



Newsletter

Summer Term - 26 April 2024



A Message from the Head

School has been very exciting for the first 2 weeks back. Children have been chatting excitedly about who is in which house and how many house points they have been able to collect in the first couple of weeks. Everyone is enjoying finding out who else is in their house (adults included!).

Our Local Authority advisor has been in this week to see how our new curriculum plans are shaping up and left very impressed by the irresistible and aspirational curriculum we have been building.

If you have been into the office recently, you will hopefully have noticed the improvements in the reception outside area. There is still a bit more to do over the next few weeks but we are pleased with the new opportunities this updated environment provides for our children.

A huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our improvement journey and spread positive messages about our school. It is working! Initial reception numbers look fabulous and, once families have confirmed they will be accepting the places offered, I look forward to sharing our final numbers. Keep spreading those positive messages.

Mrs. E. Gale

We're improving...



Very excitingly, we have now rolled out our new House system. Your child should know which house they are in and will have attended their very first house meeting!

These first meetings were a huge success and are a key part of our plans to develop a sense of responsibility and belonging across the whole school.

The children are now busy collecting as many house points as they can so their house can be 'House of the Week'

This week, the Year 5 and 6 children were invited to apply for the roles of Captain, Vice Captain or Secretary for their house. The applications were of a very high standard so it was very difficult to shortlist. Well done to all those that put themselves forward and applied. The shortlisted applicants are being interviewed on Monday. They will also need to give a short presentation to their house team. The successful candidates will then be chosen!

If your child has been shortlisted, please talk to them about what they could say in their presentation and how they could answer our interview questions.

We look forward to announcing the new Captains, Vice Captains and Secretaries soon!

A kind and inclusive learning community for all!

What's happening with... *Networks*



Thrive Together Schools Alliance (TTSA)

Queens Park Primary School
Varndean School
Mile Oak Primary School
Brackenbury Primary School
Balfour Primary School

In the dynamic landscape of education, we, a collective of visionary headteachers, have emerged, driven by our shared commitment to enhance the educational journey of both children and staff alike.

United in purpose, we have formed a collaborative alliance where each school remains independent of each other, pooling our expertise and experiences to cultivate an environment where every child can thrive and every educator can excel.

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What's happening with... *Networks*



At the heart of our alliance lies a fervent belief in the power of collaboration. Recognising that no single individual possesses all the answers, we have embraced the ethos of shared learning, fostering an ecosystem where strategies, ideas, and innovations flow freely.

Through regular meetings, workshops, and forums, we aim to engage in vibrant discourse, tapping into the collective wisdom of our group to address challenges and seize opportunities.

Moreover, our alliance extends beyond mere dialogue; it is a testament to the spirit of generosity and solidarity. We willingly share resources, materials, and best practices, ensuring that every member of our alliance can access the tools needed to deliver exceptional educational experiences.

By leveraging our collective purchasing power, we aim to secure the best value for everyone, optimising resources and maximising impact.

In essence, we, this group of headteachers, embody the transformative potential of collaboration in education, demonstrating that by working together, we can create brighter futures for both our children and our educators.

Our collaborative approaches

We aim to support each other and colleagues within our school by focusing on 10 strands of school life. Colleagues who lead on these strands work collectively together to share ideas, resources and approaches to improve outcomes for students, offer support and reduce workloads for staff.

The 10 Strands

- Leadership
- Curriculum/Subject Networks
- Pedagogy
- SEND
- Student Leadership
- Attendance
- Equalities
- Safeguarding
- Business & Finance
- Our City, Our World

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Welcome to the Team!

Mr. Roberts



We are thrilled that Mr. Roberts is joining our team as Deputy Headteacher!

Mr. Roberts is one of the Assistant Headteachers at Varndean School and within his role he currently oversees one of Varndean's small schools, pastoral support, transition.

Mr. Roberts has been working with us over the past term to support us in developing our house system, behaviour policies and practice. It has been so fantastic tapping into his expertise.

You will be able to meet Mr. Roberts on the gates on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings.

