Headstart School

Positive learning for life

News round up

Newsletter

October 2025

Headteacher's Message

As we reflect on the first half of the autumn term, I am filled with pride at the achievements and growth across our school community. This term has been a celebration of what makes Headstart School truly unique. It is a place where every child is welcomed, supported, and inspired to explore the world around them.

It is fantastic to see students showing remarkable curiosity in their learning — from exploring numbers in Maths with tens rods, to experimenting with ingredients in Cookery, and expressing themselves through a wide range of materials in Art. Their enthusiasm for visiting the Community Gardens and Eastbourne's Wheels for All shows how much they value connection and routine, and how learning extends beyond the classroom.

We've also seen incredible resilience. Whether it's mastering new skills, adapting to new play equipment, or caring for our newest additions, two affectionate piglets, our students have embraced challenges with determination and joy.

Most importantly, this term has been a powerful reminder of our commitment to inclusivity. Every child has had the opportunity to participate, contribute, and feel a sense of belonging. From shared experiences in the garden to collaborative cooking and creative expression, our school continues to be a place where differences are celebrated and every voice matters.

Thank you to our staff, families, and students for making this term such a success. Together, we are building a community rooted in curiosity, resilience, and inclusivity, have a great week's rest, when it comes.

Warm regards,

Scott Fasciolo-Barnes

Headteacher

Scott wearing our Breast Cancer Awareness T-Shirt!

News from the farm

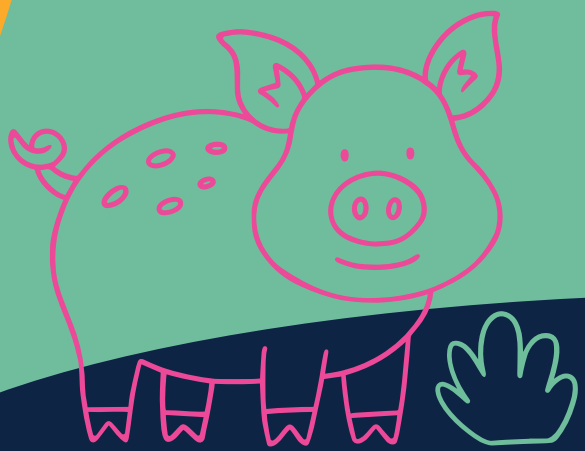
We're delighted to bring you the latest news from our school farms and it's full of muddy snouts and happy hooves!

Four new piglets have joined the Headstart family, and they've already captured everyone's hearts. These playful little characters are settling in beautifully at both Crouch Farm and Oakfield, and the children across the school have been enjoying getting to know them. They're especially fond of tummy rubs—they'll even flop right over onto their sides for a scratch! Watching the students (and staff!) interact with them has been a real joy.

At Oakfield, we've also welcomed a fantastic new shelter for our goats and sheep. This addition means we can now rotate the paddocks more effectively, helping to keep the grass fresh and nutritious for grazing. It's a great step forward in our commitment to sustainable animal care and land management.

These hands-on experiences continue to be a valuable part of our curriculum, helping children build empathy, responsibility, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

Stay tuned for more updates—and keep an eye out as we will need to find names for the piglets!



Aimee and Heather's Class

We have had a wonderful start to the term in our small but busy class of three pupils. Our theme has been "All About Me", linked to PSHE: Being Me in My World and Where I Live. The children have been exploring who they are, what makes them special, and their place in the world around them. In Science they carried out various investigations linked to exploring their senses and gave personal responses.

Barby Keel's Animal Sanctuary

Each week we have visited Barby Keel's Animal Sanctuary, where the children have enjoyed learning how to care for sheep and goats. They have shown increasing confidence in feeding, grooming, and helping with small daily jobs. These visits have given them a real sense of responsibility.

Life Skills in the Community

The children have been practising important life skills through shopping trips. They have taken turns choosing items, using money, and learning about being safe in the community. This has been a great opportunity to encourage independence and communication.

Aimee and Heather's Class cont...

Exploring Libraries

We have also enjoyed visiting both the school library and our local library. The children have loved choosing their own books, sharing stories together, and learning about how libraries work. These visits are helping to build a love of reading and supporting communication and listening skills in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

Beach School Adventures

Our weekly beach school sessions have been a highlight! The pupils have explored the local environment, collected natural materials, and joined in with sensory activities by the sea. These experiences have supported teamwork, creativity, and physical development.

