



**WEST HOVE
INFANT SCHOOL**
.....
A family of friends

Hove Learning Federation School/Portland Road Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome back to Hove Learning Federation! We hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer holiday and are feeling refreshed for the new school year.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Sally Pink to our Senior Leadership Team. Miss Pink joins us as the new Head of School at our Holland Road site, and we know she will be a fantastic addition to our school community.

Over the past week, we have enjoyed welcoming so many families to our Meet the Teacher sessions. We hope you found these events informative and that they provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about your child's class, year group, and the exciting learning planned for the year ahead.

Please make a note of the dates for our upcoming Curriculum Workshops this term. These sessions are a great opportunity to find out more about what your child will be learning and how you can support them at home.

Communication

We value positive partnerships with our families and encourage an open and supportive approach to communication.

If you have any questions, worries or concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. You can contact the school via the enquiries email to share information or request a phone call, or you are welcome to speak to your child's teacher at the end of the school day.

Our Inclusion Team is also available to support pupils and families with pastoral matters. If you would like to arrange an appointment with one of our SENCOs, please contact our Hove Learning Federation SEND Administrator, Lou Molloy, at loumolloy@hovejunior.brighton-hove.sch.uk.

School Games Platinum Award

We are incredibly proud to have been awarded the School Games Platinum Mark Award 2025–26, recognising our continued commitment to providing high-quality physical education, sport, and opportunities for pupils to be active.

This year we will be building on this achievement by embedding the 60 Active Minutes initiative throughout the school day. This includes high-quality PE lessons, active learning, brain breaks and movement breaks, as



well as introducing an Activity of the Week to encourage active, inclusive play and develop sportsmanship during break and lunchtime.

We also continue to encourage pupils to take part in our wide range of clubs, competitions and sporting festivals, ensuring there are opportunities for everyone to get involved. Wherever possible, we also encourage families to support active travel to school by walking, cycling, or scooting.

Parking

Thank you for helping us to keep our school community safe.

If you need to drive to school, please park safely and considerately, keeping the safety of our pupils, families, and residents in mind. Please do not double park, stop on double yellow lines, or block residents' driveways. By working together and showing consideration for our neighbours, we can help ensure the area around school remains safe and welcoming for everyone.

Please remember that there are now traffic enforcements between 8:15am - 9:15am and 2:45pm - 3:45pm on School Road and Marmion Road. Motor vehicles are not allowed to enter the restricted area during enforcement hours unless exempt.

Any vehicles without an exemption ignoring the restrictions may be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) of £70, reduced to £35 if paid in 21 days.

Afterschool club contact info

ASC number 07342536023 get in touch for last minute changes for collections. Use the enquirieshlf.afterschoolclub@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk email if notifying us in advance and any other enquires.

Attendance at Hove Learning Federation

Attendance and Punctuality:

Good punctuality is an important life skill and arriving at school on time each day makes a real difference to children's learning.

Research consistently shows that good punctuality supports both academic success and overall wellbeing and that arriving at school on time each day makes a real difference to children's learning.

Our school gates are open from 8:40-8:50 at PR and HR (8.45-8.55 at SR) but bringing children for 8:40 (8:45 at SR) gives the best start to the day.

Those first ten minutes are designed to help pupils settle calmly, greet their friends, organise their belongings, and take part in important morning routines such as registration and early-start tasks.

When children arrive late, even by 5-10 minutes, they can miss the calm, structured start, and key explanations that help them feel settled and confident.

Over a year, arriving just 10 minutes late each day can add up to more than 30 hours of lost learning time. By arriving promptly at 8:40 (8:45 SR), children begin the day feeling ready, organised, and fully prepared to make the most of every learning and social opportunity.

In summary: good timekeeping isn't just about being "on time" — it helps children grow into confident, capable learners and sets them up for success in school and beyond.

By working together to support punctuality, we give every child the best possible start to their day.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.



Lateness

Arriving late to school is very unsettling for children, and frustrating for teachers who have to repeat instructions and help children to catch up. In terms of time in school lost it can have a considerable impact over the whole school year:

5 minutes late every day = 3 days of school lost a year

10 minutes late every day = 6.5 days of school lost a year

15 minutes late every day = 10 days of school lost a year

20 minutes late every day = 13 days of school lost a year

Uniform

Please see information on our uniform policy on our websites:

<https://www.westhoveinfants.co.uk/parents/school-uniform/> and

<https://www.hovejuniorschool.co.uk/uniform>

Year Group Messages:

Year 3 Families:

On Friday 25th September we have The Outdoors Project coming in to deliver a Stunning Start workshop. The children will be taking part in fun and engaging sessions to learn more about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We are inviting children to dress up as a person from one of these ages. This can be as simple as brown/black/grey coloured clothes or a leopard print t-shirt. Please don't worry too much; we just want them to be comfortable and have fun!

