount please contact our Finance Team on finance@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk. to give consent for your child to attend the trip.

Payment may be made online via MyChildAtSchool or by cash or cheque. If paying by cash or cheque please complete and return the attached slip with your payment to the school office.

Consent MUST be received for your child to take part in the trip – either through MCAS or the attached reply

We also need parent helpers on this trip – if you are able to help please let your child's class teacher know. Please note, you may be allocated to your child's class but not directly to their group on the day.

If your child suffers from travel sickness, please would you give them medication before they come to school.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Yelling Assistant Head

DREAM - ASPIRE - ACHIEVE



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL
Chesswood Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 2AA
Head Teacher: Mr Andrew Jolley

www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk Tel: Worthing (01903) 204141/2



July 2023

Dear Parent

Year 5 Pop-Up Planetarium visit – 17th October 2023



In order to enhance our "To the Stars" topic, Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to visit a pop-up planetarium. It will be erected in the school hall for the day and classes will view the presentations and be able to discuss and ask questions about the information on show.

The inflatable dome runs state-of-the-art professional planetarium software delivering bespoke sky tours and short films about the formation of the universe and space exploration tailored to meet the year 5 learning outcomes. The presenters are professional and aim to make science

clear, fun and inspiring for all.

This visit will take place on Tuesday 17th October 2023.

The cost of the visit is £5.00 per pupil. We are asking parents/carers to make a voluntary contribution of £5.00 to cover our expenses and ensure that the visit can proceed. If you are not able to provide the donation of the full amount please contact our Finance Administrator, Hannah Carter on finance@chesswood.w-suses.sch.uk.

Payment may be made from the Tuesday 5th September 2023 online via MyChildAtSchool or by cash or cheque. If paying by cash or cheque, please complete the attached slip and return it with your payment to the school office. If paying online you do not need to return the form. Please ensure all payments reach us by Friday 15th September 2023.

Yours sincerely

Chesswood Year 5 Team

DREAM - ASPIRE - ACHIEVE

This week at Chesswood



This week at Chesswood



EAL Lunch Club



Sports News

Y5/6 Worthing Schools Basketball Qualifier

Out of the 10 teams competing in this event – Chesswood had 3 of them which shows the love for sport at the school.

Both the red and White teams were in the same group. Our White team played some get basketball winning 2 out of their 4 matches in the group stages and went on to finish 7th overall, our Red team won all 4 of their games scoring a bucketful of points along the way and finished top of the group.

The Blue team also went unbeaten in their 4 group matches too – leaving them top of their group.

Into the semi-finals the Red team beat Downsbrook and the Blues beat Broadwater to set up an all Chesswood final. Into the final and the Red team beat the Blue's 10-2 for Chesswood to retain the Worthing Schools Basketball trophy for another year.

Red Team: Leon, Rachel, Ming-Kai, Muhammed. (both Leon and Rachel won this event last year too!)

Blue Team: Gilbert, Bertie, Lydia and George H

White Team: Jessica, Sithuki, Harvey, Kaidan and Sonny.









Sports News

Inter-House Benchball and Football!

Our Y6 Sports Leaders ran this event for over 50 Y4/5 pupils on Tuesday. The pupils were representing their Houses in 2 different competitions.

In the Benchball it was Kielder who were triumphant and the football Sherwood took the trophy.

It was a lovely event especially when you get pupils coming up the following day and wanted to play the games again!

Well done to all who took part and the sports leaders for running the event.











Boccia Tournament

3 teams went to Durrington Juniors to take part in a boccia competition – all had a great time working on their accuracy and tactics in the target game.

In the end the White team (Oscar and George) and Blue Team (Noah and Amber) battled it out for 5th and 6th place overall whilst our Red team (Kiara and Jordan) won the whole competition and were unbeaten throughout the whole event.



