



## Park Mead Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to Term 5!

What a great start to a busy term which seems to be accelerating as we read this!

Life at Park Mead continues to be full this term with statutory assessments taking place alongside our busy curriculum. We are putting on a Year 6 pre-SATS breakfast for the four days of tests which we hope will serve to support our wonderful year 6s who have worked so hard.

The Skip2Bfit workshop organised by Mr Elphick on Monday was a huge success with all children participating. Please note, there are Skip2Bfit skipping ropes in the main office to purchase should you wish to.

We look forward to celebrating our King's Coronation on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May with a special assembly, Coronation themed lunch and activities.

What's New?

We have adapted the way we track our house points. Mrs Adams has created a superb house team chart where we can visually track our token progression each week across the year. The winning house team will receive the house cup in our Golden Assembly that week.

Doormouse from Forest School installed an outdoor camera to capture wildlife around our Forest School area. We share our grounds with all kinds of splendid creatures including garden birds, pheasants, rabbits, jackdaws and foxes.

Mrs West



Executive Head Teacher: Mr James Procter

Chair of Governors: Mr Alan Brundle

Head of School: Mrs Heidi West

E-mail: [office@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk) Website: <https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/parkmead/>

## Attendance

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 so it is noticeable when students miss school as it impacts their progress.

It's amazing how quickly frequent absence from school can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning for your child, for instance:

- ⇒ **95% Attendance** = 9 days absent—approximately 2 weeks of school = **50 lessons missed**
- ⇒ **90% Attendance** = 19 days absent—approximately 4 weeks of school = **100 lessons missed**
- ⇒ **85% Attendance** = 29 days absent—approximately 6 weeks of school = **150 lessons missed**
- ⇒ **80% Attendance** = 38 days absent—approximately 8 weeks of school = **200 lessons missed**

### Attendance Whole School—Academic Year: 93.47%

	<b>This Year</b>	<b>This Week</b>
<b>Willows:</b>	<b>93.95%</b>	<b>97.14%</b>
<b>Chestnuts:</b>	<b>94.35%</b>	<b>95.93%</b>
<b>Maples:</b>	<b>92.30%</b>	<b>95.00%</b>
<b>Oaks:</b>	<b>93.57%</b>	<b>92.67%</b>



*Less than 94.9% - Red*

*95—96.4% - Amber*

*96.5—99.9% - Green*

*100% -*

*Gold*

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS.  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**



## Diary

### May

1—Bank Holiday  
8—Bank Holiday (Coronation)  
15—Mental Health Awareness Week  
16—Parents Coffee Afternoon (2-3pm)  
Theme—Adult Mental Health Week  
17—Group School Photos  
26—Last Day of Term 5

### June

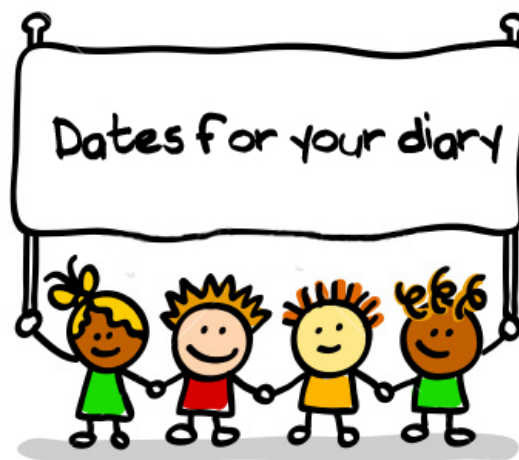
5—Inset Day  
6—1st Day of Term 6  
16—Year 5 Bikeability

### July

4—Parent Coffee Afternoon (2-3pm) Theme—  
Transition  
7—Sports Day  
14—Reserve Sports Day  
14—School Reports  
18—Leavers Assembly  
20— Last Day of Term 6  
21— Inset Day

### Weekly Events:

Monday—After School Sports Club 3.15-4.15pm  
Tuesday—Drumming Lessons  
Thursday—Golden Assembly  
Friday—Guitar Lessons



### Changes to Key Stage 2 Dates

An additional Bank Holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on Monday 8 May 2023.

As this date had previously been announced as the first day of the 2023 Key Stage 2 (KS2) test week in England, a change to the KS2 test schedule next year will be necessary. Ministers have considered the situation carefully and have decided that KS2 tests will take place in the same week with tests following the usual order but each taking place one day later than originally planned.

As such, the new schedule will be:

- Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
- Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
- Thursday 11 May: Mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
- Friday 12 May: Mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

## News from Willows

Willows have been taking their learning outside in the glorious sunshine.

Some children have been in the mud kitchen making potions, cakes and cups of tea. Others have been imagining that a castle was the Harry Potter world.

Lots of children have also enjoyed getting creative in the classroom using lots of different resources to make different things.

The class met John from Skip2bfit and loved listening to music whilst perfecting their skipping skills.



