



Park Mead Primary Post



E-mail: office@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk Website: <https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/parkmead/>

Executive Head teacher: Mr James Procter
Chair of Governors: Mr Alan Brundle
Head of School: Mrs Heidi West

November 2021

Head of School News

Dear Parents / Carers,

The month of November has flown by and as we leave Autumn behind, we enter the festive and busy period of December at Park Mead!

It has been wonderful to see the return of educational trips this month with Oaks visiting Newhaven Fort and Maples visiting Hever Castle.

Preparations for the Nativity are also underway with some beautiful singing coming from Chestnuts and Willows.



We are so proud of our pupils for successfully taking on board the new lunch time 'House' system. They have adapted well to these adjustments and it has been amazing to observe such brilliant teamwork in action. Well done to everyone! This Friday will also see the launch of our 'Golden Table' for the Team who have scored the most house points this week.



We hope you can join us at our Park Mead Christmas Fair on Friday 10th December 3.30- 5pm!

Thank you for all your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Heidi West
Head of School

Friday 10 December
3.30-5pm



Drop Off & Collection

A reminder, the times for the start and end of the school day changed at the beginning of Term 2:

Soft start between 8.40-8.50am, which will support traffic in the area and allow flexibility for parents

Collection at 3.15pm for all year groups.



Vacancy

Park Mead currently has a vacancy for a cleaner.

For more information, please contact :

Marco.Moreira@churchillservices.com



Behaviour update

As a Federation, we are in the process of further developing our behaviour procedures alongside a new behaviour policy which will be launched in January. Currently, as a 'consequence' pupils complete a reflection sheet. We are introducing an additional stage of 'yellow cards' before a reflection sheet in order to provide more time and opportunities for pupils to debrief and repair with the support of their teacher. This will be in keeping with our Therapeutic Thinking Approach.

Warning



Choice



Directive



Consequence



This will be introduced to KS2 pupils before the Christmas break and more information for parents/carers will follow soon.

News from Willows



We have had a really busy month in Willows!

We have started to write sentences using tricky words and we have been looking at lots of celebrations.

We loved having our Hot Chocolate Friday around the 'bonfire', which had been carefully constructed the previous day. We used glow sticks for sparklers, sang songs and danced like fireworks on the stage!



We looked at the role of animals during war and Jimmy, our school dog, came in to show us what it was like to be a war dog. He took us through the mud where we enjoyed our hot chocolate under a canopy. We wore purple poppies, as well as red poppies, to show our thanks to the animals who helped in the war too.

We are now looking to start our Nativity.....



News from Chestnuts

This term Chestnuts have really enjoyed learning all about the local area, especially lighthouses. We have learnt about Grace Darling and acted out her heroic tale. We also wrote a letter to the Queen explaining why she should be celebrated.



In maths we have been looking at addition and subtraction. The children have been trying their hardest with this tricky concept.



WE have loved ICT! We have been creating our own algorithms in maze explorers.



We even created challenges for our friends to complete.



We enjoyed learning about Remembrance Day and creating lots and lots of poppies in our Art lessons.



Now we are focusing on our nativity and having lots of fun doing it!

We hope you will come along and enjoy it as much as we are.

News from Maples

Maples have had a Tudor- filled November.

As Historians, we have been exploring timelines of Tudor events and where the Tudors fit in to British history. We learned a brilliant song to support our learning about Henry VIII six wives.

In English, we have been creating our own, tailored tour of Hever castle, using our experiences and photographs. We have used paragraphs really well and our writing is looking much better as a result.

As Mathematicians, we have just started really focusing on our times tables; using arrays and 'groups of'. We are finding all sorts of creative ways to embed our 8 times tables.

Swimming has been a great success—everyone has worked hard!

Maples have shown great, supportive behaviour in the last few weeks and are starting to gel as a class.

We are proud of their progress so far and are looking forward to embracing the Christmas spirit together in the coming weeks.

