

October 2023

NEWSLETTER



Greenfields Federation Newsletter

Littlehaven Infant and Northolmes Junior Schools



Headteacher's Update

I would like to begin by thanking you all for the warm welcome, support and encouragement that you have offered me since I first joined the Greenfields Federation at the start of September. The weeks have flown by since then, and both Littlehaven and Northolmes have made great strides throughout this time.

At Northolmes, children have enjoyed taking part in trips once more, and you will be pleased to know that they have been great ambassadors, upholding our core values of independence, perseverance, working together, showing respect and being reflective. We have shared some updates of our recent trips with you further on in our newsletter.

As firm advocates of the physical and mental health benefits of taking part in regular sporting activities, we are excited to be welcoming a new member of staff to the Greenfields Federation. Claudia Leicester will be joining us in January to help us to work towards obtaining an additional School Games Award. She will be coordinating new events and experiences for children at Northolmes and Littlehaven, in order to further develop their participation and access to sports.

We would also like to report on how well our new Year R children have settled into school. Mrs Geoghegan has shared some photos below with you. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome *all* new parents to our school community - please do not hesitate to contact us if we can support you, as you become more familiar with our schools.

We wish you and your families a fabulous half-term break, and look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 31st October, following our Inset Day on Monday.

All best wishes,

Mrs Cox
Mrs Saunderson

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SAFEGUARDING TEAM

If you are worried about something that your own, or another child has told you, or you think that they may be at risk of harm, please contact our Designated Safeguarding team:

Mrs Saunderson (Lead)

Mrs Cox (Deputy)

Mrs Geoghegan (Deputy)

Greenfields Association (PTA)

I had the fantastic opportunity recently to meet with both our established and our new members of the PTA. They have shown great dedication and commitment to the Greenfields Federation and I look forward to updating you with their plans for the academic year ahead.

Please see the infographic from their newsletter below, which summarises their amazing achievements, and I do hope that you will continue to support them with future events.

Please do not hesitate to contact the committee via associationgreenfields@gmail.com if you would like further details on how you can support their work.



Littlehaven Trim Trail



Children at Littlehaven have enjoyed getting to grips with the new trim trail which was installed a few weeks ago. This serves to compliment the range of equipment available to them at break times, to help them to develop their agility, motor skills, balance, teamwork, and perseverance!

During half-term, there will also be a new addition to the outdoor reception play area. We won't give too much away at the moment, but we hope that you will come and see the finished section when you join us for your next 'play and stay' session!

Harvest Donations

Both schools welcomed Father Russell for a Harvest assembly, celebrating the bounty of this wonderful time of year. We are so grateful for all your wonderful donations, from both school communities. Horsham Matters was thrilled with all of your contributions!



Our Northolmes Upper School councillors visited Horsham Matters to see where your contributions will go and how they support local families.



Year 6 Residential Trip to Lodge Hill

Mrs Saunderson and I were thrilled to welcome back the Year 6 children who participated in the residential visit to Lodge Hill when they returned last Friday. It was evident to see that they had enjoyed making new memories, forging new friendships and undertaking new challenges with a sense of adventure, bravery and excitement.

They were able to participate in a range of activities including: abseiling, rock climbing, zip-lining, sno-tubing, crate stacking, rifle shooting and tunnelling. It was great to see the children challenging themselves, working collaboratively and showing support and encouragement for their peers.



Abseiling

The children were given harnesses and taught how to gently lower themselves down the tower using their rope and safety equipment. It was amazing to see so many of them pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and overcoming fears.



Rock Climbing:

The children were strapped into harnesses and worked as a team to feed the rope and keep the child who was climbing secure. It was great to hear all of the words of encouragement and advice being shared.



Zip-Lining:

Year six were given harnesses and had to climb up to the Zip-line. They were strapped in and then had to bravely step off the edge of the platform before zipping down the wire. It was lovely to see the children being so inventive and enthusiastic with their poses.



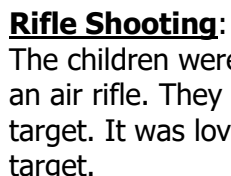
Sno-Tubing:

The children were given sno-tubes (big rubber rings) that they had to sit in. The children were then able to slide down the slope to see who was able to get the furthest. The children really supported each other in this activity and it was amazing to see the kindness between them as they helped one another to bring the sno-tubes back up the steep hill.



Crate Stacking:

The children worked in teams to climb and build the tallest tower possible. They were all given jobs, some were builders and needed to stack the crates, two were climbers and needed to climb the stacks and finally, some were supporters and they needed to keep hold of the safety rope and feed it through the harnesses. The amount of collaboration and encouragement throughout this activity was great to witness.



Rifle Shooting:

The children were given a safety briefing and taught how to load a pellet into an air rifle. They were then able to practise their aim before shooting at a target. It was lovely to see the children persevering and trying to hit their target.



Tunnelling:

Year 6 were given safety helmets with a light attached. They were then able to enter and crawl through a series of underground tunnels. They had some practise using the training tunnels before entering the medium and small tunnels, and working as a team to navigate through the maze. They got covered in mud but had great fun!



Year 3 & 4 Local Trips

Lower school children have been on two local trips this half term to supplement their classroom learning. First they spent a wonderful morning at Leechpool woods, creating natural artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. The children worked in small groups to create their masterpieces!



Lower School then went on a second local walk into Horsham town centre to bring their geography map skills to life. We visited the Carfax, East Street and West Street, counting different businesses on our route.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with both visits. We cannot run these excursions without your support, and it enriches the children's classroom learning.