Sports News/Upcoming Events

- Saturday 14th Cross Country Championships
- Wednesday 18th Y3/4 Football Festival – Thomas A becket Juniors Half Term
- Wednesday 1st Nov Basketball Finals (tbc)
- Thursday 2nd Y5/6 Gymnastics Competition – Davison High
- Tuesday 7th Y3/4 Girls Football Festival – St Andrews High







Opportunity for parents and carers



Opportunity for parents and carers



Parenting your child in anxious times – a five-week course for parents and carers of primary children.

Dear parent/carer,

We are contacting you from Thought-Full, the West Sussex Mental Health Support Team in Schools, to offer you the opportunity to attend our parent support group focussing on supporting children with fears and worries.

The sessions are suitable for any parents who would like some guidance and ideas about how best to support their child's emotional wellbeing but would be particularly suitable for those whose children experience fears and worries.

The five sessions will take place at school and will be led by mental health professionals who are experienced in supporting children and families with emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Thursday 22nd February @ 9am

Thursday 29th February @ 9am

Thursday 7th March @ 9am

Thursday 14th March @ 9am

Thursday 21st March @ 9am

The five sessions will consist of:

- 1. Understanding anxiety an introduction to the biological function of anxiety.
- Supporting your child with anxiety and worries: 1 this session explores what keeps anxiety going and the strategies you can use to support your child.
- Supporting your child with anxiety and worries: 2 further discussion of approaches to support an anxious child including our use of language and the PACE approach (playfulness, acceptance, <u>curjosity</u> and empathy).
- An introduction to emotion coaching a step by step approach to helping your child to learn about emotions and how to deal with them.
- Encouraging resilience exploring how we can support anxious children to build their resilience and grow into adults who can cope with life's ups and downs.

The sessions will be informal with plenty of opportunity for discussion, asking questions, and sharing your ideas and experiences with other parents. There may be different strategies you would like to try out at home after the sessions, but there is no set https://www.nomework.com/butten-sessions, but the result is not sessions and sessions are not sessions.

If you would be interested in attending the course, please contact Sally Harvey for details of how to secure your place.

sharvey@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

Best wishes

Lorraine Osmend – Mental Health Advisory Teacher.

What do other parents say about the course?

"That it really opens your eyes to what can cause it and the things that surround anxiety." "Open, honest, straightforward communication. Good practical advice – friendly, knowledgeable trainers."

"Attend! It was so useful & informative."

"Informative and learnt a lot about how to use various techniques to help children"

"Very worthwhile"

Tax-Free Childcare Information

Promoting Tax Free Childcare to parents

Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) is a childcare top-up for working parents. It can be used to help pay for accredited holiday clubs, childminders, or sports activities. This enables parents and carers to access childcare during the school holidays, also saving them money. It is estimated that there are 1.3 million working families who are eligible for TFC in the UK however only a small percentage are making use of the scheme. Around 75% of families are losing out on this support.

TFC is available for children aged up to 11, or 17 if the child has a disability. You can signpost families to Childcare Choices so they can see if they are eligible. You can find out more about the scheme by visiting www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare.

Many parents don't realise that TFC can be saved up on their accounts. Even if childcare is not required throughout the school terms, there is still the option to save up funds which could be used for holiday clubs or out of school care. As the new term commences, it is a good opportunity to remind families of these schemes so they can plan for the upcoming half terms and holidays.

Please check out Childcare Choices and their catalogue of <u>guidance and promotional</u> <u>resources</u>, so that you can display in your school to promote this scheme.

Useful links and additional information:

- Tax Free Childcare can help towards the cost of children's summer holiday activities |
 GOV.UK
- Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with
 Costs | GOV.UK
- Get Tax-Free Childcare: step by step GOV.UK
- www.westsussex.gov.uk/FIS to help parents search for childcare.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Israel, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels amnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active fistening and try to gauge how much you child has been impacted by what they've seen.

RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations con become emotional, so choose somewhere

KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young tennogers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone teel angry, scared, and or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your childr's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, ansious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to they specified of her when the treatment of the feelings.

CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process; adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight buying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouringing them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example), it's virtuall impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing

TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to tak again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, traubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, earlier to the source of the content is actually inappropriate, they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate — you want to be their utilimate source of information, not their device.

FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to right up to date with events. Our phones trequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus an positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if comething they see

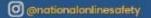
identify help

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.









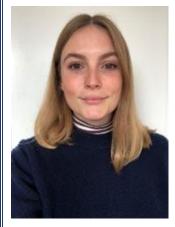


Early Help and Thought-Full Introduction



We all know life has its ups and downs and isn't always easy, at times being a parent can be challenging, trying to help and understand our children can be difficult and confusing. Early help recognises the important role schools play in supporting families and each school has a link worker to help provide support and advice for children and families when needed. By working together, we are stronger and often there is a lot of support in the community which people may not be aware of. In my role I can offer help with a whole array of worries and difficulties which you may have for yourself, child or for your family and can help

connect you to the right support at the right time. This maybe through direct work with me or by offering guidance, Information, advice, signposting and crisis support. Areas of support we cover are - Anxiety around school, feelings and emotions, mental health, SEN and support with ASD. Parenting support with - finances – cost of living crisis, routines and boundaries, behaviour, anger, attachment as well as being able to offer short intervention work with children, young people and parent/carers. Please contact the pastoral team in your school if you would like to contact me or come along for a chat at my next drop-in at Chesswood on November 8th at 2:15pm-3:00pm.



Hello, I'm Agnes – I am one of the Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP) with Thought-full (Mental health Support Teams in scholols). I will be based at Chesswood every Wednesday. Our service offers 6-10 1-hour one to one sessions, where we support young people with mild to moderate wellbeing/mental health difficulties. Typically, I will be able to deliver one to one sessions with a maximum of three children over a 6-10 week period. The Team are aware of the waitlist currently at the school, and hopefully either myself or another EMHP will be contacting parents of children who are waiting for support soon.



Hi, I'm Jo Kambalami. I've been working in school on Mondays since January. My job title is 'Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner' with the Thought-Full Team, the Mental Health Support Team for West Sussex.It's normal for children to feel a level of anxiety and overcome different fears at different ages. Sometimes, though, they can get stuck in a pattern of avoiding their fears and/or their anxious feelings impact on their everyday life. In this case, many children can be helped by weekly interventions based on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT). It's been developed for mild to moderate mental health difficulties, which includes anxiety and low mood. If CBT isn't appropriate for your child, our Team

can advise on better alternatives. You can find more information on our Thought-Full website and on our YouTube channel.



Information-Participation-Support-Training

The West Sussex Parent Carer Forum (WSPCF) is a charity for parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities(SEND).

We support parent carers by providing information, support and training that equips them in their lifelong caring role and empowers them to participate in shaping services for their child or young person.

Become a West Sussex Parent Carer Forum member, it's FREE!

Only our members can access our popular events. By signing up you will automatically receive booking forms for events as soon as they are released. You will also receive key updates/information, important surveys and our regular newsletter.

Becoming a member is easy, simply click on the blue 'sign-up' button at the top of our website and complete the short form. You can unsubscribe at any time.



Phone 07341 183449



Email office@wspcf.org.uk



Facebook www.facebook.com/WestSussexParentCarerForum



www.wspcf.org.uk

Charity No. 1156360



Autism and Social Communication Advisory Team

Exploring Autism for Parents and Carers

A new and updated programme offering up to date thinking and links to research-based evidence for parent carers of autistic children

and young people.



Sessions to explore Autism and strategies to support acceptance, empowerment, and relationships in family life.

Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person, aged 8-16 years, who is autistic or on the social communication pathway and have not attended this course before?

This NEW programme has been redeveloped to ensure that it is current and up to date. The course is an excellent source of information for those new to Autism or for those requiring a little more in-depth knowledge. Parent carers and the facilitators will learn and collaborate together. The programme is free of charge to families of children in West Sussex maintained schools and academies, at this time.