A message from Mr. Roberts:

I grew up in Weymouth spending most of my youth playing tennis around the country. When the time came to relocate for university I left the seaside and headed to Roehampton. There I competed a BA in Geography, alongside gaining QTS. From Roehampton, I moved to Croydon where I began my teaching career at an inner city primary school. After teaching a variety of different year groups over a 6 year period, the sea air was calling and Brighton became my new home.

Wanting to broaden my teaching expertise further, I decided to venture into secondary education. At Varndean School I introduced a transition group for children who struggled with the move from primary to secondary. My role then progressed to Assistant Headteacher with varying responsibilities, such as: teaching & learning, improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, whole school behaviour and rewards.

When I'm not in work mode, I'm kept just as busy with my beautiful young family!

Anyway, that's enough about me! My final thing to say is how much I'm looking forward to being a part of Queens Park's improvement journey and getting to know you all along the way.

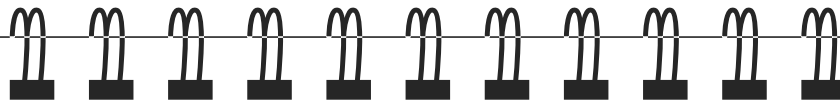
Mr. Roberts

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Coffee at the Gate

Coffee at the gate is a great opportunity for you to tell us your thoughts on the themes below. The leader of each area and some of the senior leaders will be present and eager for your feedback. We give you a free hot drink and often have a handout on the area we are discussing. Come and join us from **8:30am**.



KEEP THE DATES

Thursday 2nd May – Behaviour

Thursday 17th May– Writing

Wednesday 5th June – Curriculum

Tuesday 18th June - Attendance

Tuesday 2nd July - Inclusive Teaching

Wednesday 17th July - Reading and Phonics



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Congratulations to this weeks



Well done for Good

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE FRED HAS
BEEN AWARDED TO

Beetles

Well done Hot Chocolaters!

HATTIE, DOMINIC,
SHANJAMUL, JUDE Y,
TAYM, OZORA, RUBY,
MARIA, MAX

STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception - Anvi & Leen
Year 1 - Sadie & Lola
Year 2 - Enzo & Scarlett
Year 3 - Mia & Chloe
Year 4 - Ronan & Esme
Year 5 - Darja & Viola
Year 6 - Jameel & Tia



