



**DUNCTON CE JUNIOR
SCHOOL**

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**GRAFFHAM CE INFANT
SCHOOL**

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APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

Time seems to have flown by since the Easter holidays, but I do hope you all enjoyed the break. The children have been busy in both schools since coming back to school and we are all very pleased that the weather has started to brighten up recently. On Saturday 18th April, some staff and volunteer parents went into Graffham school to spruce up the outdoor area and to repair the 'dragon' in the Reception garden. It was a hard day's work, and I would like to express my gratitude to all who helped that day. This term will be another exciting one with all sorts happening including our sports days, school trips to Marwell Zoo, Arundel Castle, West's Wood Fair and Petworth House and Gardens, our Downscape project in Years 5 and 6 and a special Chichester Cathedral 'Festival of Flowers' arts project that the children from Graffham will be contributing to. We are currently looking for somebody to lead wraparound care at Graffham and have recently posted this advert <https://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk/vacancies/> If you, or somebody you know, may be interested, please get in touch.

Enjoy the weekend.

Warm regards,

Charles Beckerson

Wrens

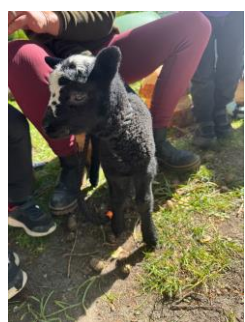
Wren Class have had a busy and exciting April, full of hands-on learning and new experiences. One of the highlights was a special Forest School session led by Soli's daddy Nick, where the children enjoyed going for a walk, discovering footprints, plants, skulls and many interesting treasures.

Back in the classroom, we were thrilled to welcome some new living things, stick insects and caterpillars, which have sparked lots of curiosity and careful observation. The children have also been busy planting seeds for our garden, learning about how plants grow and what they need to thrive.

In Maths, we have been focusing on understanding "5 and a bit more" to help us build larger numbers with confidence. In English, we have been working hard to embed our knowledge of digraphs in both reading and writing, with great progress being made.

To top it all off, Wren Class created some beautiful bluebell artwork with Mrs Kenway, inspired by the signs of spring around us.

Well done, Wren Class, for a fantastic month of learning!



Kingfishers

In Kingfisher this month we've had a great return after Easter and there has been lots of learning going on. Children are really grasping different ways to multiply and divide, they've been writing some fantastic retellings of *Stella and the Seagull*, they've worked really hard on phonics and spelling respectively and shown some fantastic scientific understanding when talking about habitats as well as seasonal change and plants. Probably the most exciting thing though has been the introduction of our new outdoor area. We're all very grateful for the hard work teachers and parents put in to building it and have started running our experiments and creating waterway structures with it already. It's also now the backdrop to our runner beans which we're crossing fingers might produce before the summer holidays. Lastly, it's worth mentioning that with our trip to Marwell Zoo creeping closer and closer, we still have a few permission slips we need back. If you've not done this yet, please do as it would be very sad for anyone to miss out.



Kestrels

As we look back on the end of a fantastic spring term, we can't not mention what a magical experience it was for the children to watch *The BFG* at the theatre just before the Easter break. The excitement throughout the performance was wonderful to see, and it was such a special way to finish the term together.

Kestrel class have come back full of energy, and the children are really excited to begin their new topic on the Anglo-Saxons. We're looking forward to seeing their curiosity and enthusiasm grow as they explore this fascinating period of history.

We have completed our art topic, using 'en plein air' technique introduced by impressionist artists. Incorporating bright, contrasting colours with fast paint motions to complete our landscape paintings of the South Downs.

In maths, we have started learning all about money. The children have been practising how to count money, add and subtract different amounts, solve money word problems, and write money as decimals. The children have also been working hard on their knowledge of fractions. Adding and subtracting mixed numbers. They've made a great start and are growing in confidence each lesson.

We have started to research and plan our design and technology project. Making a healthy pasta salad, using seasonal vegetables. The children have selected some tasty ingredients for their final project.

In computing, we have begun exploring coding. The children are really enjoying learning how to create and control simple programs, and it's great to see their problem-solving skills developing as they experiment

Year 4 have also made a brilliant start to their Forest School sessions this half term. They've already thrown themselves into building dens, exploring the woods, and painting the beautiful bluebells. It's been lovely to see them enjoying the outdoors and developing their confidence and teamwork skills.

Finally, a huge well done to year three who joined four other Rother Valley schools at Midhurst Rother College last week, to take part in the Little Big Sing. The children worked hard to learn the words and melody for Roll the Old Chariot Along, a traditional sea shanty, which they performed at the event.

We're now looking ahead to a busy but enjoyable summer term, with lots more learning and fun to come!



Peregrines

April has arrived with a brand-new term and beautiful sunny days. We have been enjoying spending more time outdoors, exploring our surroundings and continuing our learning in the fresh air.

Just before the Easter holidays, we were treated to a wonderful theatre trip to Chichester Festival Theatre. We all absolutely loved *The BFG* — an exceptional production made even better by delicious interval ice creams! It was truly a memorable experience for everyone.

The Seaford Easter Party was also a great success. A huge thank you to the Sixth Form students for organising such a fantastic afternoon filled with crafts, food and dancing. Both events made the end of term feel extra special.

As we return to school, our Year 6 children are preparing for their SATs, which will begin on 11th May. We are incredibly proud of their commitment, focus and resilience.

Year 5/6 have recently filmed their powerful *South Downs* song as part of the Downscape Project with the West Sussex Arts Society. The film also features wonderful poetry written by the children. It has been such an exciting and creative project, and we are very much looking forward to the live performance at Champs Hill in June.

