The Gattons Infant School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2026
13th November

I hope you all had a restful half term. We are heading into a very busy 6 weeks – please check the diary dates on this newsletter to make sure you don't miss anything.

This week, we have started our open mornings for children starting school in September 2027. Please let any family or friends know and remind them to apply on time for a school place next year.

Parent consultations are coming up on the 24th and 26th November. This is a chance for the teachers to talk to you about how your child has settled into their new year group. You will be able to look at their books before your appointment. Your appointment is only 10 minutes long. If you need a longer meeting, your class teacher will arrange with you to come back on another day. Please be respectful of your time limit to help the staff run to time. It is always helpful to come with any questions and ask these at the beginning of your slot.

FOGS are super busy planning the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 21st November. Please check your class what's app groups for updates and opportunities to volunteer. The more volunteers we have, the less time you all have to volunteer for!

Have a lovely weekend.
Sarah Gospel
Headteacher

Dates to remember

Friday 20th November
Non Uniform Day – FOGS Christmas Fayre Donations

Saturday 21st November
FOGS Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 24th & Thursday 26th November
Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings



Outdoor Play



As the weather becomes colder and wet, please remember that your child needs a waterproof coat. We do go outside in drizzle with hoods up.

Do you have any experience laying astroturf or know anyone who does, who might be able to help us or just talk us through the best way to do it?

We are looking to astroturf the area of Reception by the raised beds with some donated astroturf. Mr Russell will be looking for volunteers later in the year if you are keen to help.

Keeping our schools healthy this winter

As winter approaches, schools often see an increase in common illnesses such as colds, flu and other respiratory infections. Illness is one of the main reasons for pupil absence, but simple actions can help reduce the spread of infection and keep children healthy, happy and learning.

West Sussex County Council is encouraging pupils, staff and families to take a few important steps this winter. Please share the following guidance with parents and carers:

- **Attend school whenever possible**: most mild illnesses, such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, do not require children to stay at home unless they have a temperature
- **Keep vaccinations up to date**: vaccines help protect children and the wider school community from preventable illnesses
- **Wash hands regularly**: good hand hygiene is one of the simplest and most effective ways to stop germs spreading
- **Catch It, Bin It, Kill It**: use tissues for coughs and sneezes, throw them away immediately and wash hands afterwards
- **Support good ventilation**: fresh air helps reduce the spread of viruses in classrooms and shared spaces
- **Maintain a clean environment**: regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces helps keep our school safe and healthy
- **Behavioural reminders**: everyone benefits from regular reminders about hygiene and illness prevention

By working together, we can help reduce illness-related absences, support pupil wellbeing and ensure children make the most of their learning opportunities throughout the winter months. For more advice visit the Education Hub website, or access further health education resources through UKHSA's e-Bug programme.

Please remember to book your child's Christmas lunch by Friday 4th December – you cannot book after this date.



Road Safety week 15th November 2026

Dear parent or carer,

This week we are taking part in Road Safety Week, which is organised by Brake, the road safety charity.

Road Safety Week is a great opportunity for us to help our children learn about road safety, remember people who are killed or hurt on roads, and raise funds to help Brake support families affected by road crashes.

SAFE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Every journey. Every time.

Road Safety Week



This year's Road Safety Week is all about people. It's about the way we use our roads and the people we share our roads with. We are talking to children about the benefits of active travel and how we can all use roads safely, to protect ourselves and other people.

It's never a nice fact to hear, but road crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young people worldwide, and seven children are killed or seriously injured on UK roads every day – that's equivalent to a whole class of children every single week. We are doing our bit to try and make sure this never happens in our community.

Please help us by supervising your child closely on roads and continuing to teach road safety whenever you can.

Here are some simple ways you can help your child to make safe and healthy journeys, every day:

- Help them walk and ride more on safe paths away from traffic
- Always hold their hand when you are walking near roads
- Always cross roads at safe places
- Always drive at a safe speed and never use a phone while driving.

You can also help keep them safe by:

- Making sure they always sit in a suitable child seat for car journeys
- Never driving while tired or distracted.

Please continue to talk to your child about road safety and show them you understand the importance of using roads safely to protect ourselves and everyone we share the road with.



Thank you for your support.
Together we can make our roads safer for everyone.

In assembly, on Monday we will be talking about being the **Backseat Boss** in the car

Buckle up
Off your phone
Steer with both hands
Stop at the red light

Please help your children to stay safe in the car and on roads by letting them be your **Backseat Boss**!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

Attendance

Those of you whose child's attendance was below 90% last half term will now have received a letter about their attendance. Please come and see Mrs Gospel if you need any help in improving your child's attendance.