During the workshop, the children will have the opportunity to use face paint. If you would **not** like your child to participate in face painting, please let your class teachers know.

Year 6 Families:

A reminder that the national deadline to apply for Secondary School (Year 7) for September 2027 entry is 31st October 2026.

Please refer to the individual secondary school websites for information on their open events, or contact them directly.



DONATE
£30!

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL FUND!

The Hove Learning Federation School Fund helps provide extra experiences, opportunities and resources that enrich our children's learning beyond the curriculum. Thanks to the generosity of families, it has supported a range of exciting activities and workshops, including:

- Curriculum enrichment activities and special events like our EYFS 'Under the Sea' Singing Workshop, Stone Age Workshops, Viking Workshops, WW2 Victory Tea Parties
- Using school fund to support gaps in funding for external year group school trips to Paradise Park, The Wetlands and Drusilla's.
- Additional resources to enhance children's learning experiences

The School Fund is supported by a voluntary annual contribution of £30 per family. Every donation helps us provide these additional opportunities for our children and is hugely appreciated. There is no obligation to contribute if families are unable to do so, and no child will ever miss out as a result. Payments can be made easily via ParentPay.

For more information, please visit <https://www.westhoveinfants.co.uk/parents/school-fund-information/or> contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.



Music 2025-2026 highlights from Portland Road



My name is Mrs Nicholls, and I had the pleasure of leading Music at Portland Road last year. As a wider team, we were determined to increase musical performance and bring music to the forefront of our community. With this in mind, it is a privilege to share some of the top highlights from last year!

Musical Performances

This year, the children had lots of opportunities to perform their musical instruments in front of their peers, teachers and parents and carers. These assemblies were led by the different instrumental teachers we have based at Portland Road. The children demonstrated such bravery and focus in their performances and it was a great occasion to both celebrate their progress and inspire others to consider learning an instrument.



Singing Assemblies



It was wonderful to reintroduce singing assemblies last year, and each Tuesday, Year 3 and 4 joined together to learn a variety of songs. We practised singing in tune, learnt rounds and harmonies, and worked towards a successful performance at the end of the school year. While many songs proved to be popular, undoubtedly, their favourite song was 'Hall of Fame' by Will.i.am and The Script.

Trips and Special Events

In December 2025, the lovely Fran rehearsed with the choir to perform a variety of technical songs at The Brighton Dome. They performed there in the evening and really showed off their musical talents! We were so proud of our students



In April 2026, we had the privilege of hosting Ollie Tunmer, from 'The Beat Goes On'. Ollie is a professional musician and body percussionist and he led whole school assemblies practising body percussion techniques. He also taught a series of workshops for the Year 4 students and linked poetry with rap and percussion. The day was truly memorable and the children had an amazing time exploring how to make music with their bodies!



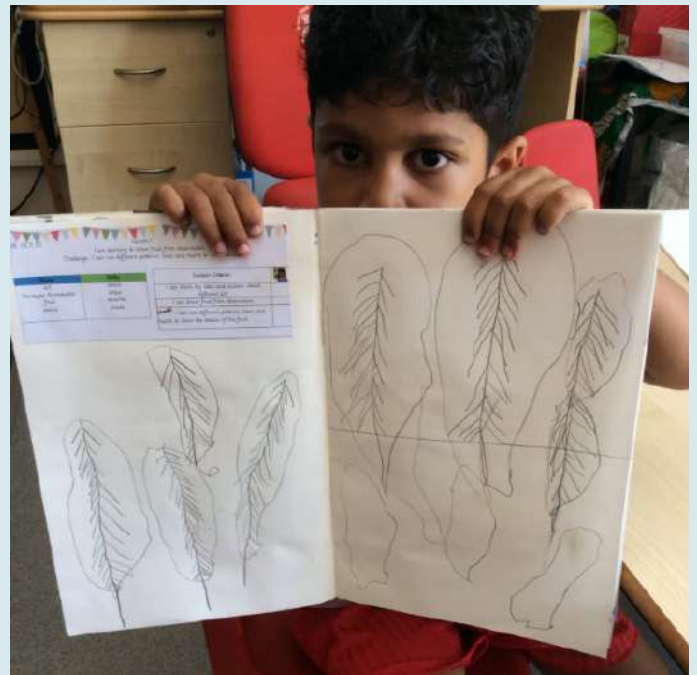
In July 2026, Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Acar took a group of Year 5 and 6 students to Varndean School to experience an exciting musical workshop led by Sussex Music School. While there, the children learnt to play in an authentic Javanese gamelan ensemble, which included gongs and metallophones, and they worked together to create traditional Indonesian music. It was amazing to see them learn how to respect and play the instruments so quickly and they created beautiful melodies as an ensemble.