Diary of Events

December 2021

5th Mince Pie Run
8th Willows Nativity Play
10th Christmas Fair
13th Oaks Trip to Michelham Priory
15th Christmas Lunch
17th End of Term 2

January 2022

4th Inset Day
5th Start of Term 3
14th Mastocytosis & Mast Cell Awareness
Mufti Day
15th Deadline for Primary School
Applications

February 2022

1st Chinese New Year
8th Safer Internet Day
11th End of Term 3
21st—Start of Term 4

March 2022

3rd World Book Day
28-1st Grounds Week

April 2022

1st End of Term 4
19th Start of Term 5

May 2022

2nd Bank Holiday
27th End of Term 5

June 2022

6th Inset Day
7th Start of Term 6

July 2022

8th Sports Day
15th Reserve Sports Day
21st End of Term 6
22nd Inset Day



News from Oaks

November has been a really busy month in Oaks!

We had a fantastic trip to Newhaven Fort with our friends from Chiddingly Primary School and we all looked wonderful dressed as WWII children. We learnt loads about the different types of job people did on the Home Front. We also had the opportunity to learn about a pack and weapons that a basic officer would use and have to carry around. We enjoyed going into the air raid shelter and having a 'shaky' experience in the simulator. The weather was perfect for looking around the guns and walking in the surrounding area. The children loved going in and out of the tunnels and exploring. We were able to ask lots of questions at various stages of the day and we all had a fabulous time.



In English we have been writing a closing end to a story (Rose Blanche), with a range of happy and not so joyous endings. The children are really developing their sense of being a writer and owning their work. In maths we are working through fractions. What a four weeks it has been - adding, subtracting, multiplying and soon to be dividing by fractions!



I want to thank you all for the wonderful support you have given the children with their reading challenges- more and more children are receiving a little lucky dip at the end of the week. Also, it has been super to hear how both the children and parents like the homework books- and it has simplified what needs to be done and so you can support your child with their learning in school. The children are really rising to the top with learning their spelling too. We are aiming high! I am so pleased with the effort everyone is putting in- the children's learning is flourishing.

Let's keep this up!

Willows Forest School

Wednesday 10th November 2021

Willows class were thinking about autumn during their Forest School session this week. They looked at the trees and noticed the changing colours and leaves.

They started by playing a game of 'Eagle Eyes', where they tried their hardest to try to hide from the watching eagle. They had 10 seconds to move closer to the eagle's nest, when the eagle closed their eyes, then had to hide again. Some of the children were fantastic at being quiet and stealthy and there was some excellent teamwork, counting together.

During our last session the children had threaded food for birds, so this week they developed their fine motor skills by threading some leaves using a needle and some wool to decorate their Forest School shelter.

Some children went on to creating their own leaf kebab, by threading fallen leaves onto sticks. They then took these to the mud kitchen and spent a long time making 'food' with water, bubbles and leaves from around the Forest School site.



"If I mix yellow leaves and green leaves, what will happen?"

"Can you help me with the water?...We are doing good teamwork here"

The Impact of Forest School for the children is the knowledge the children have gained from the Forest School experience.

The impact can be seen through the skills, tools used, art and craft activities, observations and knowledge of the fruit, plants trees in relation to the fruit, plants and trees in relation to the seasons and the skills involved in learning how to play Forest School Games.

Willows talked about their learning as they were playing:



"I have got 4 leaves on my stick, now 5...now 6!"

"I liked playing the eagle eyes game"

"I like threading the leaves"



Chestnuts Forest School

Wednesday 24th November 2021

The class started their afternoon with a game of 'fox and rabbits' to warm themselves up on the chilly afternoon outside. They took it in turns to chase the rabbit and try to make themselves 'safe' by creating pairs of children to be 'burrows'.

The children had two challenges this afternoon. Firstly to light a fire to warm themselves, and boil a kettle to make hot apple juice for the end of the session.

The children sorted the sticks into widths and learned how to lay a fire. They then used fire strikers to create sparks and to ignite cotton wool, which then lit the fire. It is a tricky challenge, requiring motivation, persistence and quite sophisticated fine motor coordination. It was fantastic to see the perseverance and to enjoy a warm drink together as a reward for the hard work.



The Impact of Forest School for the children is the knowledge the children have gained from the Forest School experience.

The impact can be seen through the skills gained, tools used, art and craft activities, observations and knowledge of the fruit, plants and trees in relation to the seasons and the skills involved in learning how to play Forest School games.

The second challenge for the children was linked to their science curriculum, all about mini beasts and their habitats. Chestnuts worked hard to lift and carry pallets and wood to create

the framework for a new bug hotel. They then started to fill it with pots, old crockery, wood, pine cones and leaves to create a habitat for the bugs in their Forest School space. They saw lots of woodlice whilst constructing and came up with some really engaged, creative ideas.