Hot Chocolate



FRIDAY

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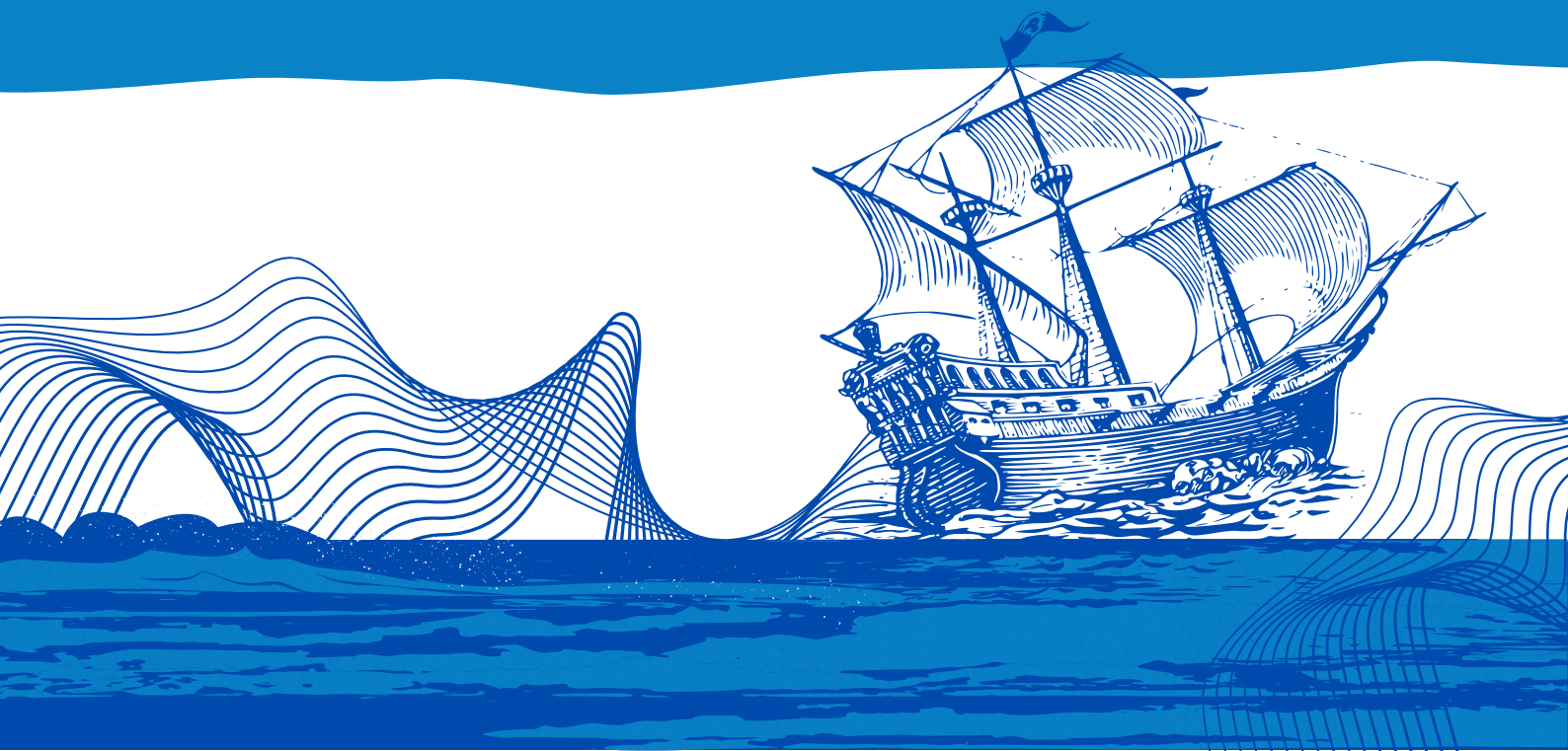
Protecting Our Young Digital Navigators

In this ever-evolving digital age, ensuring our young ones stay safe online is a top priority. From smartphones to gaming consoles, the digital landscape is vast and can sometimes be daunting to navigate. But fear not, dear parents! With a little guidance, we can set sail through these digital waters with confidence.

So, let's equip ourselves with the knowledge and tools to keep our digital adventurers safe and sound.

One treasure trove of resources we've unearthed is Internet Matters.org. This site is a goldmine for parents seeking guidance on setting up parental controls tailored to various devices and platforms.

Ready to embark on your digital safety quest? Hoist the sails and head over to [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org) to chart your course to safer digital shores.





Dates for your Diary



30 April, 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th May

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM Spiders swimming lesson

Thursday 2nd May – Y3/4 Tag rugby tournament

1st - 3rd May KS1 SATS

6th May - Early May Bank Holiday

7th - 10 May - KS1 SATS

13th - 17th May- KS2 SATS Week

Wednesday 15th May – Y5/6 Tri golf competition

Friday 17th May - Y1 Lewes Castle

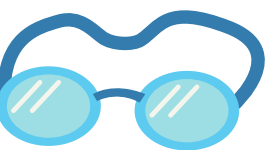
20th - 24th May - KS1 SATS Week

Thursday 23rd May - Y5/6 Rugby Festival

Thursday 6th June – Y5/6 Rackets Festival

Thursday 19th June – Withdean Athletics Meet (Y4-6)

Wednesday 3rd July – Swimming Gala (Y4-6)





Every minute Counts!



Lateness = lost learning

(figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost!

10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days lost!

15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost!

20 minutes late each day = 13 days lost!

30 minutes late each day = 19 days lost!

As few as 19 missed days over the school year reduces your child's chances of success.

Your child's SAT results could drop by one grade across all subjects