In class, we are completing our History focus on the Middle Ages, and our Art project inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry is nearly finished (please see photographs). In Maths, we are beginning to explore Algebra, while in English the children are creating their own independent narratives.

We have celebrated Earth Day, with the children producing fantastic poems, models, artwork, PowerPoint presentations and videos to share their ideas and learning.

It has been a busy, inspiring and creative start to the term!



Staff Vacancies

We currently have a couple of vacancies and would love to hear from you if you are interested in applying, or if you know someone who might be suitable. Please contact the school office for more information.

Chef - We are recruiting a Chef at Graffham to prepare our school meals. Ideally, applicants will have previous catering experience; however, if you do not have catering experience but are enthusiastic and keen to learn, training can be provided for the right candidate.

- **Hours:** 25 hours per week, during the school day
- **Contract:** Term-time only
- **Closing date:** 29th April

Wraparound Care Leader / Support - We are also recruiting someone to lead or support our wraparound care, based at Graffham. The after-school club will run until 5:00pm from September (or sooner, if possible).

- **Hours:** 14 hours per week split as follows:
 - Morning club 7.50am - 8.50am
 - After-school club 3.00pm - 5.15pm
- **Contract:** Term-time only
- **Closing date:** 7th May

Kitchen Assistant – We will shortly be advertising for a kitchen assistant. This role will involve collecting freshly cooked hot food from Graffham to serve at Duncton and returning equipment to Graffham after the lunch service. We are still finalising the job description and details for this role but if you might be interested please do get in touch.

Full details for these vacancies including job descriptions and the application form, can be found on the vacancies page of our school website - <https://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk/vacancies/> . These jobs are also advertised on the WSCC website.

Graffham Pizza Sale – Thursday 30th April

Wren Class have been learning all about the story 'Oliver's Vegetables' and are planning to make their own Pizzas next Thursday. These will be sold after school next Thursday at 50p a slice.

All proceeds from the Pizza sale will go towards buying more flour for our Sourdough.
Please support us if you can. Thank you!



Used Games and Books

Do you have any boardgames or top trumps you no longer need and are looking for a new home? We are looking at buying a few new ones for when we have wet play and for morning club but thought we would ask before we bought any.

Also, any children's books that have been read and need a new home, we would love them for our book raffle.

If you can help with either, please drop them into Duncton school. Thank you

Social Media

We have been working hard on boosting Graffham and Duncton Schools social media presence on facebook and instagram this week. If you don't already, please follow us to see what we have been doing in school this week:



www.facebook.com/graffhamandduncton



www.instagram.com/graffhamanddunctonschools



www.instagram.com/sjearlyyears

GRAFFHAM TENNIS CLUB – After School Coaching for the Summer Term

Wednesdays 15th April - 20th May

YrR - Yr2 3.30 - 4.15pm £52.50 for members, £58.50 for non members

Yr3 - Yr4 4.15 - 5.15pm £58.50 for members, £64.50 for non members

Yr5 - Yr7 5.15 - 6.15pm £58.50 for members, £64.50 for non members

Spaces available in the Yr3-4 group and the Yr5-7 group, **get in touch with Richard Hopp direct to book your place:** richard@hoppcoaching.co.uk 07904069457

BULLEYES AND BACON ROLLS
ARCHERY & AXE THROWING!

+ FUN FOR ALL AGES!

BACON ROLLS & CAKE FOR SALE!
Treat yourself while you take aim!

17TH MAY 11AM - 2PM | **1ST PETWORTH SCOUT HUT**

RAISING MONEY TO HELP FUND OUR CUBS AT DISTRICT CUB CAMP.

£3 FOR 6 AXES	£3 FOR 6 ARROWS	£5 FOR A COMBINED TICKET
£1.50 FOR BACON ROLLS	£1 FOR CAKE	TEA & COFFEE FREE

★ COME ALONG, HAVE FUN & SUPPORT OUR CUBS! ★

PRIVATE SWIMMING
Rocket Fish
 TUITION

1:1

2:1

BESPOKE

Private Swimming Tuition for Children and Adults

Summer Term at Northchapel School

Weekly 1:1 & 2:1 & small group
 Holiday Water Safety and Personal Survival
 Bespoke Swimming Lessons
 Tailored to the individual
 Booking Summer 1:1 Intensives Open

Family friendly:

Rocket Fish Swimming creates a fun and safe environment for everyone in the family to learn.

Tailored to you:

Whether you are a beginner or looking to refine your technique, Rocket Fish Swimming lessons can adapt the teaching approach to suit your individual needs and goals. Some swimmers struggle in group lessons, Rocket Fish Swimming Lessons has a bespoke approach to teaching.

Convenient:

1:1 & 2:1 lessons close to Chiddingfold and covering all the surrounding areas. Invite friends and family to join a shared lesson.

Safety First:

From building water confidence to learning about water safety, Rocket Fish Swimming has your family safety covered.

1:1 School Holiday Hubs & Home Pool Lessons Available

Get in touch for more information and to book your slot!

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rocketfishswimming.co.uk

Midhurst Town Council
Midhurst Medieval Festival

Saturday **At:**
2nd May 2026 Market Square
 11am to 3pm St Ann's Hill
 Midhurst Parish Church
 Cowdray Ruins

There will be:
 Re-enactments, Axe Throwing, Archery, Boar Hunting, Falconry, Games, Music, Storytelling, Spinning, Crafts, BBQ, Blacksmithing Demonstrations, Take Part in a Battle and much much more.

A prize to all who attend in Medieval Costume!

For more information, timetables and locations, please visit:
www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk