



**DUNCTON CE JUNIOR  
SCHOOL**

Tel : 01798 342402

E-mail : [office@duntonjunior.org.uk](mailto:office@duntonjunior.org.uk)

**GRAFFHAM CE INFANT  
SCHOOL**

Tel : 01798 867324

Email : [office@graffhaminfant.org.uk](mailto:office@graffhaminfant.org.uk)

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the first half term of the academic year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very positive and productive start across both Graffham and Duncton schools.

We're delighted to share that the roofing works at both sites have now been completed, and the scaffolding at Graffham will be coming down over the half term break - thank you for your patience and support during this period of improvement.

Our children have worked incredibly hard this term, showing great enthusiasm and resilience in their learning. They truly deserve a restful and enjoyable half term holiday.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue our learning journey next half term. At Duncton, we'll begin rehearsing Christmas carols in preparation for our end-of-term carol service, while at Graffham, the children will be getting ready for their nativity performances in the church which will be a highlight of the festive season!









Wishing all our families a happy, safe, and relaxing half term break.

Warm regards,

Charles Beckerson

## SCHOOL HOUSES arrive at Duncton

School houses arrived at Duncton last week with great excitement, captains were chosen and points have been awarded... We will put a monthly total in our newsletter, for a weekly up do date running total please look at our website.

OAK	BIRCH	ASH	WILLOW
77	139	96	92
			
Captains: Maud and Noah 	Captains: Amelia and Billy 	Captains: Maisy and George 	Captains: Emily and Jack 

## Wrens Reception

We are so proud of all of the children in Reception this month. Even though they have been a bit tired, the children have had fun and enjoyed all of their learning in school. In phonics we have begun to learn how to blend three letter words together to read them and as a group they have been showing off by reading words all on their own! Amazing progress! In maths we have been learning about subitising (recognising an amount in a small set without counting them) amounts to 3 using spots and counters. Any fun maths games that you may have at home (e.g. Orchard toys) will help with this as they often have to roll a die. All of the children have amazed us with their handwriting this month using our new handwriting scheme kinetic letters. They are beginning to use their three friend hold to hold their pens correctly and we often see children practising their letters in their play.

We continue to make sourdough for the children at snack time and a huge thank you to all of the parents for the amazing donations of healthy snacks over the weeks. The children love tasting new fruits and foods! A huge thanks to Soli's family for bringing in the GIANT pumpkin which we've loved looking at, decorated, cut and scooped. We hope to plant a few pumpkin seeds next year in May in our garden area for children to watch the growing process of a giant pumpkin.

We hope that all of you have a fantastic half term and thank you for all of your support.



## Kingfishers Year 1 and 2

This month in Kingfisher class we've made some great progress in all of our learning. We've all worked hard in phonics, showed some beautiful handwriting and spent lots of time demonstrating understanding of tens and ones in maths. We also had an amazing time doing drama and learning about maps and directions around Graffham. We are really excited about getting our playground back after half term and all thought the skip getting collected was extremely cool! We've also started our first Christmas preparation job as a class! The month has been jammed full and we're looking forward to starting the countdown to Christmas in a few weeks!



### Kestrels Year 3 and 4

We've had a very busy and exciting month of learning in **Kestrel Class**! Everyone has really got stuck into our *Stone Age* topic, producing some incredible homework projects - from fabulous roundhouses to impressive replicas of Stone Age tools. In **Art**, we collected natural resources and used them to make stone age media and cave paintings. We have also been exploring abstract art and the use of perspective in our work. In **Computing** we have started touch typing using our new scheme, Purple Mash, to guide us. We are all very excited to use our skills when writing up our work into neat!

In **Science**, we've been learning about vertebrates and invertebrates, as well as flowering and non-flowering plants. Our favourite lesson was when we went outside to collect data for a tally chart. We discovered all sorts of fascinating creatures around our school grounds - including newts, shield bugs, and beetles!

