



WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

Headteacher: Matthew Whatford

Compassion

Achievement

Respect

Endeavour

*The cornerstones of our learning community*

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

## Uniform

Thank you for the significant response that we received to our school skirt consultation survey, and to those parents and carers who wrote to me personally about this. The overwhelming majority of respondents were in support of maintaining the school skirt, so this will continue to be a part of our revised School Uniform Policy once completed. We will, as discussed, see a way to reduce the cost of this item, in line with the overall direction of travel. We have been completing some student voice around the uniform, and I hope you will have also seen Miss Jackson's invite to join us for some parent voice on this matter and the way in which we currently plan to phase and minimise the impact of any changes on families. I plan to write to you before half term with a final update that outlines our plans for September.

## Non-uniform Day - Fri 30th Jan

On the subject of uniform, next Friday is our next non-uniform day. Contributions for this have already been collected in the minibus appeal at the start of the year, but if you would like to contribute to any of our other ongoing projects and collections, you can do so via our Funding Wall [here](#).

## Considerate driving and parking - Windmill Lane

I wrote to you before the Christmas break to request that, where possible, to avoid pick-ups and drop-offs around Windmill Lane and Highfield Road. This is due to the increased risk to our students and the practicalities of unloading and loading eight school buses. Since our return, the school has received further communications around this from across the community, the other schools in the area, and from local residents in particular. Key concerns are around parking across driveways, blocking junctions, mounting kerbs, weaving in and out of buses, 3-point turns between buses and dropping off in the middle of the road, and in no-stopping areas. Our very own Mr Fallick was also repeatedly splashed as drivers went through larger puddles this week whilst on duty.

We appreciate that the December and January weather has been challenging, but this is a request for further consideration when driving down and around Windmill Lane at these times. If possible, we would request that students are instead dropped-off or picked-up elsewhere. We have requested further support with consideration of changes to access and enforcement in the area in the interests of safety of all pedestrians and residents, but especially children at the schools and nurseries in the area. I will update you on any progress that is made towards this in these letters.

Imberhorne Lane

East Grinstead

West Sussex

RH19 1QY

Tel: 01342 323562

E-Mail: [info@imberhorne.co.uk](mailto:info@imberhorne.co.uk)

[www.imberhorne.co.uk](http://www.imberhorne.co.uk)





### **Federation Music Show**

It was an enormous pleasure to attend the Federation Music Performance at Oathall this week and to see the growing range of musical talent not just from Imberhorne, but across all of our schools, on display. In line with our Federation priorities, this was an inclusive event, with a range of performers from all four schools with varying degrees of musical experience and ability. This year, the performance was supported by a Greek music ensemble, led by Pavlos Carvalho, a local musician. This meant some fantastic exposure to a musical genre that was not familiar to students involved, where they were able to learn from and perform with some extremely talented musicians. The show culminated in an exhilarating final orchestra performance which included all performers, whilst also making stops at *I'm a Believer* by Neil Diamond and *Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds* by The Beatles.

A huge thank you to Mr Moorhouse and Mr Williams for their brilliant support for students, especially all of the hard work to prepare them for the event. This is the first of five Federation student participation events this year, the next being a Year 10-12 Masterclass at the University of Brighton's Faculty of Applied Sciences next week, followed by a public speaking event at Imberhorne (interested participants should see Miss Webb!), a multi-sports event at Sackville and a Dance show, co-ordinated by Downlands, at Chequer Mead later on this year. If any of our families are interested in the brilliant Greek music that we experienced, there is a performance led by Pavlos and his talented musical cohorts on Saturday 31st January at 7pm at All Saints Church in Lindfield. Tickets are £5.50 and can be purchased [here](#). There is also an opportunity for students, especially brass players, to join Ensemble Reza, a community orchestra that meets monthly at Oathall, with their first meeting on Sunday 1st February from 3.00pm - 5.15pm. Further information can be found [here](#).

### **Wraparound Childcare Survey - WSCC**

West Sussex County Council have a survey open for parents and carers around wraparound childcare. The focus is looking at access, provision for families with children who have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and how access to provision has impacted families. If you would like to participate in the survey, you can do so by clicking on this [link](#).

### **Additional School Funding**

A key part of our mission in school is to ensure every child at our school has access to the very best resources, and our families play a key role in this. If your family is eligible for **Free School Meals**, applying does much more than provide a healthy lunch for your child - which we know is vital for all students who access it - it also unlocks significant **additional funding** for the school. For every eligible pupil. For every student in receipt of Free School Meals, the school receives extra "Pupil Premium" funding, which we use to invest in things such as additional teaching assistants, new classroom equipment, after-school clubs, and subsidised school trips.

By checking your eligibility, you aren't just accessing support for your child; you are helping us secure the extra investment needed to enrich learning experiences for students. The process is entirely confidential, and your support in this helps our whole school community thrive. Details of how to apply can be found [here](#). If you are struggling in any way to complete this application, please contact Mrs Best or Mrs Abingdon who will be more than happy to help.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford  
Headteacher



## **Sporting and Arts success**

### **Judo**

Last weekend Morgan Baker in Year 7 represented Imberhorne school at the British Schools Southern Region Judo championships. Morgan took part in the Years 6/7 Heavyweight category and took the Gold medal, he has now qualified for the British Schools National Championships in March. Huge congratulations to Morgan! We look forward to hearing about how he gets on in the Spring!

### **U13 RUGBY: IMBERHORNE 35 : 05 OXTED**

A well organised and efficient performance was just what the Year 8s needed, on the back of a couple of difficult matches. The contact area and ruck speed were greatly improved and the under 13s never looked in any danger against a spirited Oxted side.

A hat trick of tries for Zach W out on the wing shows how we wanted to play this game – expansive and flowing rugby.

**Player of the Match:** Zach W

**Tries:** Zach W (3) Jack R (2) Lucas(1) Zaiyn(1)

### **U14 RUGBY: RIDDLEDOWN 17 : 22 IMBERHORNE**

The Year 9s travelled to Croydon, with what can only be described as a “makeshift” team, we played with JUST 14 players, in conditions which can be best described as inclement. The opening exchanges looked to be going Imberhorne’s way, only for Riddlesdown to take the lead. 5 minutes later Bertie M crossed to level the score and the rest of the half was pretty much an arm wrestle until Imberhorne lost their composure, culminating in 12 quick points right at the end of the half. Cool heads were needed and the U14s regained their composure, with structure returning, 1<sup>st</sup> equalising, and then taking the lead. With the last play of the game, Riddlesdown broke free and were on their way to win the game, when Lutfullah stepped up with the biggest hit of the day! A match winning tackle from the newbie and a hard-fought win for the boys.

**Player of the match:** Bertie M

**Forward of the match:** George S

**Tries:** Ben R (1) Bertie M (3)

**Words by Mr Byrne**