

**DUNCTON CE JUNIOR
SCHOOL**

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**GRAFFHAM CE INFANT
SCHOOL**

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Friday Flyer

Friday 13th December 2024

It's been a busy week this week in both schools this week, with the Carol service at Duncton and the Nativity at Graffham



A Visit from our local MP Andrew Griffith

Andrew Griffith came to Duncton school today to present Myla with a certificate and prize for being one of the runners up in his annual Christmas card competition.



Next Week		
Monday 16 th Dec	Chartwells Christmas Lunch @ Duncton	Children can wear CHRISTMAS JUMPERS
Monday 16 th Dec	Yr. R & 1 – School Trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see 'Hey, Christmas Tree'	Please arrive at school on time as we will leaving shortly after registration.
Monday 16 th Dec	NO AFTERSCHOOL CHILDCARE @ DUNCTON AND NO DRAWING CLUB @ GRAFFHAM	
Tuesday 17 th Dec	Christingle Service @ St Giles, Graffham 2.30pm & Chartwells Christmas Dinner @ Graffham	Graffham parents are invited to join us for the service Children can wear CHRISTMAS JUMPERS for the lunch and Christingle service
Wed 18 th Dec	Yr. 2 – School Trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see 'Hey, Christmas Tree'	Please arrive at school on time as we will leaving shortly after registration.
Thurs 19 th Dec	Christingle Service at Holy Trinity Church Duncton 9.30am	All parents welcome
Friday 20 th	Last day of the Autumn term	
Future Dates		
Monday 6 th January	INSET DAY	
Tuesday 7 th January	Return to School	

*New dates/additions are in GREEN

INSET Days for 2024-2025 Academic year

Monday 6th January 2025

Monday 17th March 2025

Monday 23rd June 2025

News from Helen

We have had a fantastic Christmas couple of weeks at each school.

A huge thank you to FGD for all they have done this week to make the pre and post-performance refreshments perfect. Also, thanks to Will Kenyon for his beautiful lighting at Graffham this afternoon. Thank you to Tara for her really wonderful Christmas photographs at Graffham too.

At Graffham, our Christmas Nativity was a highlight for everyone! A huge thank you to Rev Vivien and Ginny Barrett for supporting this performance and our rehearsal schedule. Mr Mike Lloyd, led all of the preparation for the singing, performances and words learnt by every child and we thank him for this. Our staff team at Graffham led by Mrs Sarah-Jane Wethered were fantastic at caring for each child through their costume choices, learning their parts and performing in the beautiful space of the church. Many of the elderly members of the St. Giles congregation were invited to our Dress Rehearsal by Rev Vivien, and they sent us lovely messages of thanks and congratulations to the children.

At the time of sending you this message, we will have one more performance of the Nativity to go!

At Duncton, the Carol Concert was a beautiful success, with the quality of the speaking and singing really taking our breath away. Thank you to Ms Lisa Bassett and Mrs Alex Harris for their masterminding and rehearsing, and for our brilliant staff team who enabled the children to be confident in their roles. I was surprised at the end with

a wonderful personalised ABBA song for me- all kept a complete secret before the very end of the performance. Thank you children, staff and parents for keeping such a memorable secret! I will never forget it!

It was a huge highlight for me to be part of these final performances as Headteacher; and I loved being able to welcome members of the parish to our dress rehearsal, and for our school community to come to both performances. We will finish the term with our Christingle service also.

Thank you for all of your kind words as I conclude my Headship- my gifts to both schools are these banners that I have made. Our Year 6 children go to Chichester Cathedral as they end their time at Duncton, to a lovely service run by the Diocese of Chichester Education team and they take a banner with them to celebrate our school; this banner will be a replacement for the one we already have.

Graffham year 2 children are welcomed in a newer tradition by Rev Vivien to St. Giles Church for their own leavers service from our Infant School. They have no banner to carry- so it has been a privilege to sew them a new banner; it will hang in our Infant Church of England school until it is used each July.



This coming week I will be keen to say my goodbyes to parents, so do come and say hello and goodbye at any time. My working week looks like this next week:

Mon morning at drop off at Graffham / Mon evening at pick up at Duncton

Tues morning at drop off at Duncton / Tuesday evening after Christingle at Graffham

Weds morning at drop off at Graffham / Weds evening at pick up at Duncton

Thursday morning at drop off and after Christingle at Duncton / Thurs evening at Graffham at pick up

Friday morning at drop off at Graffham / Friday evening at pick up at Duncton

PARENT NOTICES:

Chartwells

REMINDER Please remember to book your hot meals for January, all means do need to be booked by Thursday 26th December for when we return to school on the 7th January.

After school Clubs

Please can we remind our after-school club users, that our childcare club at Duncton is the ONLY club that is running during the last week of term. This will be running on Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December. *Note there are no after school clubs at Graffham on the last week of term.*

Our new Club lists for the Spring term was sent out to parents yesterday. If you didn't receive it, then let us know. Bookings are now open and some of our clubs book up fast, so please sign up your child as soon as possible if you are interested.

School Minibus Requirements & Morning Club

If your child uses the minibus before/after school or goes into our morning club, then we will assume that your requirements will stay the same for the Spring term. If your arrangements change however, then please do let us know. Equally, if there are any other families out there who may need these services then please email the school office to let us know.

Head Lice

We are determined to get on top of the head lice problem at Graffham over the Christmas break and *we really need your help to do that!* We know it is a busy time of year, but please could we ask everyone to check their children's hair and treat where necessary. We have found another company called 'NitNot' who delivered a winning pitch on 'Dragons Den'. They have produced a useful Head Lice Guide for busy parents which we feel might be useful to you all. Please check out their website – [NitNOT | Best Nit Treatment | As Seen on Dragons Den](#) and read the attached leaflet over the holidays.

Lost Property

Does anyone recognise this hat? It has been sitting in the office foyer at Graffham for a couple of weeks now. Please pop into the office to claim it if it is yours.



Staying Safe Online parent webinar

We have heard from some parents about concerns about online gaming and about the effect it is having on some children at home, with the Christmas holidays coming up, we thought it was a good time to send you this link again. It is a very useful listen for parents on helping their child stay safe online. Perhaps have it playing in the background while you are doing something else! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHFEBUoLu3c>

We say Goodbye to Spanish teacher Maria

Maria has been a fantastic member of our school-teaching children Spanish for the last four years, as well as Spanish Club. We presented Maria with cards and gifts from the staff and children and wished her well on her next part of her career.



FGD NEWS from Fi Douglass

Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who helped with making the Christmas cards. £562 for FGD funds which go directly to help our kids – a great amount raised!

Duncton Christmas Carols

What a lovely evening! Thanks to all the parents who helped set up and serve refreshments at the event. And another thank you to Will and Jess Kenyon for the lovely Christmas tree and lights at the entrance which really set the scene!

Graffham Nativity

Thank you to all parents who provided baked goods and stepped in to help with refreshments before and after both nativities. It is always appreciated!

The children gave such an amazing performance, so it was lovely to take a moment to enjoy a mulled wine and mince pie together to carry on with the Christmas spirit.

Cake Raffle



A cake in disguise arrived at Graffham today. Don't be fooled by its appearance, it isn't a Christmas Pudding but a Rocky Road Cake.

Our star baker this week was Amanda Moreton (William & Tom's Mummy – from Year 1 & Nursery). If we awarded celebration certificates to parents, then she would have certainly got one for her creativity. Thank you Amanda!!

Taking home the pudding today is William Gerrett. Well done !



At Duncton we have kept with the Christmas theme thanks to Lizzie Zoltowski for bringing in this Gingerbread house kit. Our lucky winner taking this home to make is Bibbs. Enjoy making this and please send a picture to school so we can see your creation. 😊

DON'T FORGET – Graffham Village Playground is re-opening at the Graffham Recreational Ground tomorrow - Saturday 14th December @ 11am.

Please do come along and show your support.

Reverend Vivien writes:

I congratulated the infant school children on their wonderful nativity at assembly this week, who showed me how to do the actions for the first verse of O Little Town of Bethlehem. Then we talked a bit more about carols, and how they've been sung in church at Christmas time for a very long time - so their great-great-great grandparents could have sung some of the carols they were singing.

I said people don't just sing carols in church. They like to sing them outdoors too. Sometimes groups of carol singers would go round from door to door singing them for people in their houses. I read an extract from a famous story called The Wind in the Willows. Mole and Ratty are in Mole's house called Mole End when some fieldmice carol singers knock at their door and sing carols for them, reminding Mole and Ratty of other lovely times when carols had been sung for them like this. The children's carol singing will have been bringing past Christmases to mind for us too.

On behalf of St Giles Church, I would like to wish all children and their families every blessing this Christmas and for the New Year. We also wish Helen all the best for the future, thanking her most warmly for all she has done for the infant schoolchildren here in her time. I have seen how happy the children are at Graffham Infant School, in no small part due to Helen's care for them. Now, after the Christmas holiday, we look forward to greeting a new headteacher and a new chapter in the life of the school.

Over the Christmas period, we have Services in church which families are most welcome to attend. I hope you have received a card listing these - if not please take one from the church.



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**Westerlands
Christmas Fair**
Saturday 14 December
10am to 3pm

Well behaved dogs are welcome on a lead. We are a farm so horses, cattle, sheep & free range chickens will be about!

Babysitting available Full enhanced DBS checked

Please contact Tracey Erkam, Teaching Assistant at Duncton School on 07787991633

westsussex.gov.uk/HAF

west sussex county council

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) for children

Children and young people aged 4 to 16 who are eligible* for benefits related free school meals can take part in free clubs during the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays. A free nutritious meal is provided as part of the scheme. Visit our website to find activities near you and book your place.

*Check eligibility on the webpage and find information about further support and activities available. Places are limited. Paid-for-places may be available, contact individual clubs for availability.

SCAN ME




MESSY CHURCH

COME AND JOIN US FOR GAMES, CRAFT, A BIBLE STORY AND FOOD

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025
@ THE PAVILLION, GRAFFHAM REC

ALL AGES WELCOME

DOORS OPEN 3.30PM
CRAFT STARTS 4.30 PM
FOOD 5.30PM

RSVP HEN ON 07714652856

Messy Church is free but donations are welcome to cover expenses

 St Giles Church, Graffham

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* Families especially welcome

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