Low Income Free School Meals

All infant school children receive a Universal Free School Meal. However, if you are on a low income your child may be eligible for pupil premium/low income free school meals which releases vital funding to the school (£1,550, per year, per eligible child), in addition to over £100 worth of benefits from the school, as follows:

* the Government provides shopping vouchers for school holidays including half terms (approx £10-£15 per child per school holiday week)
* free school jumper or cardigan per year (usually saving £14-16)
* free book bag, PE bag, and water bottle per year (saving of £9)
* free school trips (approx saving of £12-£16)
* free in-house school clubs (approx saving of £15)
* free holidays clubs, including meals

If you think that your child may be eligible please apply online using the link below, or search "WSCC free school meals" to navigate to the application:- https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals

If you need help with this application or access to a PC, we would be very happy to assist. Please contact Clare Tidbury in the school office, or email office@thegattons.co.uk Thank you for helping to support our school.

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)? **YES** Keep them off school until it goes away. **NO** Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

What is happening in school!

After all the notices and reminders, the children have been busy too!



Reception had a great visit from Burgess Hill Fire Service last Wednesday. The children learnt all about the role of a firefighter and all the ways that they help people. They also got to see a fire engine close up, learn about all the equipment and sit inside the driver's cab. They listened to the siren, and everyone had a turn using the very long and powerful hose.



Thank you to the firefighters of Burgess Hill for giving their time and ensuring every child had a memorable visit.

In Year 2 we have been looking at texture to make rubbings and working with our friends to produce a collaborative dragon. We took great delight in making lots of different textures by using the outside to create scaly skin and bumpy patterns. Watch out in the Year 2 corridor as we will be turning these masterpieces into a display!

Year 1 have had an exciting start to the second half of the Autumn term with the arrival of our magic tins and the introduction of Curious Quests. We have had messages from Professor Klunk and met Noodle, who we have just found out is a capital letter and Titch, a full stop! Please ask your children what Noodle and Titch like! Also, any donations of junk for our inventuring are most welcome - thank you. We have also explored colour mixing in Art and started thinking about The Great Fire of London in History. We will be making fires in the next few weeks to support our learning in History and Literacy - more details to follow.

King's Kids Family Christmas Cracker sessions
Saturday 05 December, 1.00pm - 2:30pm & 3.30pm - 5.00pm

Join us for these free, fun-packed, family sessions, run by The King's Church Mid-Sussex. This is appropriate for families with children from Pre-school to School Year 5. Child supervision is required for all children.

Each exciting session will include:

- Christmas photo booth
- Christmas crafts
- Christmas games
- Christmas Lego challenge
- Nativity trail
- short Christmas clip, with snack time
- a best christmas outfit competition, with prizes for both children and adults!

For more information and to book your space visit: tkc.org.uk/cracker



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR FREE
KING'S KIDS FAMILY CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

APPROPRIATE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO SCHOOL YEAR 5. CHILD SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR ALL CHILDREN.

EACH EXCITING SESSION WILL INCLUDE:

- CHRISTMAS PHOTO BOOTH
- CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
- CHRISTMAS GAMES
- CHRISTMAS LEGO CHALLENGE
- NATIVITY TRAIL
- SHORT CHRISTMAS CLIP, WITH SNACK TIME
- A BEST CHRISTMAS OUTFIT COMPETITION, WITH PRIZES FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS!

BOOK ONLINE:
TKC.ORG.UK/CRACKER

And finally…..

Please help us to help you by ensuring that all items of clothing, including coats, shoes, gloves, hats and plimsolls are clearly labelled. Please also label book bags, PE bags, water bottles and lunch boxes. Thank you. If labelled items are mislaid, once found, they will be returned to your child's class.



November

Friday 20th	Non Uniform Day - FOGS Christmas Fayre Donations
Saturday 21st	FOGS Christmas Fayre 12.00 – 2.30pm
Tuesday 24th	Open Mornings for new Reception Parents
Tuesday 24th	Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings - Details to follow
Thursday 26th	Open Mornings for new Reception Parents
Thursday 26th	Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings - Details to follow

December

Tuesday 1st	FOGS Christmas Discos – Y1 & Y2
Tuesday 8th	Carol Service @ Kings Church - Years 1 & 2 - 2pm
Monday 14th	Reception Nativity at school 9.20am or 2.15pm
Tuesday 15th	Thank you assembly for volunteers
Thursday 17th	'All Things Christmas' Day - Details to follow

Provisional dates - please be aware these are subject to change

REMAINING INSET DAYS 2026/2027

Friday 23rd October 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Thursday 25th March 2027
Monday 7th June 2027