



We are really looking forward to our series of 3 talks on Child Well-being this term.

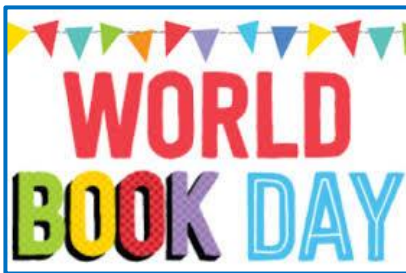
There is no charge to parents for any of these talks, the school will be covering any costs, which means this is an unmissable opportunity to hear some great speakers. We won't be repeating these talks so please do try to come to them. They will be useful for parents with children of all ages and there will be a chance to ask questions at the end.

We start on Tuesday 27th with a talk from Stephanie Arai-Davies. Stephanie has always been passionate about effective communication between adults and children. She is an Accredited Instructor in Parent Effectiveness Training. She also does our staff training on emotional intelligence and respectful communication. She runs a company called "Communicating with Kids" and has written her own book on parenting.

Stephanie's talk is on **'Raising robust children – helping your child develop positive relationships'**

We are hoping that all parents will come along to the talks. We will be providing a play space for children of nursery/school age during the talk. Please arrive by 3.25pm ready to start promptly at 3.30pm.

Nursery and Infant Parents – don't forget Heather's talk on Schemas on Thursday at 9.30am in the hall.



World Book Day Celebration - Friday 2nd March

We have had some great entries for our "Extreme Reading Photo" competition including children on trains, horses, on pirate ships and with a tiger! If you haven't taken yours yet you have this weekend to get yours done. Please send it in by email to the office by MONDAY. Book Token prizes to be won for the best entries in each age group.

On Friday 2nd March come dressed as your favourite book character or bring a box of clues to your favourite book. (No movie or TV characters please). We will parade in the playground before school and then have a Gathering to share costumes and clue boxes in the morning.

New Gym mats and benches

We are excited that the new gym equipment we ordered in December has finally arrived. Willows and Elder classes were keen to be first to use them with some fantastic floor work going on in their indoor PE lessons this week.



Care Home visits

Since we started going to visit the Homewood View care home in Uckfield a couple of years ago, young children and older people interacting has become quite a popular news topic in the media. Quite a few nurseries are now making links with the elderly and the benefits to young and old are becoming well known. There was also a TV documentary (*Old People's Home for 4 year olds*) about children visiting a home for the elderly aired quite recently. The staff and children at Annan really value the experience as do the residents and care home staff. Well done to Heather for keeping the link going and thanks to parents, Jerry and John who go along to help. 10 children from Sycamores and Kindergarten went along this Wednesday.



School Council

This week saw the first meeting of the new batch of School Council members. The first team were keen to help with the “handover”. We thought as the school council achieved so much last term you might like to know more. Attached is a summary of the key points they made at their meetings and the action taken as a result. A big well done to Zella, Tegan, Shiv, Maya, Alice, Fabian, Leo and Matilda-Rose who were on the Council last term – what a great start you made!



The 500 Words Story Writing Competition

Radio 2 listeners among you may know about the BBC 500 words children’s story writing competition. Entrants write an original story in 500 Words or fewer. Winner’s stories will be read live on the radio by a superstar celebrity...like Julie Walters, Sir Kenneth Branagh or Benedict Cumberbatch. There are also other prizes like books, a ride on Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and tea on the Queen’s barge. In 2017, there were 131,798 entries. The Elder class have each written an entry. There were some great stories and we thought you might like to read extracts from a couple.

Letter from the Universe by Zella

“...with great effort, I forced myself into the open. Breathing rhythmically into my gasmask, I took a few hesitant steps into the clearing. And there it was... A growing miracle... A sign of life! I had never seen anything like it before. However, the acid was everywhere and soon the poor tree shuddered, its leaves silently fell to the ground. I picked them up and held them to my chest; a heart-warming glow came from within them. Suddenly, I noticed the silver writing etched on one of their sides.....”

Just One Chance by Taya

Alone. Afraid. Unsure.

Swallow awoke at the sound of the dawn bell, its sharp twang ringing in her ears. All the girls and boys at Wensdale Orphanage were being woken for a day of work and toil, each dawn to dusk to better than the last.

She dressed in an itchy, moth-eaten dress and no socks. Without breakfast, each child was handed a list of jobs for the day and then set off to where they were required. Swallow’s first task was washing. She stumbled down the hallway to the washroom and silently began to scrub dirty sheets till her hands were raw. The day proceeded like this, exhausting every child in turn until eventually it came to an end. Swallow felt drained of all energy, but most of all she felt sad. Was this how she was going to spend her life? She got into bed, which only consisted of a couple of blankets on the floor, and began to use the only thing that made her happy. Her imagination.

She pictured a world with crystal-clear waterfalls. A world with lush jungles and sparse pine woods. A world with rocky mountains and enchanted glades. Her world was full of the fragrance of flowers and the sound of music. It was a world of magic, beauty and most importantly, freedom.

The stars glittered in the inky night sky full of hope and light. Swallow trusted them. She leant against the cold window pane and made a wish. She wished that someday she would be given a chance, just the one would do. A chance to be free of the orphanage and find something to live for. “

School Open Day

Saturday 3rd March

10am – 12pm

We especially want to encourage parents with children of nursery or infant age children to come along.

All classrooms are open and teachers are here to talk to prospective parents.

[Please tell your friends.](#)

Future dates:

Tuesday 27 th February 3.30pm	Parent Talk: Robust Children
Thursday 1 st March 9.30-10.30	Infant Parent Talk on Schemas
Friday 2 nd March	World Book Day
Saturday 3 rd March 10am - 12pm	Whole School Open Day
Tuesday, 6 th March – 3.30pm	Parent Talk: Autism Awareness
Monday 12 th March	Parents consultation evening
Tuesday, 13 th March	Parent Talk: Childhood & Anxiety
Wednesday, 14 th March	Parents consultation evening
Tuesday 20 th March 6pm	Show
Wednesday 21 st March 2pm + 6pm	Show
Thursday 22 nd March	Last Day of Term

Week : 26th Feb – 2nd March

Monday

Lunch: Spaghetti Bolognese
Staff Meeting

Tuesday

Lunch: Sushi, Miso Soup & noodles
3.30pm Parent Talk (all parents)
Netball

Wednesday

Thursday

9.30 Parent talk on Schemas
Kinderplay 1.30-3.00pm
After School Clubs 3.30-4.30pm
Friends Committee Meeting 3.15pm

Friday

World Book Day

Saturday 3rd March
School Open Day