



5 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break filled with special moments with your families. It has been truly lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and to see them settling so well into their new classes.

At Graffham, our new Reception children have had a fantastic start, with successful settling-in sessions that have helped them feel confident and happy. Over at Duncton, we are equally delighted to see our new pupils integrating beautifully into the school community.

We are looking forward to a positive and exciting year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and joyful experiences. I'd also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome several new members of staff to our schools:

- **Mrs Tilly Gafford** joins us to teach Kestrel Class on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. She will be job-sharing with **Mrs Caroline Joyce-Woods**, who many of you will remember as Miss Woods before the summer - congratulations to her on her recent marriage!
- **Mrs Rachel Seymour**, an experienced SENDCo, will be covering **Callie Reid's** maternity leave. Rachel will be working at Graffham on Tuesdays and Duncton on Wednesdays. We're thrilled to share that Callie has had a baby daughter and both mum and baby are doing well
- **Mrs Jackie Horne** will be joining us as our new play therapist, working across both schools on Tuesdays.

As part of our safeguarding policies and procedures, we kindly ask that children do not bring mobile phones or smart watches to school. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and focused learning environment.

Due to ongoing roofing works at both sites, parking will be more challenging than usual. We ask all parents and carers to drive and park with extra care and consideration during this time.

Looking ahead, our **Parents' Evenings** for this term will be held on **22nd and 23rd October** for both schools. More details will follow closer to the time.

We are also making a change to how we communicate with you. Instead of a **Friday Flyer** each week, we will now send out a **monthly newsletter** with rich updates and stories from across the schools. However, every Friday we will continue to send out important notices, updates, and key dates to help you stay informed.

Finally, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of Graffham and Duncton (FGD) will be held at the Cricketers in Duncton at 7pm on Thursday 25th September – everyone is welcome. FGD will report on past and future spending of PTA funds and if anyone is interested in joining the committee, then this is an ideal time to come and find out more.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to working together to make it a successful and happy one for all our children.

Warm regards,

Charles Beckerson

SCHOOL DIARY

Thursday 18 th September	Harvest Festival in the morning at both schools (Children only)	
Tuesday 23 rd September	Football session for Years 5 & 6 at Petworth School	Provisional – more details to follow
Thursday 25 th September	FGD AGM at the Cricketers, Duncton @ 7pm	Everyone welcome
Friday 26 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning	More details to follow
Tuesday 30 th September	Football session for Years 3 & 4 at Petworth School	Provisional – more details to follow
Wednesday 1 st October	Perform 4 All Drama Workshop – Castles, Knights & Princesses at Graffham	
Monday 13 th October	Girls Football session at Petworth	Provisional – more details to follow
Wednesday 22 nd & Thursday 23 rd October	Parents Evening at both schools	More details to follow.

- New Dates/Additions are in GREEN.

<p>INSET DAYS 2025-26</p> <p>Wednesday 3rd September 2025</p> <p>Monday 3rd November 2025</p> <p>Monday 5th January 2026</p> <p>Friday 27th March 2026</p> <p>Wednesday 22nd July 2026</p>	<p>TERM DATES 2025-26</p> <p>Autumn term 2025</p> <p>Starts: Wednesday 3 September</p> <p>Half term: Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October</p> <p>Ends: Friday 19 December</p> <p>Spring term 2026</p> <p>Starts: Monday 5 January</p> <p>Half term: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February</p> <p>Ends: Friday 27 March</p> <p>Summer term 2026</p> <p>Starts: Monday 13 April</p> <p>Half term: Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May</p> <p>Ends: Wednesday 22 July</p>
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Notices

- **After school clubs @ Graffham** – We still have spaces available on most of our after-school clubs including Martial Arts club on a Tuesday morning. If you haven't already signed up and are interested in doing so, then please get in touch with the school office.
- **Dance & Gardening Clubs** - Unfortunately, due to low uptake & having no volunteers for our Gardening club come forward, there will be **no after school club at Graffham on Wednesdays or Thursdays this term**. Should you need childcare on these days then JC Sports will be running their usual club over at Duncton School. We are still on the hunt for volunteers for a Gardening club with the hope to start a club for the second half of term. If you can help or know of anyone who would be interested, then please do get in touch.
- **FGD's weekly Cake Raffle** – Our school cake raffle starts back next Friday in both schools. Tickets are 50p a ticket and can be bought in the morning. If anyone is interested in being added to the rota to either bake or buy a cake for the raffle, then please let your class rep know so they can pass on your details.

Here are some photos of the children's first days of the new academic year for you all.

