

**DUNCTON CE JUNIOR
SCHOOL**

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MAY

NEWSLETTER

**GRAFFHAM CE INFANT
SCHOOL**

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the May half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support and to say how wonderful your children have been since returning from the Easter break. They have shown such enthusiasm, resilience and pride in their learning, and it has been a real pleasure to see all that they have achieved over the past few weeks.

There has been a great deal of learning taking place across both schools. At Graffham, we were delighted to welcome Ofsted recently and share the many strengths of our school community and the experiences we provide for the children. At Duncton, Year 6 have approached their SATs with determination and maturity, while Year 4 have been working hard in preparation for their multiplication check. Across the school, children have continued to apply themselves both in the classroom and through wider opportunities.

We are also looking ahead with excitement to a number of special events next half term. Graffham pupils will have their artwork displayed at the Festival of Flowers at Chichester Cathedral, and our older pupils at Duncton will be taking part in the Downscape project, where they have contributed poetry and a song.

During the break, I will be going into hospital for an operation so I will not be back immediately after half term but I will see you all very soon.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Warm regards,

Charles Beckerson

DUNCTON'S GOT TALENT

At Duncton today we had our very own Duncton's Got Talent final! The children practised their acts, performed in the heats on Monday and the winners from each year group performed in front of the whole school this afternoon.

The winners of today's final were

Emily and Maisy in year 6

Well done to the school council for arranging this and a big thank you to everyone that entered.



Wrens

This half term, Wren class have enjoyed a wide range of exciting and engaging activities. In English, we read the stories *Oliver's Vegetables* and *Oliver's Fruit Salad*. These stories inspired lots of discussion about healthy eating and helped the children explore different types of fruits and vegetables. We had great fun getting hands-on with food! The children designed and made their own pizzas using Miss Carter's pizza oven. They were delicious, and the children enjoyed learning about different vegetables and choosing their own toppings. We also made fruit kebabs and smoothies using a variety of fruits, which were very popular.

Our **Secret Reader** sessions on Fridays continue to be a highlight of the week. The children absolutely love having a special visitor come in to read a story. We still have spaces available after half term, if you'd like to take part, please let us know!

We were very excited to welcome some baby chicks into school this week. The children learned about how to care for them and observed how they grow and behave, which sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful questions. In art, we have continued our creative project using cyanotypes. The children incorporated their own drawings and writing into their work, producing some beautiful and unique pieces. Our final Wild Wednesday this half term was spent being the 'Clean Up Crew'. We all went on a hunt to see if we could find any rubbish on the South Downs. We were shocked to find shoes, bottles, saucepans, plastic bags amongst many other things! Children were passionate about picking these items up and keeping them away from our wild animals to help keep them safe.

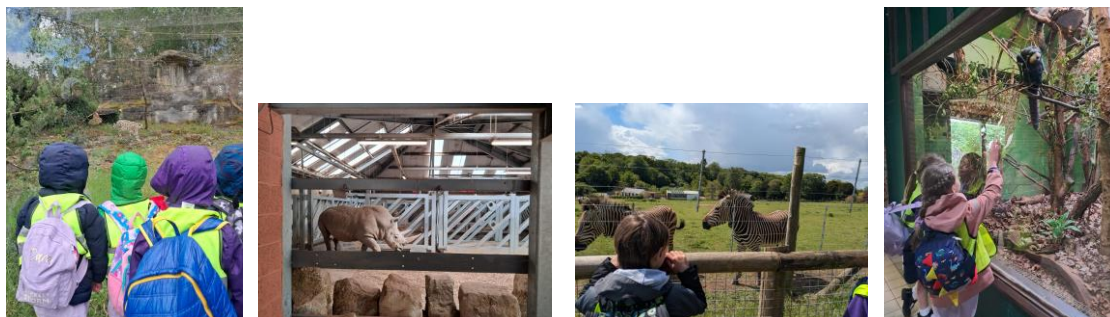
It has been a busy and enjoyable time, full of creativity, exploration and learning! Have a lovely half term everyone!



Kingfishers

This month Kingfishers have made some brilliant progress in all their learning and everyone is starting to show that they're really ready for the challenges ahead in year 2 and 3 respectively. On top of this they've all shown just how mature they can be and how they can let their inspiration

drive their learning off the back of our trip to Marwell Zoo. Everyone was disappointed to see that the tiger (who we've learned a brilliant song about) was being visited by the vet when we arrived at Marwell, but I think it's fair to say everybody came away wowed by some animals they'd never even heard of - the Pygmy Hippo, the Golden Lion Tamarin and the Gila Monster to name a few! Everyone deserves a restful half term and we're already looking forward to a fabulous day out at Petworth Park when we return.