Art Week Special!

Art week at the School Road site was an exciting affair with Secret Gardens, swirling water patterns and underwater scenes. Within each year group, children were able to explore artistic techniques and work collaboratively to produce beautiful final pieces. Below are some pictures from the week and of their final pieces.

We would also like to thank the West Hove Arts Trail, who generously donated £100 to support us to buy resources and ensure all children have access to exciting materials. Jackson's Art Shop also not only donated a large box of resources, but also gave us a 20% discount to buy key items! This kindness has enabled us to start planning future events and keep the passion for creative arts strong across our year groups.



Staff Spotlight

Change



Miss Pink
Head of School - Holland Road

This newsletter's value is **Change**. **Change** can make us feel anxious, uncertain, disoriented, sad, excited, or even relieved, because it disrupts our sense of predictability, identity, and emotional stability. These reactions are common because change often involves loss, unfamiliarity, and a shift away from routines that once felt safe.

Ways to cope with change:

- **Keep routines** - Having routines is really helpful to children, especially having a bedtime routine that happens at around the same time, in the same order every day. This lets them know that whatever else is changing in their life, there are things that they can rely on to always happen. Having one-to-one calm time with a parent at the end of the day also gives children the chance to talk over any worries about what's happening in a secure environment.
- **Stay calm and consistent** - If your child sees that you can remain calm and consistent, it will send them a sign that you can cope with things changing and they don't need to worry.
- **Keep talking** - The more you can prepare your child for the change that is happening, the easier it will be for them to deal with.
- **Be prepared** - Preparation is key. For example, if they're starting a new school, practising the journey there and back and talking about what they will have for lunch will help them know what to expect.



Please continue to keep in contact with us – should you have any questions or concerns, contact us via the following:

West Hove Infant School

admin@westhove-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

01273 733386

Hove Junior School

portlandroadenquiries@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk

01273 916609

Hove Junior School Inclusion Team

inclusionteam@hovejun.brighton-hove.sch.uk

01273 916609

Best wishes,

Maddie Southern

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hovelearningfederation



Maddie Southern
Executive Headteacher



Lorna Cummings
Co-Executive Headteacher



Niamh O'Shea
Head of School, School Road



Rachel Jeffers
Head of School, Portland Road

Diary Dates

September:

Friday 11th - Meet the teacher meetings (Junior school) - 3:25pm

Monday 14th - Meet the teacher meetings (Junior school) - 3:25pm

Friday 18th - Meet the teacher meetings (School Road) - 3:25pm

Friday 25th - Year 3 Stunning Start. Children invited to dress up as a person from Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age.

October:

Friday 2nd - Individual photos (Infant school)

Wednesday 7th - Y3 and Y4 maths parent workshop

Diary Dates

October:

Friday 9th - Y5 and Y6 maths parent workshop

Tuesday 13th - New parent visits, 9:30am and 10:45am (Infant school)

Thursday 15th - Spooky disco (Junior school)

Thursday 22nd - Last day of term. Dress down day.

Friday 23rd - INSET Day.





Are you concerned about a child's mental health?



- Anxiety
- Low mood
- Difficulties regulating emotions
- Self esteem and confidence
- Sleep difficulties
- Fears and phobias
- Separation, loss and bereavement



Scan the QR code below to refer your concern to Hove Learning Federation's Child Mental Health Lead, Bridget Rennie. Link also available on our school website.



Bridget Rennie (Mental Health Lead) will contact you via email within 2 weeks of your referral.

NB: If you have an urgent concern about a child's mental health please call 03003040061 during office hours or 03005000101 outside of office hours.



DONATE HERE

FRED SHED

Fred Shed is a school community non-profit sharing shed that stocks non-perishable items and school uniform for those who are finding it especially hard in the current climate.

Our aim is to help as many families in our school community as possible and it is run by volunteering parents and carers. The sharing shed completely relies on donations of non-perishable items and school uniform which can be dropped into either infants or juniors school reception areas.