## News from Chestnuts

The Chestnuts class are making the most of the sunshine as we dig in to our Glorious Growing topic.

We have supported our geography learning by exploring the local village with a walk around Upper Dicker.

In science we have been looking at the key parts of a plant, and we have even planted our own sunflowers! We have then used this in our English, as the children wrote instructions on how to plant a seed.



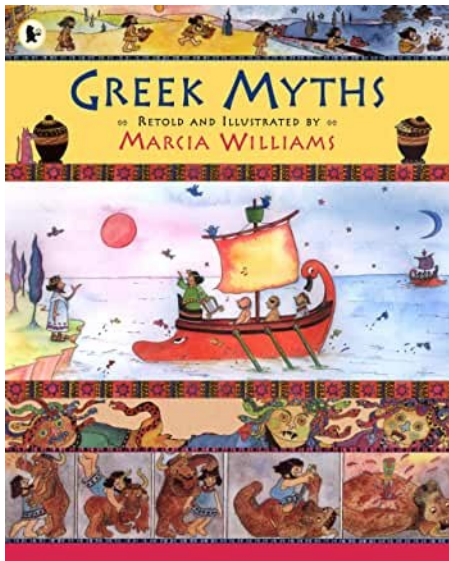
In music we have channeled our inner tigers as we've explored the song 'Roar' by Katy Perry. All of this alongside a skipping workshop and a Forest School session!

Well done Chestnuts, keep up the good work!



## News from Maples

Maples have had a great start to the term, exploring Ancient Greece and reading Greek Myths.



Mr. Kasparis has been welcomed back and the pupils are enjoying having an additional adult in the classroom.

The skipping workshop was super fun and many of us have started practising during break times.



## News from Oaks

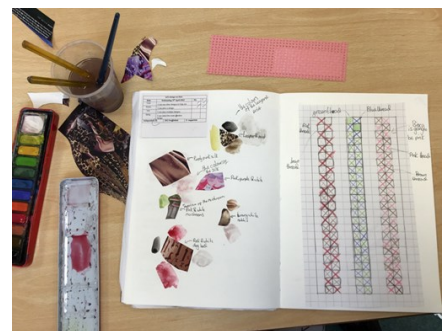
In Oaks, we will be learning about life cycles and have been investigating the length of different gestation times for a range of mammals. The children worked together using the research skills and produced a graph.

In English and we have been exploring workhouses and eventually we will write a diary entry as if we were back in Victorian times.

The class are very keen to start sewing the bookmarks they designed last week!

The Year 6 pupils have been focused and are getting ready for SATs.

Well done Oaks!



## Willows Forest School—19 April 2023



Willows have been spotting birds throughout the winter and have created their own bird feeders with pine cones. They topped up the seeds on the bird feeders to continue to feed the birds throughout the nesting season.

This term the Willows topic is all about growing, so the children had a go at learning to identify some trees around the school site. They created their own tree identification labels, which we then hung up on the corresponding trees.

Some children had a go at making bark rubbings with paper and wax crayons. They moved a sapling hazel tree, planting it in a better place away from the pond.



We found some wildflower seeds which the children sprinkled around the site to grow. Some of the class spent time replenishing the bug hotel with broken clay pots, sticks, leaves and wood. They found lots of bugs

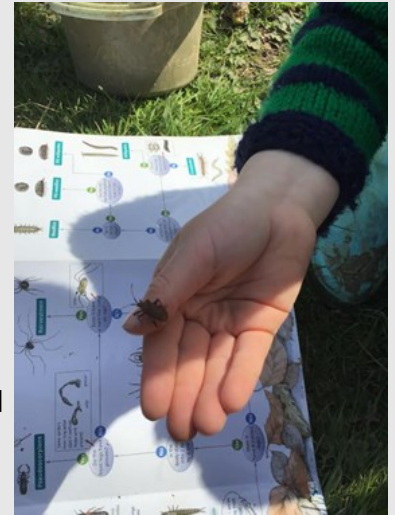
living there and made up some lovely stories about the creatures they had found. There was lots of time spent in the mud kitchen cooking and much enjoyment on the slack line and the rope swing. What a busy afternoon, well done Willows!

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 seasons and the skills involved in learning how to play Forest School games.



## Chestnuts Forest School—26 April 2023

This term Chestnuts topic is all about growing, so this week the children planted some tree saplings along the boundary with the field, looking carefully at the complexity of the roots of the saplings and how the shoots were developing this year's new leaves. They found lots of worms and woodlice when they were digging and used a mini beasts identification sheet to check what they had found. We spent some time banging in stakes around the sapling trees to support and protect them to help them grow.



The saplings are hawthorn, silver birch and rowan. Referring to information in books and tree identification cards, Chestnuts created some lovely ID tags to hang on the trees in the Forest School area. Some of the children also tried making bark rubbings of the oak tree bark with paper and wax crayons.

The children put up two planters on the mud kitchen and filled them with compost and some butterfly friendly wild flower seeds and gave them a good water to help them start to germinate and then grow. They also planted some of the wild flower seeds carefully around the base of their newly planted saplings.

The class spent time playing in the dens they have made, swinging on the rope swing and climbing trees. We noticed that there were tadpoles in the pond, so the class had an enjoyable time watching them dart around the pond. The mud kitchen was really busy, with children creating fantastic muddy mixtures and a 'scrumptious stew!'

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## Friends of Park Mead

The Friends of Park Mead have been very busy behind the scenes and through their amazing fundraising have paid for the following, with new projects always on the way ....!

- ◆ The banners and road safety flags
- ◆ 10 new laptops



Everything they donate to Park Mead is bought from funds raised at various events they hold throughout the year.



The funds benefit all the children in our school from Reception right through to Year 6 and the whole Park Mead community would like to say a massive **Thank you** for everything they do.

### A Message from the Friends of Park Mead

The Friends of Park Mead is an independently registered charity who organise fundraising and fun events throughout the year. EVERY penny raised is donated to Park Mead to support or fund projects, mainly as part of the School's Development Plan. We meet socially once a month to organise our events program.

We'd love your support on the committee but you don't have to attend our meetings to help out. We have sign-up sheets for the different events so even if you can help at just one during the year, you would make a big difference.

We all have busy lives with family and work. As parents, you have a direct influence on the experience your child has whilst at this school and as the Government cut budgets schools are becoming more and more dependent on their PTAs for funds.

### **Keeping Up to Date!**

There are a number of ways we keep in touch:

- Come along to our meetings – you will always be welcome and they are very sociable.
- Look at our notice board at the front of the school or in book bags for details of up and coming events.
- Join our Facebook page – “Friends of Park Mead School”  
[www.facebook.com/groups/1618708518394475](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1618708518394475) is a closed page for sharing news about events and activities relating to the school, and celebrating all the good work that the PTA does.
- Email: [friends@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:friends@parkmead.e-sussex.sch.uk)
- Playground parent liaison representative.



*The Friends of Park Mead Primary School*

*Charity Number 1103982*



## Awards KS1

### Willows

Esmee—Aiming High  
Xander—Aiming High  
Aurora—Skills Builder Star



### Chestnuts

Charlotte—Aiming High  
Ellie—Teamwork  
Dominic—Skills Builder Star



## Awards KS2

### Maples

Indy—Aiming High  
Shanti—Staying Positive  
Emma—Skills Builder Star



### Oaks

Ablie—Aiming High  
Emma Pk—Aiming High  
Sienna—Skills Builder Star



# CLASS+ Coffee & Chat Sessions

East Sussex  
County Council



Come and join the CLASS+ team and other parents to talk about all things **Autism**. This is a great opportunity to listen, share questions, ideas and experience with other parents. This session is designed to support parents/ carers who have an autistic child or are on the Autism pathway.

## SPRING DATES

27 April, 9am to 10:30am, Iford and Kingston CE Primary School

28 April, 9:30am to 11:30am, St Leonards Children Centre Clyde Road

4 May, 10am to 11:30am, Forest Row Library

17 May, 9:15am to 10:45am, Plumpton School Lewes

24 May, 1:15pm to 2:45pm, Allsaints CE Primary School Bexhill

20 June, 9am to 10:30am, Hellingly Primary School

## Companion Dog Show with Obedience

Sunday 7 May 2023—Upper Dicker Village Hall Field, BN27 3PZ

Entries from 10.45am

- Obedience 11.30am
- Pedigree 11am
- Novelty 12.30pm

Car Parking: £1.00 per car

Entry: £1.50 per class

Have a Go Hide and Seek: £1.50

Have a Go Hoopers: £1.50 per run



All Enquiries to Diane Jones 01435 830265 / 07761 788689 *Proceeds in aid of Sussex Pet Rescue*

## Skip2bfit

Following this weeks workshops, there are a few items in the office if people wish to buy them.

Standard skipping rope—£6



Blueberry Bounce Balls—£7.00



Professional skipping rope—£8



Skip2bfit Pack—£12.00





East Hoathly  
Primary School and  
Nursery FPTA

# EAST HOATHLY FAMILY FUN RUN

## East Hoathly Pavilion

8am registration opens

10am 5km and 10km races

11am 1km race followed by prize giving

Refreshments available

Bouncy castle (subject to weather)

Medal for every finisher

## Entry fees:

1km race: £5 any age

5km race: £5 for under 16s,  
£9 early bird discount\* or £10 on  
the day for age 16+

10km race: £9 early bird  
discount\*, £10 on the day



21st  
May  
2023

Follow us on Facebook:  
East Hoathly Family Fun Run

Raising funds for East Hoathly Primary  
School and Nursery FPTA  
Registered Charity Number: 1089642