Kestrels

In Mathematics, the children have been developing their understanding of fractions and decimals. They have shown great determination when comparing, ordering and converting fractions and decimals, and have enjoyed applying their knowledge to a range of problem-solving activities.

In History, we have been learning about the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons. The children particularly enjoyed researching Anglo-Saxon gods and creating informative and eye-catching posters to present their findings. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and historical understanding shine through.

During Design and Technology, the class have begun planning their exciting food project: creating a healthy seasonal vegetable pasta salad. The children carefully considered healthy ingredients, flavour combinations and seasonal produce while designing their recipes. They have also written and published their tasty recipes, producing some fantastic final pieces of work.

Kestrel Class have really enjoyed their computing lessons this month, especially learning how to code. They showed great perseverance when things did not work first time and worked hard to overcome challenges by carefully de-bugging their programs. It has been fantastic to see the children helping each other and celebrating their successes.

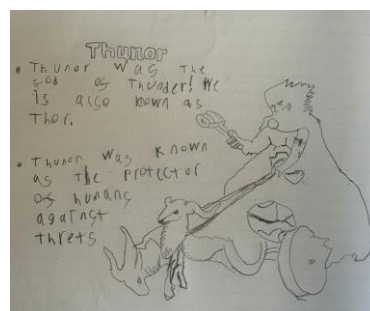
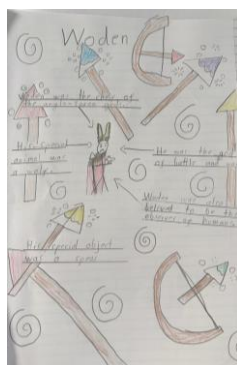
In Science, we have been learning all about habitats and the different environments where animals and plants live. The children enjoyed exploring how living things are adapted to survive in their habitats and shared lots of thoughtful ideas during discussions and investigations.

Year 4 pupils have absolutely loved Forest School this half term. They have enjoyed learning new outdoor skills, including fire lighting and den building, whilst developing teamwork and resilience. The children particularly enjoyed their nature walks through the woods, where they explored the beautiful bluebells and even spotted badger sets along the way. Forest School has been a fantastic

opportunity for the children to build confidence and connect with nature through hands-on experiences.

The class are also very excited about their upcoming trip to the Weald and Downland Living Museum, where they will have the opportunity to explore Anglo-Saxon life further and deepen their understanding through hands-on experiences.

Well done to all of Kestrel Class for their enthusiasm, creativity and hard work.



Peregrines

Peregrines have had an incredibly busy and productive month of May!

Our Year 6 pupils were delighted to receive their leavers' hoodies and have thoroughly enjoyed wearing them around school – a lovely reminder of their final term with us. Meanwhile, Year 5 have continued to enjoy their swimming lessons, showing growing confidence and skill each week.

A significant focus this month has been preparing for the Year 6 SATs. We are immensely proud of every child for the way they approached the week with such calmness, resilience and focus. SATs week was made extra special with shared breakfasts each morning and a well-deserved celebration party at the end of the week. A huge thank you to everyone for your generous contributions.

Year 5 have been working hard on their own assessments, showing excellent maturity as they begin preparing for the year ahead.

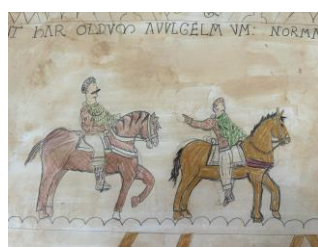
In our wider curriculum, we have completed our beautiful artwork inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry. We are now very much looking forward to our upcoming visit to Arundel Castle just after half term, where we will be able to bring our learning to life.

In Geography, we have started to explore South America, learning about the countries and major cities. We continue to prepare for the Downscape Project, with the children working hard to learn and rehearse a range of songs and poetry.

In PE, we have been making the most of the sunny weather by developing our cricket skills, focusing on batting, bowling and teamwork. Alongside this, we have also begun preparing for Sports Day, practising a variety of athletics events such as running, jumping and throwing.

We are excited to continue building on this progress and look forward to an active and creative few weeks ahead!

Happy half-term to you all.



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/graffhamanddunton



www.instagram.com/graffhamandduntonschools



www.instagram.com/sjearlyyears



TRAVEL BACK 2,000 YEARS IN TIME THIS MAY HALF TERM...

CHICHESTER ROMAN WEEK

Tuesday 26 - Saturday 30 May 2026

Ever wondered what the Romans did for us? Find out at Chichester Roman Week, when five days of talks, tours and family activities bring the district's Roman past to life for all ages.



Scan the QR code or visit thenovium.org/romanweek to see what's on and plan your week in Roman Chichester.

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9AM



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EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM
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9AM



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We can't wait to welcome you!