"We found clay...we can use it to fix the pots to the bug hotel"

"I have been out foraging and found these pine cones, we can use these"

"I have put clay on the pot, it has a face on it now"

"This wood can be a chimney on the top of the bug hotel"

Along with their challenges Chestnuts created in the mud kitchen and took it in turns to swing on the tyre swing and hammock. At the end of the session they shared and listened to what they had all enjoyed about the session.



"I liked playing in the mud kitchen with my friends"

"I like making the fire"

"I liked all of it....everything!"



Well done Chestnuts for working so well together and completing your two challenges!

Staffing Update

Miss Frankel will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has worked with us at Park Mead since September 2020 and has been a wonderful support to the children in Willows. We will miss her and wish her the very best — we would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment.

Mrs Cloud will continue to teach Willows 3 days a week with Mrs Healy joining the Park Mead EYFS team from March 2021, teaching 2 days.

In the interim, Mrs Foot will be teaching Willows on Thursday and Friday each week, while Mrs Wood supports Mrs May in Chestnuts. Mrs Foot will remain a learning mentor in Chestnuts during the rest of the week.



Lost Property

Please feel free to have a rummage through our new lost property box — hopefully some of the missing items can be reunited with their owners.

Please can you **ensure your child's items are named** as it makes it much easier for things to be returned.



Children in Need

The children all had such a fun day in their bright clothes and Pudsey outfits for Children in Need last Friday.

We have had a count up and the whole school **raised a very impressive £272.00** so a massive thank you to everyone!



Attendance

Attendance Whole School:

Last Week 96.9% Year 95.26%

Willows: 98.72%

Chestnuts: 93.32%

Maples: 94.61%

Oaks: 95.14%

Less than 94.9% - Red

95—96.4% - Amber

96.5—99.9% - Green

100% - Gold



At Park Mead we strive to improve the attendance of our students. Every school day provides opportunities for learning, as well as social and emotional development. Therefore, it is noticeable when students miss school as it impacts their progress.

Please support us and your child to ensure that attendance is a priority.

Firework Funky Hair Fun Run

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support for the fun run. It was a huge success raising £973 for our new playground equipment!



Some of Our Lucky Prize Winners



Our Lucky Trainer Winners

We Raised £973!!

Friends of Park Mead

Thank you to all of you who helped with the Hallowe'en Disco. As well as raising just under £300, I am sure you will all agree that the children had a lovely time.

The Christmas Wreath making workshop on 30 November will be a very creative and enjoyable evening, as well as a great chance for us all to get to know each other a bit better! Thank you to the Bluebell Farmhouse Kitchen in Arlington for kindly hosting the evening. A number of the beautiful wreaths made will be available to purchase at the Christmas Fair.

The Friends are really looking forward to this year's Christmas Fair, which we are jointly running with the school. As well as the classroom crafts, there will be an opportunity to visit Father Christmas, enjoy a warm festive drink, eat mince pies and win lots of great prizes on the tombola. All this will be accompanied by carols sung by some of the children.

Please don't forget to sign up for Early Fundraising and generate funds on your Christmas shopping.



Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas dinner is **Wednesday 15 December**—please confirm your child/ren's choice with the School Office by **Thursday 2 December**.

FESTIVE MENU!

 **Chartwells**
So much more than fantastic food

MAINS

£2.15

Roast Turkey with a Mini Pork Sausage
or
Roasted Vegetable & Cranberry Slice (v)