Course aims:

- to give a broad and balanced and positive view of how autism and social communication difficulties may impact on the child/young person's life and that of the <u>family</u>
- to explore key practical strategies that can support autistic <u>children</u>
- to provide a forum for families to share their experiences and expertise together

Course outline:

The six recorded sessions will be focused on both theoretical and practical aspects of autism and the resulting strengths and challenges. There will be opportunities to participate in discussions and ask questions in group sessions on a weekly basis, that will be delivered via an online platform. We ask that parents attend each of these weekly online discussion groups.



<u>In order for</u> participants to fully benefit from this course we ask that they attend **all** sessions.

Topics covered by session:

Session 1: Autism Acceptance

Develop understanding of autism, discuss experiences of getting a diagnosis and identify how autism can affect families.

Session 2: Communication

Develop understanding of communication difficulties and strategies to improve communication and interaction skills for the autistic child/young person.

Session 3: Sensory Needs

Consider how sensory information and experiences may be processed differently by those who are autistic, share strategies to help with sensory differences.

Session 4: Anxiety

Improve understanding of the signs of distress that autistic young people may display and consider approaches to support self-regulation.

Session 5: Social Thinking and Masking

Explore the differences autistic young people may have with socialising and developing relationships. Look at ways to develop social thinking, explore the idea and impact of masking.

Session 6: Adolescence and Independence

Consider ways to encourage independence and manage adolescence challenges including puberty, sensory <u>impact</u> and social differences.

Dates: TBC

The programme is delivered over six weeks. The six recorded sessions can be watched during the week when convenient; each session is followed by a one-hour online Q&A and discussion group.

For further details please contact:

Email: carina.reid@westsussex.gov.uk

Tel: 0330 222 7125

Please note there are a limited number of places on this course.

Young Carers

A Young Carer is a young person under the age of 18 whose life is **affected** by the care needs of another person, who may have any disability or long-term illness. This could be anybody with a physical or learning disability, mental health problem, someone who misuses drugs or alcohol, or is elderly and frail.

The person they care for is usually someone they live with and could be a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative.

If you think that your child could be considered a Young Carer please

contact by email pastoral@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk or call 01903 204141 and ask for the pastoral team.



Sharon Main is the key contact for Young Carers at Chesswood.





Young Carers

What help is available?

Help and support is provided by our Young Carers Family Service. They may provide:

- a whole family assessment, looking at the strengths, challenges and areas for support for each person in your family
- activities during school holidays for 8-11 year olds
- a weekly Young Carers' group during school term for 11-16 year olds, held in: Crawley, Worthing, Bognor Regis and Chichester
- a place at the annual Young Carers
 Festival for 14-16 year olds
- someone to talk to about your caring role
- support to talk to key people at school and maybe to your friends
- help to understand the illness or disability which the person you are helping to look after may have
- a volunteer mentor to spend time with you once a week for up to 6 months who can set personal goals and provide encour agement and motivation.



West Sussex Mind, Families in Mind: Support in Adur, Arun and Worthing

Families in Mind is a service aimed to support parents who have young children (0-4 years old) and need help with their mental health and well-being.

We have various events going on in the local area including:

Weekly play and chat groups, walks/meet ups in local parks and the Enjoy your Baby course.

Our service is completely free of charge and is open to all members of the community.

we know now here it can be to get out or the house and get some support when you're feeling low, anxious or overwhelmed - we can help you with this by providing:

- A safe and non-judgmental space to share your situation and difficulties and get suppor
- Trained staff, many of whom have lived experience of mental health (and are als parents)
- Venues across the area which are easy to access by foot, car or public transport.
 How perents we've supported said they've honefated:
- Learning new strategies to help improve how they feel
- different
- Push themselves out of their comfort zone

To contact us for support: Call our Help Point Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm on 0300 303 5652 or email helppoint@westsussexmind.org





PUPIL PREMIUM ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Could you and your child be ENTITLED to help with costs towards clubs/trips/receive food vouchers/ free holiday activity clubs during school holidays and free school meals?

If you meet any of the following criteria, then you could be entitled:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If so, please contact Tracey Rainford, Family Liaison at Reception or email: trainford@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

Upcoming School Open Days

Lyndhurst Infant School



Open Day & Evening Sessions for Parents/Carers of Children starting school in September 2024

Thursday 5th October at 4:30pm Wednesday 11th October at 4:30pm Thursday 2nd November at 9:30am & 11:00am Tuesday 7th November at 9:30am & 11:00am

Tuesday 21st November at 9:30am & 11:00am

Please be aware that Lyndhurst Infant and Chesswood Junior schools are merging at the end of this academic year. The initial tours will be held at

Lyndhurst with a follow-up tour of Chesswood Junior School (the site of the "new" primary school) being held at a later date in December. You will be able to sign-up to these sessions at your visits to Lyndhurst.

Places at each session are limited, so please only book 1 session. Please contact the school office if you would like to book onto one of these sessions:

Tel: 01903 235390

Email: office@lyndhurst-school.co.uk

Open evenings will also involve a tour of the school, but there will be no children 'at work'. The tour will be divided into two groups, one led by the Head Teacher and one by the Deputy Head Teacher.

** These are information sessions for parents/carers only. **

** Please book a session at a time that you can attend without children. **

Local Community Support Information











Do something incredible. Join us and change a child's life Take the first step today, call

01903 259900

Time out Fostering is committed to safeguarding young people











Community Events















quiz. Your host is Andrew Pettle, editor of What on Earth! Maga hildren's magazine. Click for tickets - Adults £8 / 18 & under £5



www.petworthfestival.org.uk Tel: 01798 344576



COME ICE SKATING ON REAL ICE AT SHEFFIELD PARK STATION IN THE UNIQUE AND AMAZING LOCATION

OF THE LOCOMOTIVE SHED

www.bluebell-railway.com/ice-skating/







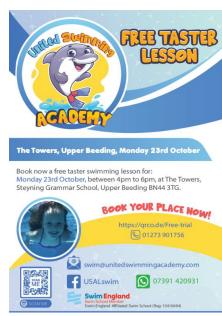


External Clubs Information

Please note STEM Club start next week beginning 11th September. If you haven't yet booked your child's space, please contact Ali Khan on 07951287236







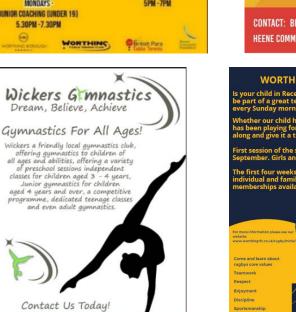


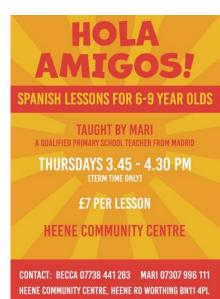


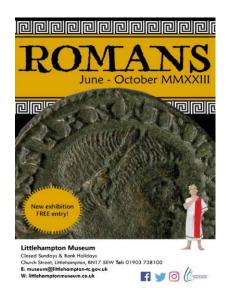


External Clubs Information



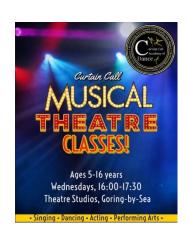














October Half Term Activities











October Half Term Activities

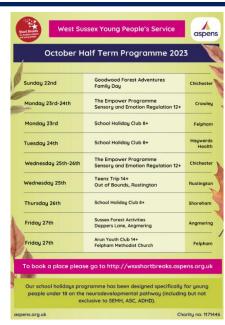






October Half Term Activities











YOUR NEAREST HOLIDAY CAMP ...





