



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

What a brilliant start to the new school year! September has flown by, and it's been wonderful to see the children return with such positive attitudes towards their learning. Whether they're reconnecting with friends or diving into new topics, their enthusiasm has been truly uplifting.

A special welcome to our new Reception children at Graffham, our Year 3s, and those who have joined us from other local schools - you've all settled in beautifully, and we're so pleased to have you as part of our school community.

It's also been lovely to reconnect with our families. Thank you for your continued support and involvement - it makes such a difference. Last week, we celebrated Harvest with two joyful services: one at St Giles Church for Graffham and another in the Dunton school hall. Your generous donations have gone to **Stonepillow**, helping to support homeless people with food and care. Thank you for your kindness.

We're delighted to welcome several new members of staff this term. **Mrs Natalie Gafford** has joined **Kestrel Class** on Mondays to Wednesdays, job-sharing with **Mrs Caroline Joyce-Woods**, who teaches on Thursdays and Fridays. **Rachel Seymour** is covering for our SENDCo, **Mrs Callie Reid**, who is currently on maternity leave - [congratulations](#) to her on the birth of her daughter! We also welcome **Mrs Jackie Horne**, our new play therapist working across both schools.

Thank you for your patience during the roofing works. The work at Dunton is now complete and contractors will be leaving shortly. At Graffham, the project continues and we hope it will be finished around October half term.

Wishing you all a happy and successful term ahead.

Warm regards,

Charles Beckerson

Come and Meet the Teachers

Now that the children have had a few weeks to settle into the new school year, we would like to invite you to a brief "Meet the Teacher" afternoons

This will be a great opportunity for you to hear about the exciting learning planned for the term ahead, as well as to gain an understanding of class routines and expectations.

The meeting will take place as follows:

- Monday 29th September Kingfishers (Graffham- Mr Lloyd) -3.15pm
- Tuesday 30th September Kestrel Class (Dunton- Mrs Gafford) - 3:40pm
- Thursday 2nd October Peregrine class (Dunton- Ms Bassett) - 3.40pm

We hope you will be able to join us and look forward to welcoming you into the classrooms.

Harvest Festival in both Schools

Thank you for all your donations for our Harvest Festivals last week, we sent all the food that was donated to Stonepillow.



Year 5 and 6 Football at Petworth Primary



On Tuesday this week year 5 and 6 from the football club went to Petworth primary for a school tournament with Mr Beckerson. We were up against Slindon, Petworth and Fittleworth. Our team included Alice, Amelia, Clayton, Immy, Maud, Ned and Noah. We came last, followed by Petworth and Fittleworth and Slindon won the tournament. However, we all tried our best and it was a lot of fun.

Reported by Amelia and Ned

School Roofing Projects

Graffham - You may have noticed that the Graffham Roof project is not as far along as we had expected it to be. Ecology surveys put a halt to the project at the start of the summer and due to the subsequent delays, it was decided that the phases of the project would be swapped - phase 2 (roofing above nursery and upstairs) being completed this summer and phase 1 (main school hall) next summer. Works are progressing well and children at Graffham have been very intrigued by the conveyor belt which has been transporting the new tiles up to the roof this week

Duncton – After many winters of leaks and issues, Duncton has finally received a new roof – hurrah! Over the summer all of the solar panels were removed from the flat roof and following the completion of the re-roofing at the start of term the solar panels have now all been re-installed. Hopefully the scaffolding will all be gone in the next few days and hopefully we will have a leak-free winter ahead.

Wrens Reception

Over the past month we have enjoyed getting to know all of our new Reception children in wren class. They have all settled beautifully and are finding their way around our tiny school and they have enjoyed learning about some of our routines. We have started to join in with a few assemblies this week with the whole school and attended the Harvest festival in church with Rev Vivien.

We have enjoyed reading the story 'The Little Red Hen' and have explored making our own bread in class. We hope you all enjoyed tasting it at home! We have also enjoyed our learning on our 'Wild Wednesday' sessions, learning about the boundaries, how we listen outdoors and stay safe and also how to have lots of fun with our learning.

Teaching the children how to be independent over the past few weeks has been a key feature to our teaching e.g. how to put our wellies on, waterproofs on, shoes on without any help. If you can help with this at home we would really appreciate it.

In our phonics learning we have learnt lots of new letter sounds and this week we have begun to push three sounds together to blend them to read small words. The children have been superb at this and we are very proud of them all!

All of your children are superstar learners!



Kingfishers Year 1 and 2

It's been lovely having the new Kingfishers back at school this month and it's starting to feel now like the children are settling into their new routines and getting comfortable with their new class. They've had a lot of adults working with them over the past 3 weeks and have all shown great maturity in getting on with school, unphased. Through October we're looking forward to packing our timetable with more learning, as well as trying to find time to play and develop social skills still. We also talked how Wild Wednesdays are going to get more wild as the month goes on so to be ready with our waterproofs and wellies! Hopefully everyone has a restful weekend and comes back ready for the start of October next week.



Kestrels Year 3 and 4

We have had a lovely start to the term introducing our topic, the Stone Age. So far, we have learnt that Stone Age people were hunter gatherers and their tools were made from stone and animal bones.

In art we have looked at different sketching techniques, considered tone and texture and creating still life pictures from a variety of fruit.