Served with Roast Potatoes, Stuffing,
Carrots, Broccoli and Gravy

DESSERTS

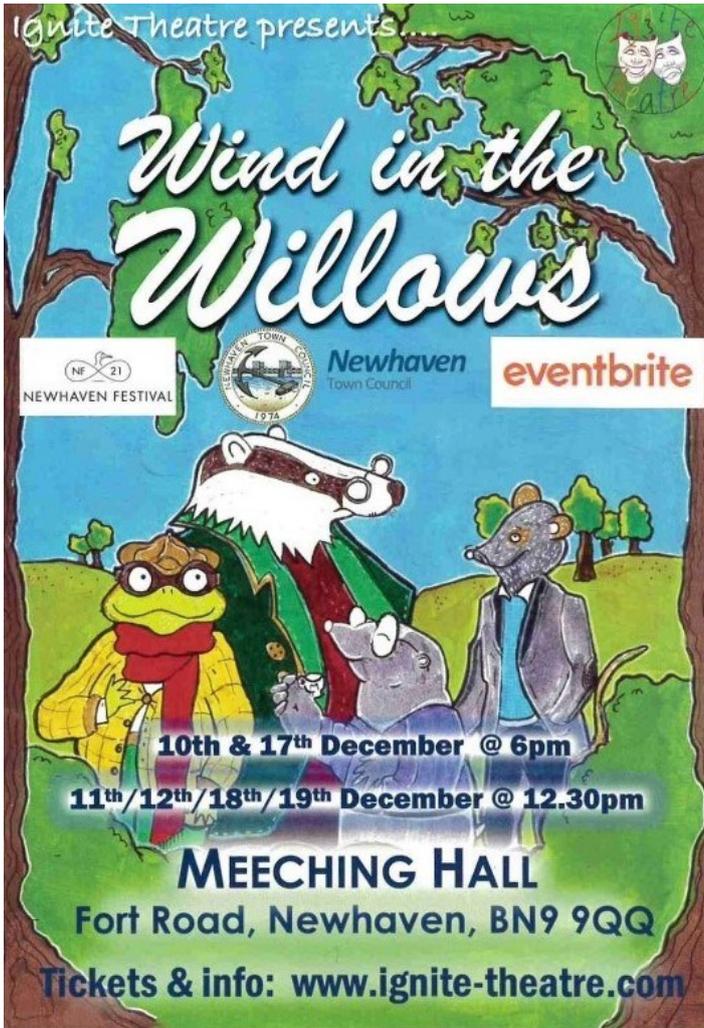
Festive Chocolate Orange Brownie
or
Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

**DON'T FORGET! SCHOOL MEALS ARE FREE FOR ALL PUPILS
IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 OR YEAR 2.**

**PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR SCHOOL FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP TODAY!**

Wind in the Willows

Ignite Theatre presents...



Wind in the Willows

NEWHAVEN FESTIVAL

NEWHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Newhaven Town Council

eventbrite

10th & 17th December @ 6pm
11th/12th/18th/19th December @ 12.30pm

MEECHING HALL
Fort Road, Newhaven, BN9 9QQ

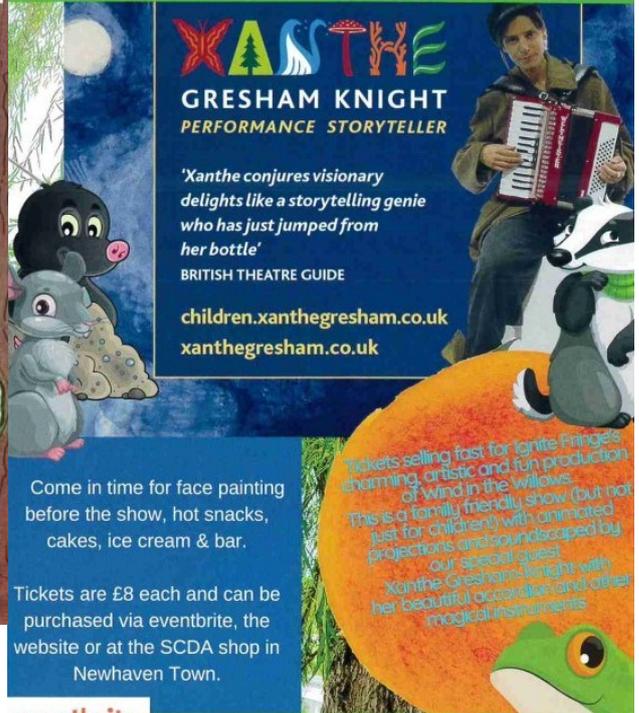
Tickets & info: www.ignite-theatre.com

Lisa Fairfield, one of our wonderful Park Mead volunteers, is acting and producing this show.

Tickets and Information available at:

www.ignite-theatre.com

FEATURING OUR SPECIAL GUEST WHO WILL BE
SOUNDSCAPING THE SHOW.....



XANTHE
GRESHAM KNIGHT
PERFORMANCE STORYTELLER

'Xanthe conjures visionary delights like a storytelling genie who has just jumped from her bottle'
BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

children.xanthegresham.co.uk
xanthegresham.co.uk

Come in time for face painting before the show, hot snacks, cakes, ice cream & bar.

Tickets are £8 each and can be purchased via eventbrite, the website or at the SCDA shop in Newhaven Town.

eventbrite

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE HERE:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wind-in-the-willows-tickets-167698692303>

Mince Pie Run

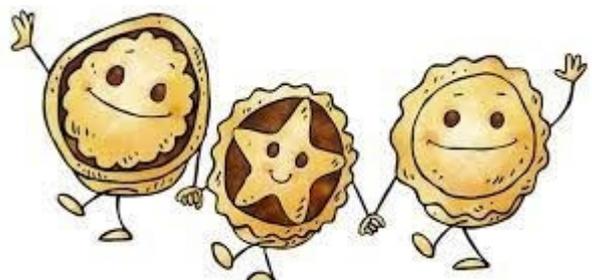
Mr Procter will be running the 10 mile Mince Pie race on 5 December with Mr Gray, Mrs Fry, Miss Frankel, Mr Holt and Mr Brundle.

They plan to raise money for each of the Pioneer international linked school (more details will follow about the linked schools).

They have all been training very hard for this event and will need our support to get them over the line!!

If you wish to sponsor them, please see the link for their Just Giving page below:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/pioneerfederationschools?utm_term=gaY5pDvzy



All Hailsham Schools Uniform Donation Station

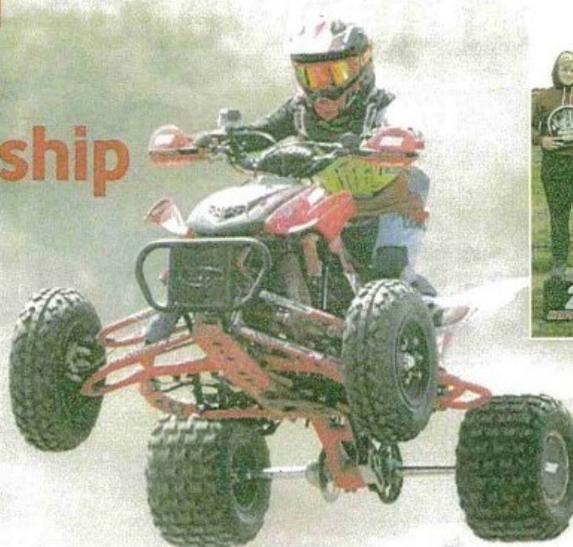


Take what you need and donate when you can



Find us on facebook (Hailsham Community Hub) or email hailsham@sussexcommunity.org.uk

Youngster Seth makes waves in quad championship scene



Within 18 months of entering a national quad biking championship, 10 year-old Seth Balaam from Hailsham has already received recognition as a rising star within the sport.

Seth began racing in June 2020 on a 100cc Auto ProShark at the age of 9, and soon moved up to a geared quad bike with a powerful 150cc engine - he is currently the youngest in his class. The last season saw a total of 10 rounds and Seth achieved 4th overall in the 2021 NORA Championship Series.

He has already been awarded 'Best Newcomer' in his class and achieved 2nd place in his Championship. His highlights already include clearing the doubles in practice on his 100cc Proshark.

Seth told Hailsham News: "I am enjoying the racing scene very much, everyone is so friendly and helpful, it's like one big happy family."

He added: "I love racing quads, it's a brilliant sport and I would like loads of kids to join in the fun. I am very excited that I will be joining a professional racing team for 2022, thank you to EDR Racing Engines for seeing the potential in

me and agreeing to having me on your team."

Many sponsors have come on-board to support Seth on his adventures such as Instinct Distribution, Flow Vision, MotoLoko and Rath Racing. Local sponsors include Mitchells Grounds Care, Newton & Frost Fencing, Angears Builders, Diamond Minis, Body Stress Release Hailsham and Marie Stone Photography.

To keep up to date with Seth's journey, you can follow his instagram account at [#quad_bike_racer_seth](https://www.instagram.com/quad_bike_racer_seth).



Park Mead Primary School

Collected 130.95 kg of food!

This is enough to provide 312 meals for families in crisis within Hailsham and the surrounding area.

Thank you so much for your support!