In **Maths**, we've been working hard on place value and recognising numbers up to the thousands. We've also been learning about measures, including calculating the perimeter of regular 2D shapes. Taking our metre sticks outside, we measured the playground - it's 22m long and 11m wide, giving a total perimeter of 66m! We've also learnt the names of new shapes and explored how to find the area of 2D shapes by counting squares. In **English**, we have completed our story about the Papaya that Spoke, innovating the text and incorporating the use of adjectives. The children have used paragraphs to separate ideas and experimented with using inverted commas. In **Grammar**, we've looked closely at verbs and adverbs, and we've revisited how to use capital letters correctly. We've also been practising our handwriting and working hard to learn our weekly spellings.

It's been a fantastic month of learning, and we're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic everyone in Kestrel Class has been!



### Peregrines Year 5 and 6

Suddenly it is half term! Where did the time go?

Our topic this term has been The Ancient Greeks, where we have explored daily life and compared the fascinating city states of Athens and Sparta. We've been captivated by The Odyssey, diving into the thrilling adventures of Odysseus and his soldiers as they encounter gods, monsters, and magical lands. In art, we have brought history to life by designing two-dimensional Greek vases and sculpting our own clay amphoras. In maths, we have been mastering the four operations and having great fun multiplying large numbers! Our confidence is growing every day!

The month of October in our stunning environment, has given opportunities to create our own Autumn poetry. We have enjoyed reciting and sharing our wonderful work.

A true highlight was our involvement in the Petworth Festival, 'Sing Out' project at Petworth House. We explored a dramatic painting of Macbeth and the Witches by Joshua Reynolds, working with Hazel to understand the story and write powerful lyrics inspired by the artwork. The following week, composer Richard, visited Duncton and led a workshop where we created music to accompany our lyrics. The result was a haunting and atmospheric piece that truly captured the essence of the painting. Perfect for Halloween! We were thrilled to perform our song at MRC, alongside four other schools. It was a magical experience that celebrated creativity, collaboration, and the power of storytelling through music.



### **Girls' Football Success at Petworth – Monday 13th October**

On Monday 13th October, some of the girls from Duncton School took part in a football event at Petworth, and they were an absolute credit to the school. Their behaviour throughout the day was impeccable, showing great sportsmanship, teamwork, and enthusiasm.

On the pitch, the girls played some truly wonderful football. Their passing was sharp and purposeful, they scored some fantastic goals, and their determination shone through in every match. Out of four games, they won three and drew one – the draw coming against Petworth School, who were declared overall winners on goal difference.

It was a brilliant afternoon of sport, and every player should feel proud of their performance and conduct. Well done, girls – you represented Duncton superbly!



## Petworth Festival Creative Arts Education Project

This month, our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Petworth Festival Creative Arts Education Project, an inspiring mix of art, music, and storytelling.

The project began with a visit to Petworth House, where students explored paintings that inspired their creative work. With the guidance of writer Hazel Gould and composer Richard Taylor, pupils participated in workshops at Petworth House and Duncton Junior School to develop original songs and lyrics.

Their hard work culminated in a performance at Midhurst Rother College on Wednesday this week, where schools came together to share their creations, an experience both pupils and teachers thoroughly enjoyed.

### Children's Reflections on the Petworth Festival Project

Overall, it was an amazing experience. I loved it so much – Imogen

I enjoyed the Petworth Festival experience from Petworth House to MRC. I loved composing the music with Richard. Edith

My favourite part was listening to everyone's songs. I especially liked Harting's song. Amelie

I really enjoyed helping to make the music. George

I loved the painting of the Witches. The music was cool. Sasha

I liked Petworth House and writing the song. Jack

I really enjoyed the experience, and I think it was my favourite workshop. I was amazed by the painting of Macbeth which we wrote about. Maud

Going to Petworth House and looking at the Macbeth painting was really cool. I loved writing the lyrics. The piano composing sounded good and I loved the toaster song, it was really funny. The performance was lovely and hearing other school's songs was really nice. Billy

The whole song writing thing was good. Writing with a composer was my favourite part. Nikita

Petworth House was good. The time with Richard was loud and fun. I loved the warm-ups. I loved the performance, and I saw my friends from other schools and loved listening to other people's songs. Zlata

I loved it. It truly was my most favourite workshop ever! Clemmie

I enjoyed making the song with Richard and singing in the performance. I also enjoyed writing it. Noah