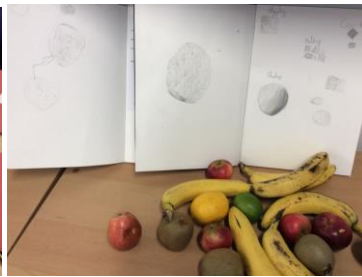
In English we have been reading the 'Papaya that Spoke,' creating actions to embed the story before writing our own versions of this journey tale. The children particularly enjoyed the fresh air whilst acting out the story on the playground. We have also been working hard on nouns, pronouns, vowels and consonants in grammar lessons.

In mathematics, the children have been learning about Roman Numerals and place value and measurement, we loved listening to the Roman Numerals song on BBC bitesize. Year 4s have been looking at converting mm, cm, m and km. Year 3s are experts in measuring with a rule and meter stick. We found out that the playground is 22m long!

An introduction to ukulele has engaged the children's creative talents and it has been great to hear iRock practice sessions taking place.

We have been lucky with the weather so far and have enjoyed some outdoor learning, daily mile practice and even eating our lunch together on the school field.

Year 4 have been swimming this term using the pool at Seaford college.



Peregrine Class Year 5 and 6

This month has absolutely raced past and we are feeling very settled into the Autumn term, enjoying getting back into the routine of school and making friends in our brand-new Year 5/6 Peregrine Class.

Our history focus this term is The Ancient Greeks. We have started to explore timelines and learn about the many different city states. We will be reading The Odyssey and discussing the different Gods and their roles. In art we are creating our own interpretations of Greek Vases and thinking carefully about the geometric patterns and the stories behind the artwork.

In maths we have unpicked Roman Numbers and are investigating place value exploring how this helps simplify numbers.

In our French lessons we have been learning about communicating and numbers.

We have had some opportunities to eat lunch outside. Last week we enjoyed celebrating Harvest, with singing and discussions about supporting charities like Stonepillow. A huge thank you for all the amazing food donations. Happy weekend



THIS KIND DONATION was made
by the **BULFORD FAMILY.**

Their son has just started Reception at Graffham C E Infant School and his father who works in Agricultural Commodities leant on one of his suppliers to send a pallet of potatoes directly to Stone Pillow. The pallet arrived on Wednesday morning. Stone Pillow were delighted with the donation and said their clients will be over the moon!!



🎹 Piano Lessons Available 🎹

Learning an instrument is a wonderful way to build confidence, concentration and creativity. A few spaces are now available for lessons at Duncton and Graffham

. Duncton 30-minute lessons - £24.00

. Graffham 20-minute lessons- £16.00

Trial lessons available. Please get in touch for further details

abmathias@hotmail.co.uk

School Absences

Pupils are only in school for 190 days each year, this leaves 175 other days for holidays and other activities. 90% attendance is the same as a day off every fortnight and is designated "persistent absence" by the authorities

Absence for holiday - barring exceptional circumstances - will never be authorised

If you do have a holiday coming up please ask for a withdrawal from learning form in advance from the school office.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please take a look at our website <https://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

stonepillow
Preventing homelessness
Restoring lives

Dear Graffham infant school & Duncton Junior school,

We wanted to say thank you for your generous donation of food for your Harvest Appeal. We were blown away by the generosity of you all!

"When I first came to the Hub, the staff made me feel at home and not alone. Because I did feel very alone at the time. I come to the hub every day. Before, I didn't eat. Now I can have breakfast and lunch. I try to fill up as much as possible because those might be my only meals."

THANK YOU!



Your donation has helped provide food to our clients, people who really need help and support, the food you have provided has been enough to allow us to feed all our clients for over a month. Meaning that we can continue to help provide support to those who are less fortunate that us for even longer, helping them on their journey to restoring their lives.

Thank you from all us at Stonepillow

DUNCTON VILLAGE FIREWORKS



Friday 31st October
Duncton Village Hall
6.30pm - 8pm
Bonfire lighting at 6.45pm
Fireworks starting at 7.15pm

Hot food provided
Children's Drinks Provided

(Adults Bring Your Own)

ALL VILLAGERS WELCOME

Donations to next year's fireworks by cash or card

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
Andrew Mills 07476 955 885

Child £5 Ages 3 -14 Adults Free

COWDRAY RUINS HALLOWEEN TRAIL

25th, 26th OCTOBER
30th, 31st OCTOBER
1st, 2nd NOVEMBER

Join Professor Cogsworth's adventure – follow the pumpkin trail, solve his riddles, and enjoy free arts & crafts before collecting your goody bag at the café. Opening Times: 10am – 3.30pm



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Bognor Regis, Chichester, Horsham, Midhurst, Worthing

Want to make music with others?

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The Phoenix Centre, PO21 5JD
Thursdays
Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme
Junior Orchestra

CHICHESTER

St Joseph's CE Junior, PO19 1DQ
Saturdays
Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme
Drum Lab
Junior Orchestra
Youth Orchestra

HORSHAM

Millais School, RH13 5HR
Saturdays
Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme
Drum Lab
Young Voices
West Sussex Youth Choir
Junior Wind Orchestra
Junior String Orchestra
Training Wind Orchestra
Training String Orchestra
West Sussex Youth Wind Orchestra
West Sussex Youth String Orchestra
West Sussex Youth Orchestra

QM Studios, RH12 1GZ

Thursdays
Play In A Band

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westsussexmusic.co.uk/music-centres

MIDHURST

Midhurst Rother College, GU29 9DT
Tuesdays
Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme

WORTHING

Bohunt School, BN14 8AH
Saturdays
Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme
Drum Lab
Junior Orchestra
Youth Orchestra

Northbrook College, BN12 6NU
Wednesdays

Play In A Band



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