



Friday Flyer

Friday 10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I reach the end of my first week as headteacher at Graffham and Duncton schools, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I have received from children, staff, and families alike. It has been a wonderful start to what I hope will be a rewarding journey for us all.

This week has been a busy one, filled with meeting your children, exploring our school environments, and beginning to understand the unique characteristics that make Graffham and Duncton such special places. It is clear that the schools are vibrant, supportive communities where kindness, respect, and friendship truly shine through. I have been particularly impressed by the children's enthusiasm for learning and the dedication of the staff in ensuring every child thrives.

One of the highlights of this week has been hearing the wonderful school song that we have written together. It captures the spirit and values of our schools beautifully, and I am delighted to share that we have published the lyrics so you can enjoy reading them at home. I hope this will inspire many joyful moments of singing and reflection with your children.

Looking ahead, I am excited to further develop our Christian values of kindness, hope, responsibility, respect, and friendship. By linking these values to Bible stories, we will aim to provide memorable and meaningful ways for the children to connect with and live out these principles in their daily lives.

One of my priorities in these early days is to listen and learn from the whole school community. Over the coming weeks, I plan to meet with staff, children, and yourselves to hear your thoughts on what we do well and where we can grow. Your insights are invaluable as we work together to build on the schools' strengths and ensure that our shared vision continues to guide all that we do.

I will also be keen to celebrate the many successes and talents within our schools. From creative projects to sporting achievements, I look forward to sharing these moments with you and encouraging our children to strive for their best while supporting one another along the way.

Please do not hesitate to introduce yourselves when you see me at drop-off, pick-up, or school events. I value the partnership between home and school and am eager to work closely with you to support your children's education and well-being.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and support. I am excited about the future of Graffham and Duncton schools.

With best wishes,

Charles Beckerson



Graffham and Duncton Song

Chorus:

In Graffham and Duncton
We're bright and true
With kindness and respect
In all that we do.

With happy smiles and helping hands
Friendship is here, together we stand.

In Graffham and Duncton
We're bright and true
With kindness and respect
In all that we do.

We learn and play, we laugh and have fun
In our happy schools, we shine like the sun.

Verse 1:

Welcoming and warm,
We're a caring community
Our schools are a home from home
Like one big family
Sing along to our school song...

Repeat chorus

Verse 2:

Hearts as wild as the wind
Embracing the outdoors
Living life in all its fullness
Who could ask for more?
Sing along to our school song...

Repeat Chorus

Reminders

- ★ Please could we ask ALL parents and carers not to walk through the car parks in either schools when collecting and dropping off their children.
- ★ Please can ALL Children bring a coat to school, we have noticed with the cold weather this week that some children are not bringing one in.
- ★ Annette Mathias does have some availability for individual piano/recorder lessons at Duncton on a Thursday, please let the office know if this is of interest to you.
- ★ ***IMPORTANT*** - Please could we remind ALL parents to arrive at school on time.

The classroom doors at **Graffham** open at 8.40am and **close promptly at 8.45am.**

The classroom doors at **Duncton** open from 8.45am and **close promptly at 9am.**

Can we ask ALL children to be on time, as late starts do affect the school day and can be quite unsettling for the children.

Future dates

Thursday 27 th February	Bags of Support Collection Day	
Monday 17 th March	INSET DAY	
Monday 23 rd June	INSET DAY	

*New dates/additions are in **GREEN**

Wren Class Year R and 1

It has been a fabulous start to the New Year in Wren class! We've really enjoyed learning our new school song with Mr Beckerson playing his guitar and hope the children will be able to sing it to you at home too. All of the children braved the cold weather for wild Wednesday and enjoyed some mathematical challenges outdoors. Reception children hunted for sticks and then thought about how to order them from longest to shortest and Year 1 children collected 10 natural objects and then had a go at making a subtraction sentence using a die and tens frame. We've also read 'Cave Baby' in class and made some beautiful cave paintings and drawings using charcoal and pastels.



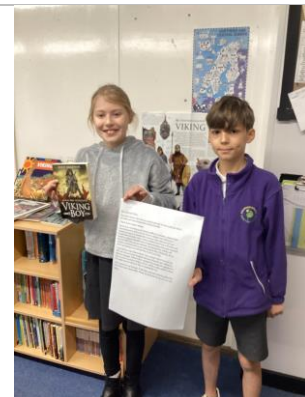
Kingfishers Year 1 and 2

This week the children in Kingfisher class have shown real focus and determination to get straight back into their learning, covering new sounds in phonics and new spelling rules. We've refreshed our knowledge of adding numbers smaller than 10 in Year 1 with a view to working on subtraction next week and have begun learning about money and the value of different coins and notes in Year 2. We've also spent some time creating our new wellbeing check in wall and the children are now beginning to take the lead in expressing how they are feeling throughout the day which has led to some brilliant class discussions about why we feel different ways and how we can support each other better every day.



Kestrel Class Year 3 and 4

Our first week back after Christmas has been delightful! We were in class learning, until Mrs Dudman entered the class and handed us a mysterious letter. Mrs Harris opened the letter and read it out loud to the class - someone called Mr X had travelled around 3 countries finding artefacts, but he wouldn't tell us what the last one was. He gave us some ancient runes and we had to figure out what it said. It spelled 'Vikings'! We found out this is our new topic - how exciting! We can wait to find out who Mr X is and what the mystery artefact is.



Peregrine Class Year 5 and 6

This week we have returned to school ready for an exciting 2025! Spending time discussing New Year in our own country and others around the world, considering new challenges and new starts. We have spent time writing our own resolutions. These have been sealed in an envelope waiting to be opened in 2026! We have really enjoyed learning and singing the new school song, practising in class whenever an opportunity arises. Our new topic is World War Two. This week Year 5/6 have been discussing and reflecting on the effect of the Treaty of Versailles and how the treatment of Germany after WW1 led to Hitler gaining power and the start of WW2. So many children shared incredible stories of family members who had been involved in WW2. Today in Art, our project is looking at Propaganda Posters and considering how the illustrations and wording impacted on people's behaviour during the war.

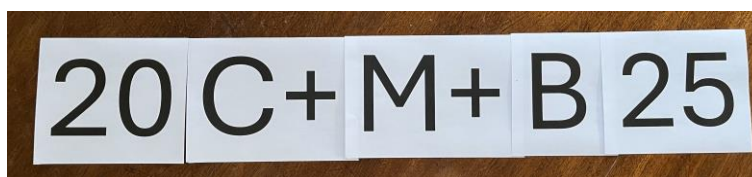


Reverend Vivien writes:

Wonderful to hear the new school song being sung to me this morning at assembly! I look forward to learning the words and the children teaching me the actions as soon as possible! Then, having sung 'Thank you Lord for this new year, I explained one of the first things a church does is in a New Year to make a special remembrance of the three kings who came to visit Jesus in the stable. We give this time a special name and call it Epiphany, and said traditionally, the three kings have names too, Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar, with their gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Another thing some people like to do at the beginning of a New Year at Epiphany is to ask God to bless their house, so we thought we would ask God to bless this school. For this we needed the number of the new year... 2025... and three letters, a C, an M, and a B... like the initial letters of the names of the three kings... These letters are the beginning of three other words that are very difficult words to say, because they are in a different language called Latin.

The C stands for Christus - Christus means Christ, which is a word that goes with Jesus. The M stands for Mansionem which means a house and sounds like mansion, a word we use for a big house. The B stands for Benedicat which means Bless. This means the letters say 'Christ House Bless' or 'Please bless this house, Jesus!' We said this together and blessed our school with all its children and teachers and new headteacher Mr Beckerson, and put 20 C + M + B 25 over the serving hatch to remind us how blessed we are here!



FGD News...

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had an amazing holiday period with your families.

As the new year starts, we are looking forward to organising lots more fundraising events across both schools. The last few years have been amazing in raising significant funds that support enrichment and additional benefits for the children, however, when a new year starts, we always hope to achieve even more!

We are looking forward to updating you all on these events, as well as hearing more from you, on ideas of new ways the children/school would benefit from funds.

FGD Team

Cake Raffle



Kicking off our first Cake Raffle in Graffham this year, were some scrumptious Millionaire Cakes. Your millionaire cakes are becoming quite famous here Kerry! Thank you for stepping in to bake for us this week.

Our lucky winner this week was Ethel (Year 2) - Well done!!



At Duncton we have had a visit from Colin the Caterpillar, many thanks to Michelle Emberson for bringing Colin in today 🐛 Our lucky winners today were Woody and Liam who are going to Colin this weekend.

**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