Year R

We welcome all our new Reception children and families to Littlehaven. It has been a delight to see them develop as a class (and as individuals), learning about and learning from one another, under the supportive teaching, guidance and the encouragement of staff.



School Hours – A reminder of changes from September

Please remember that the start times for Littlehaven have been updated for September to allow both schools to meet the DfE requirements of 32.5 hours in school. Timings for both schools will be as follows:

Littlehaven Infant School

Gates open: 8.35am
Registration: 8.40am
School ends: 3.10pm

Northolmes Junior School

Gates open: 8.40am
Registration: 8.50am
School ends: 3.20pm

October INSET Day – 2023/24

A reminder for parents/carers that the next INSET Day for Littlehaven Infants and Northolmes Junior Schools, will take place on **Monday October 30th 2023**. We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023.

INSET Days – 2023/24

Inset Days for the remainder of the academic year are:

Monday 30th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024

School Uniform

Please remember that only black shoes should be worn to school. Girls in particular, should not be sent to school in black ankle boots - they may be sold as school shoes but they are not part of our school uniform. Likewise, trainers should be saved for PE kits. Of course, there will always be those 'emergency' days when school shoes are wet, broken or have been left somewhere they shouldn't. If your child needs to wear an alternative pair of shoes in these circumstances then please let their class teacher know.

For Northolmes parents, a reminder that school jumpers or cardigans should still be worn on PE days. Hoodies or other jumpers are not part of our uniform. Also, PE bottoms should be plain navy or black in colour. For Littlehaven parents, please ensure that your child has plimsolls or trainers in their PE bag. Children in Year R will not need PE kits until the Spring Term.

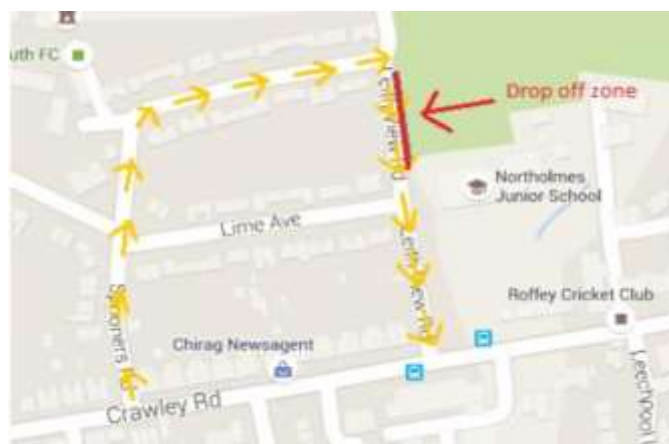
Please remember that the PTA do have a good supply of secondhand uniform and they can be contacted via the Classlist app. If you have any good quality, secondhand uniform please donate it to school via the school offices.

Parking

Please make sure you think before you park so that you ensure that you are parking legally.

Please can you be mindful when you are parking that you are not blocking driveways, parking on the grass verges, stopping or parking on the yellow zig-zag lines or parking on junctions. In addition please do not park in the drop-off zone outside Northolmes (the verge side of the road parallel to the school field) as it makes it unsafe for children to get out of the cars and onto the pavements.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe on their journey to school.



Holidays & Absence

Attendance at school is really important. We are only able to authorise absence for 'exceptional circumstances'. It is school policy to refer all unauthorised absences of more than 10 sessions for a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine). Please keep holidays and other events to the school holiday period. School needs to be informed of all planned absences from school (medical, family reasons or holidays) at least a week before they occur.

If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, then they need to remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode. Otherwise, your child should return to school once they are well enough to do so.

Bikes & Scooters on the Playground

Bikes and scooters are not permitted to be ridden on either school playground and this extends to younger siblings. This is just to help prevent any accidents or injuries. At Littlehaven, all bikes and scooters should be parked in the stands before entering the playground. At Northolmes, bikes and scooters should be dismantled and pushed while on the playground.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2023

Monday 30 th October	INSET day
Tuesday 31 st October	Northolmes Parents Evening
Wednesday 1 st November	Littlehaven Parents Evening
Thursday 2 nd November	Northolmes and Littlehaven Parents Evening
w/c Monday 6 th November	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 13 th November	Littlehaven – School Photographs (individual)
Thursday 23 rd November	Goldfinch Class Assembly
Thursday 23 rd November	Northolmes Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 6 th December	Galileo Class Assembly
Monday 11 th December	Northolmes Carol Service at All Saints Church (pm, timings tbc)
Wednesday 13 th December	Reception/Peacock Class – Nativity Play (9am)
Friday 15 th December	Littlehaven Carol Service held in school hall (am, timings tbc)
Friday 15 th December	End of term (normal finish time)

2024

Tuesday 2 nd January	INSET day
Wednesday 31 st January	Brunel Class Assembly
Thursday 8 th February	Woodpecker Class Assembly
Wednesday 13 th March	Edison Class Assembly
Wednesday 20 th March	Darwin Class Assembly
Thursday 21 st March	Robin Class Assembly
Wednesday 27 th March	Faraday Class Assembly
Thursday 16 th May	Peacock Class Assembly
Wednesday 22 nd May	Curie Class Assembly
Tuesday 18 th June	Littlehaven – School Photographs (class)
Thursday 20 th June	Northolmes – School Photographs (class & Y6 Leavers)
Monday 22 nd July	INSET day
Tuesday 23 rd July	INSET day