OPEN every Friday
after school

along with Fred's free bakery which comes
from generous donations from
Real Patisserie and The Flour Pot Bakery

Fred's shed is located in the juniors
front playground just next to the main gates

If you need help, and don't feel comfortable approaching the sharing shed
please email us at portlandroadenquiries@hovjun.brighton-hove.sch.uk

If you'd like to support Fred Shed with your time contact hovejuniorpta@gmail.com

To keep Fred stocked, there are collection bins in both Infants and Juniors school receptions.

Brighton & Hove
Inclusion Support Service
Autism & Language Team



Workshops for parents and carers

Autumn Term 2026

These workshops will be led by family support workers from BHISS's autism & language team. The online sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams (instructions at the bottom of this flyer).

Each of the online workshops will run from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. (unless otherwise advertised) followed by half an hour for questions and answers.

Hyperlinks to the online workshops are included below. You do not need to book a place on these sessions. If you would like to attend, simply click on the relevant link just before 9.30 a.m. We will see you waiting and will admit you to the workshop.

We do not record these sessions so that parents feel comfortable discussing personal observations, but similar information may be found on our website (see below). We are, though, able to distribute slides to parents and carers who have attended the online session.

Brighton and Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS)

Portslade Hub

Mile Oak Road

Portslade

BN41 2PG

01273 293481

BHISS@brighton-hove.gov.uk



Wednesday 16th September 9.30 – 12.00

What to consider when applying to secondary school

– online workshop –

This workshop will explore what parents and carers should consider when applying to secondary schools. It will discuss key factors to keep in mind when visiting secondary schools, including questions to ask school staff.

This workshop is accessible to all parents/carers of children with an autism diagnosis, or "on the pathway" and/or with a language difficulty but will be particularly useful for those whose children are in Year 5 or Year 6.

If you would like to attend this online workshop, click on the blue link below and wait to be admitted:

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 325 302 837 873 19

Passcode: KN65sH6y

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Wednesday 30th September 9.30 – 12.00

Post 16: leaving school

What next? Options for education and training

– online workshop –

A workshop for parents and carers whose young people are nearing the end of secondary school. We will explore opportunities in education and training for post-16 neurodivergent young people in Brighton & Hove. We will look at how to access information and advice about next steps, so that we can prepare them to navigate this major transition into sometimes unfamiliar territory.

Please note: in the summer term we will be running another session for parents and carers of these young people, which will focus on post-16: leaving school and becoming an independent neurodivergent person.

If you would like to attend this online workshop, click on the blue link below and wait to be admitted:

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 382 998 004 322 353

Passcode: ps3t7TJ3

[Click here to join the meeting](#)



Friday 2nd October 10.00 – 12.00

Meet up space for neurodivergent parents and carers

- in person at the Portslade Hub -

This termly group is a regular space for neurodivergent parents/carers of neurodivergent children. This is a small, informal group where you can share experiences and ideas around what it's like to support neurodivergent children, when you yourself are neurodivergent.

We will operate a first come, first served list, to keep the group a comfortable size for our members.

Please apply for a place by contacting our administrator Jane.hale@brighton-hove.gov.uk, and we'll send you further details. We will operate a waiting list if necessary. This session is held at the Portslade Hub, Mile Oak Road, Portslade, BN41 2PG

Dear Parents/Carers

"Being Autistic"

*A young man shares his experiences
of being autistic*



My name is Simon Smith, and I have Autism. With the help of my mum, Kim, I give a talk called 'Being Autistic' - about my personal experiences of what it is like having Autism as a child/adult and how it affects my everyday life.

My talk covers a lot of areas including sensory issues, how my brain works, social communication and interaction, and focused interests.

We also offer general advice and strategies to help support young people with Autism, and there is an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the talk.

Thursday 12th November 2026

9.45am to 11.45am

Meeting Space 2

at

Moulsecoomb Family Hub

Hodshrove Lane, Brighton BN2 4SE

Places on Simon's talk is limited to 18. To book one, please email Kim & Simon
kim.simon.autism@outlook.com

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KIDS KARATE 4YRS+
MONDAY 5:20PM - 6:20PM

FAMILY KICKBOXING 6YRS+
MONDAY 6:30PM - 7:30PM
FIRST CLASS FREE!

WWW.SAMAGROUP.CO.UK

TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE PLEASE VISIT OUR SITE & CLICK 'JOIN A CLASS'

Please Note; After 2 x trial sessions a SAMA membership/insurance is required