I loved making the song and performing was big opportunity to sing and it was lots of fun. Maisy

I really enjoyed our workshop as part of the Petworth Festival from looking at the magnificent painting to composing music with Richard and lastly performing it at MRC and listening to other people's brilliant songs. I personally thought ours was the best. I hope to sing it again on Friday. Sophie

I absolutely loved the whole experience. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Emily

Creating was fine but not performing for me. It might have been different for other people. Sunny

I loved seeing the massive painting in Petworth House and it was also fun hearing the other school's songs and performing ours. Clayton

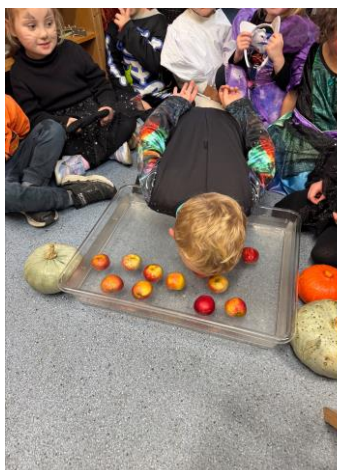
I liked making the song Alice

It was fun. I was a bit nervous about the singing, but I still sang the whole thing, and it was amazing! Cali

I liked the performance and looking at the painting and making the music with Richard. Ben.



## Halloween fun at Graffham and Duncton



### 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/>

# DUNCTON VILLAGE FIREWORKS



Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 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

Midhurst Town Council  
**Halloween Trail**

Can you help Wendy the Witch find her spooky spell ingredients?

Complete the trail anytime during Half-Term

To claim a prize, please go to   
The Old Library, Knockhundred Row,  
Midhurst on  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 or  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025  
between 9am & 2pm.

Collect the activity sheet from outside  
The Old Library,  
or download from  
[www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk](http://www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk)

## TRAINING AUTUMN TERM 2025

### WORKSHOPS

Making Sense of Masking	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am - 12.30pm
Wellbeing - Communication skills for parents and carers	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30 am - 12 pm
Understanding Autism in Girls	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am - 12.30pm
Making Sense of Anxiety in Children (Primary age)	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Adult Life - Supporting Adolescents	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Understanding Sensory Processing Differences	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am - 12.30pm

All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: [outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk)

## Reaching Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person who has, or may have, special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex?

EMPOWER INFORM SUPPORT

Reaching Families is a parent-carer led charity which aims to empower parent-carers and families of children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex through the delivery of information, training and peer support.

### Making Sense of it All

In-depth parent-carer guide covering SEND issues from birth to adulthood

### Umbrellas

Parent support groups based at locations across West Sussex and online, via Zoom

### Training

Workshops and courses on a variety of issues delivered online, via Zoom

### Face-2-Face

Peer based befriending for parents of children undergoing diagnosis

### Animations

Short animated films on a variety of subjects

### Fact sheets

Covering a range of SEND issues localised to the needs of West Sussex families

### Benefits Advice Service

1-2-1 advice & claim checking support for families applying for DLA, PIP & Carers Allowance

### NDP Navigation Service

Support service for parent-carers of children undergoing assessment on the West Sussex Neurodevelopmental Pathway (via referral from a professional)

### Facebook Group

An online parent support group providing news, information and peer support



All our workshops are free of charge. For more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

[reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com](http://reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com)



**Reaching Families**

[www.reachingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1150906  
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 6250796

If you would like more information about how Reaching Families can help, please contact:

Email: [admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01903 366 360

Reg Charity No 1150906



**Reaching Families**

[www.reachingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk)



## Register for a Kids Lunch Pack this Christmas

### Who can register?

Any parent with a school-aged child within the Chichester District who is receiving free school meals due to low income.

### How do I register?


Please contact your child's school for a registration code and register on our website.

### What's in a lunch pack?

Each child receives a box containing enough food for ten lunches weighing around 13kg. Items will include tinned meat & veg, cooking sauce, rice or pasta, biscuits and spreads.

**Registration closes on: Sun 16 Nov, 6pm**



 [kidslunchpacks@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:kidslunchpacks@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

 01243 773687  [tinyurl.com/kids-lunch-packs](https://tinyurl.com/kids-lunch-packs)