We are so proud of how well the children are engaging with their learning. Each pupil has made progress in their own way – from developing independence to showing kindness and resilience in new environments

Matt Young's Class

Maths

This term, MYO have been covering place value, as well as column addition and subtraction. They have practised their times tables and begun to look at column multiplication with increasingly large numbers!

English

In English, the class have been reading The Stone Age Boy and creating their own stories that use similar plot points. They have worked brilliantly, writing at length on the laptops and specifically focusing on using fronted adverbials and speech.

Science

In Science, the class have been learning about Rocks, investigating their different characteristics and types, as well as spotting different types at the beach!

Wellbeing

The class have enjoyed their trips to Ninfield and Egerton Park with Celia's class for our Wellbeing sessions!

PE

Scootering and Gym have been the activities for PE this term, the boys have especially enjoyed trying out the different equipment and challenging each other at the gym.

Outdoor learning for life

This term we have enjoyed getting to know the new Kune Kune piglets and foot trimming sheep, goats and alpacas

We have enjoyed the fruits of our labour harvesting from our allotment- tomatoes, squash, beans, spinach and cooked some of these at forest school.

At forest school, we have learnt to play conkers, practiced our sawing skills, made pancakes and campfire donuts with eggs from our chickens.

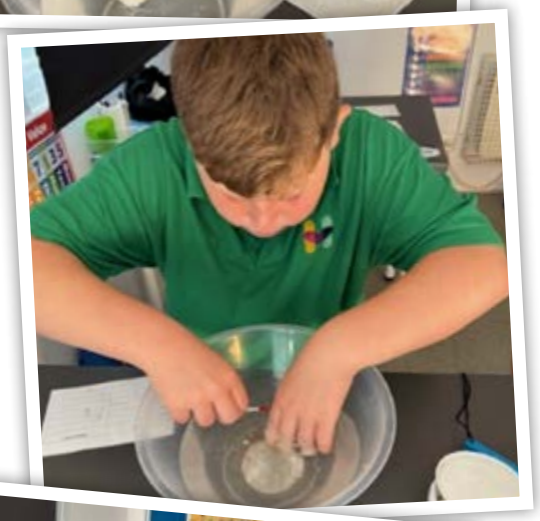
In science we have been learning about different types of rocks. We have visited the south downs to collect chalk and then created some paintings using crushed chalk paint.

We have enjoyed trips out to the local woodland for fungi spotting, metal detecting on the beach and to the garden centre to practice our maths skills budgeting to buy seeds and bulbs.

Oli's Class

In Science this term, students in OBO class have explored the rocks through a series of engaging investigations. The focus is on developing observational and testing skills as students examine different types of rocks and their properties.

As part of their inquiry, students conducted a "sink or float" test, where they predicted and then observed whether various rocks would sink or float in water. This activity helped them explore the concept of density and understood how the composition and structure of a rock can affect its buoyancy.



Students also perform a scratch test to investigate the hardness of rocks. Using a pin, they attempted to scratch each rock and record the results.

Students from OBO class took part in an exciting visit to Wheels for All, where they enjoyed a fun and active cycling session using a variety of specially adapted bikes. From tandems to tricycles and hand cycles, everyone had the opportunity to find a bike that suited their needs and abilities. The activity promoted teamwork, confidence, and physical fitness, while encouraging students to try something new in a supportive and inclusive environment. Smiles, laughter, and a sense of achievement were shared by all.

Oli's Class cont...

Students visited the Sovereign Centre Gym to take part in a series of health and fitness lessons designed to promote physical wellbeing and an active lifestyle. Guided by school staff, they explored a range of gym equipment and took part in fun, structured workouts that focused on building strength, stamina, and coordination. The sessions also introduced students to the importance of warm-ups, cool-downs, and making healthy lifestyle choices.

Students from OBO class have enjoyed a mixture of outdoor learning experiences by visiting local parks and woodlands, where they explored the natural environment through observation, play, and discovery. Surrounded by trees, plants, and wildlife, they took part in activities such as nature walks, scavenger hunts, and team games, developing their understanding of the natural world.

Conner's Class

This term in Link One, we have been working on the topic Who am I in English. We have been thinking about what makes us unique. Our interests, our skills and what makes us special.

In maths, we have been focusing on improving our understanding of place value and well as working together to solve problems.

In Science, we have been looking at the different groups of animals including mammals, birds and reptiles.

We explored the beach at beach school, played together in local play parks and interacted positively with the community and spent time exploring instruments in music. Everyone has worked hard this term and it has been a positive start to the year for the Link One class.

Celia's Class

The summer holiday seems a very long time ago after a term of learning, hard work and activities! What a great start to the year it has been!

In Maths, we have started the year by working on number – place value, reading and writing numbers using various concrete apparatus and addition and subtraction calculations.

In Science, we tested different rocks for hardness, whether they sank or floated and whether they contained calcium carbonate. We observed a fizz when vinegar was dropped on a rock meaning calcium carbonate was present. To develop our enquiry

Celia's Class cont...

skills, we discussed how to make the tests fair. Ideas were, to scratch the rock with the same pressure and use the same amount of water and vinegar.

To help us regulate and be ready for learning, we have completed sensory circuits and activities to help alert or calm us.

To balance our classroom-based academic learning, we have enjoyed time outside and socialising.

The Link Oakfield

This term The Link Oakfield have been learning about counting in 1s, 10s and 100s using tens rods to help them in Maths. In Cookery, students have been developing their skills by making bread, biscuits and even a stir fry. Visiting the Community gardens and Eastbourne's Wheels for all has continued into the new School year.

The students have enjoyed the familiarity of this as part of their routine. Oakfield has been excited to receive some new wooden play equipment which students are using daily. In Art, students are using a variety of different materials and equipment to develop their fine motor skills.

We are delighted to have two piglets to add to our small hold. They love tummy rubs from everyone and are very affectionate.

Key Stage 4 and Post 16

Exploring Music with Incredibox
Our students have been getting creative with ***Incredibox***, an interactive music app that lets them layer sounds to build rich, textured tracks. Through this activity, they've discovered just how versatile the human voice can be — learning to use it as an instrument by recording, looping, and combining vocal sounds in imaginative ways.

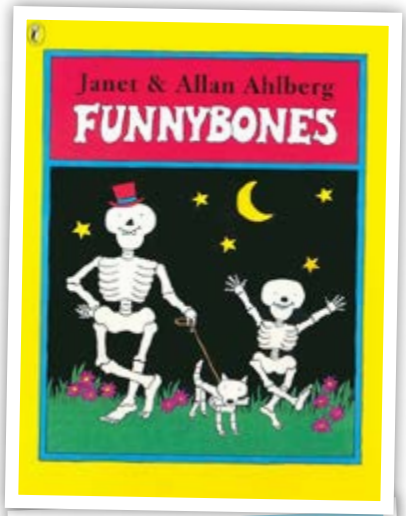
For some of our students with speech and language difficulties, experimenting with ***beatboxing*** has been especially valuable. It's helping them build confidence, strengthen mouth movements, and support the skills they develop in ***Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)*** — all while having fun making music!

Fishing Trips at Horam Manor Fisheries
Some of our Key Stage 4 and Post-16 students have been making the most of the autumn sunshine with regular fishing trips to ***Horam Manor Fisheries***. They've enjoyed catching a variety of species, including ***Roach***, ***Rudd***, ***Carp***, and ***Perch***.

Alongside developing their fishing skills, students have been learning about ***local wildlife***, practising ***water safety***, and discovering the value of ***patience*** and ***calm*** reflection. These trips have provided a wonderful opportunity for relaxation and connection with nature.

Library News

BOOKS FOR HALLOWEEN!



The Halloween classic!
Meet the skeletons (a big skeleton and a little skeleton and a dog skeleton) and dive into the wonderful world of dark, dark cellars and skeleton animals in this joyful and hilarious read.
Funnybones by Janet & Allan Ahlberg

A perfect potion of magic and mischief!
Bea Black has just moved to Little Spellshire, a town with a magical secret. When her dad accidentally enrols her at the local witch school, she must get to grips with some interesting new classes.

Also, on her to do list? Make friends, look after the grumpy class frog AND do everything humanly magically possible to stay on a broom...
Diary of an Accidental Witch by Katie Saunders

Explore if you dare!
Discover the villainous tricks inside the heads of an ogre, a wolf and a witch. Find out what is beneath their disguises.

This large fold-out book is like no other: a celebration of story that is full of humour and detail on every page.

There are over 30 interactive elements that will mesmerize toddlers, pre-schoolers and independent readers.
Inside the Villains by Clotilde Perrin