



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our September newsletter and to a new academic year across our schools. It has been a pleasure to welcome children and families back to both Graffham and Duncton, with classrooms quickly filled with enthusiasm, curiosity and a real eagerness to learn.

This year has begun with an especially exciting milestone as we launch our partnership with Chefs in Schools. After many months of planning and fundraising, it has been wonderful to see our new kitchen in action, serving freshly prepared meals made from high-quality ingredients. This project reflects our commitment to giving children the very best start in life, supporting not only their education but also their health, wellbeing and understanding of where food comes from. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported this ambitious initiative.

Across both schools, staff have been busy implementing a number of developments designed to further enhance children's learning and personal growth. From strengthening our writing curriculum to developing adaptive teaching approaches, we are committed to ensuring that every child flourishes academically, socially and emotionally.

As always, our schools are strongest when we work together. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. We look forward to sharing the many successes, achievements and memorable moments that will undoubtedly arise throughout the year ahead.

With best wishes,

Charles Beckerson

Hot Lunches

My name is Laura and I am the new school chef. Firstly, thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity to feed your young children. I think a healthy balanced diet is incredibly important for anyone, especially growing minds. I wanted to send a quick message just to say please DON'T give up if your child doesn't like a certain dish. I listen to the children and I adapt. A prime example is the fish, I understand that the last time I did it, the children were not too keen. Today I am trying a new fish. I have tried 2 ways of cooking the Shepherd's pie, both of which have failed so I sent a survey to the classrooms to see what the children would like instead.

I can assure you that I am doing my best to cater for everyone, of course I understand that not everything will be popular, but I have the ability to adapt and change, and I will. There is no point in me cooking food that the children won't like.

Thank you for bearing with me,

Laura – Head Chef

SCHOOL MINIBUS

Some of the minibus journeys are very busy and are already full this year (especially the morning Graffham to Duncton run). Please always check with us if you require any additional journeys in addition to those you have normally booked, as priority will be given to children who have reserved spaces.

Please keep a note of the journeys your child uses, as we do not automatically send invoices. The cost is £1.50 per journey.

MORNING & AFTER SCHOOL WRAPAROUND CARE

Please could we ask parents to settle any outstanding payments for morning and after-school clubs over the weekend.

Please see below for details of our current fees. Please note that, as with minibus travel, we do not issue individual invoices. If your child attends a morning or after-school club on an ad hoc basis, you will need to keep track of the number of sessions they have attended and make the appropriate payment. We will cross-check payments received into the school account against our attendance records and will contact parents directly if we identify any outstanding amounts.

Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we hope to move to MCAS, which will allow parents to book and pay for clubs and the minibus through one central system. We will share more information about this nearer the time.

Morning Clubs & Wraparound Care

For Graffham Children	Fees Per Session	For Duncton Children	Fees Per Session
Early Morning Club @Graffham 8.00-8.45am	£4.50	Early Morning Club @ Duncton 8.00-8.45am	£4.50
Late Morning Club @Graffham 8.15 - 8.45am	£3.00	Late Morning Club @ Duncton 8.15 - 8.45am	£3.00
Wraparound After School @Graffham Mon- Fri 3.15-4.15	£6.00	Wraparound After School @ Graffham Mon- Fri 3.30-4.15	£4.50
Extended Wraparound After School @Graffham Mon- Thur 3.15 - 5.00pm	£10.50	Extended Wraparound After School @Graffham Mon- Thur 3.30 - 5.00pm	£9.00
Extended Wraparound After School @Graffham Fri 3.15 - 4.45pm	£9.00	Extended Wraparound After School @Graffham Fri 3.30 - 4.45pm	£7.50

Payments can be made to either Graffham or Duncton for the minibus, the morning clubs and the after school wraparound care.

Payments can be made to either Graffham or Duncton for both the minibus and the morning / after school wraparound care. If possible, please let either office know where you have paid. We hope this helps parents with children at both schools.

BACs details WSCC Graffham Infant School

Sort Code 30-00-02
Account Number 01350426
Lloyds Bank

BACs details WSCC Duncton CE Junior School

Sort Code 30-00-02
Account Number 00435010
Lloyds Bank

HOT LUNCHES

Graffham - Although the meals are free, we would be grateful if you could indicate your child's meal preference through the MCAS app. We are really keen for all of the children to have the opportunity to try the school food. If you do not want us to offer school food to your child, please let us know.

Duncton – We are so thrilled with the number of children choosing to have our delicious hot lunches at Duncton. The staff have really enjoyed sitting and eating with the children at lunchtime too!

Please remember to book meals in advance and keep up to date with payments, all of which can be done through the MCAS app. If you have any questions about how to do this, please speak to Vanessa.

Free School Meals – All families receiving Universal Credit are now eligible to apply for free school meals. If you have not already applied and think this may apply to you, or if your circumstances have changed, please let us know as soon as possible. We can explain the application process and help you with the next steps.

Wrens

In Wren class we have been enjoying welcoming all of our new families and children in Reception. We have been learning all about each other, sharing our names, how old we are, all about our families and all about our likes and dislikes. We have been thinking about kind hands and what this looks like in class and in the playground and how we treat each other with care and respect.

This week we have made bread with the children following on from Harvest and reading the story 'The Little Red Hen'. The children learnt about new vocabulary like yeast, rise and knead. We've also been out and about for Wild Wednesday, collecting natural objects for our mud kitchen to make mud pies and Autumn stews. In Art we managed to create a collaborative large scale painting using our body part outlines and have created what looks like a stained glass window. It's been a great start to the year and we look forward to the fabulous year ahead with our youngest children in the school.



Kingfishers

Since returning to school at the start of this month, children in Kingfisher have been very busy! We've started our maths learning by looking at how to co strict numbers to 10 and 20 using tens and ones, as well as practising our counting to and from 20 a lot. The children have all worked hard in their phonics and spelling as well as doing some fantastic writing around 2 stories - George and the dragon, and The Three Billy Goats Gruff (a slightly different retelling...)

In science we've spent time naming body parts of humans and mammals, as well as looking at our feet to draw some conclusions about what someone's age might suggest about how big their feet are.

We've also discussed the Christian creation story and children are begging some art work that reflects their new knowledge.

Reading is in full swing and a big thing thank you to those of you who've made a strong start reading at home too.



Kestrels

What a fantastic start to the year! Our Year 3 children have settled brilliantly into junior school life, helped along the way by their wonderful older buddies, who have made them feel welcome and supported.

The children have already been very busy exploring the fascinating world of Ancient Egypt.

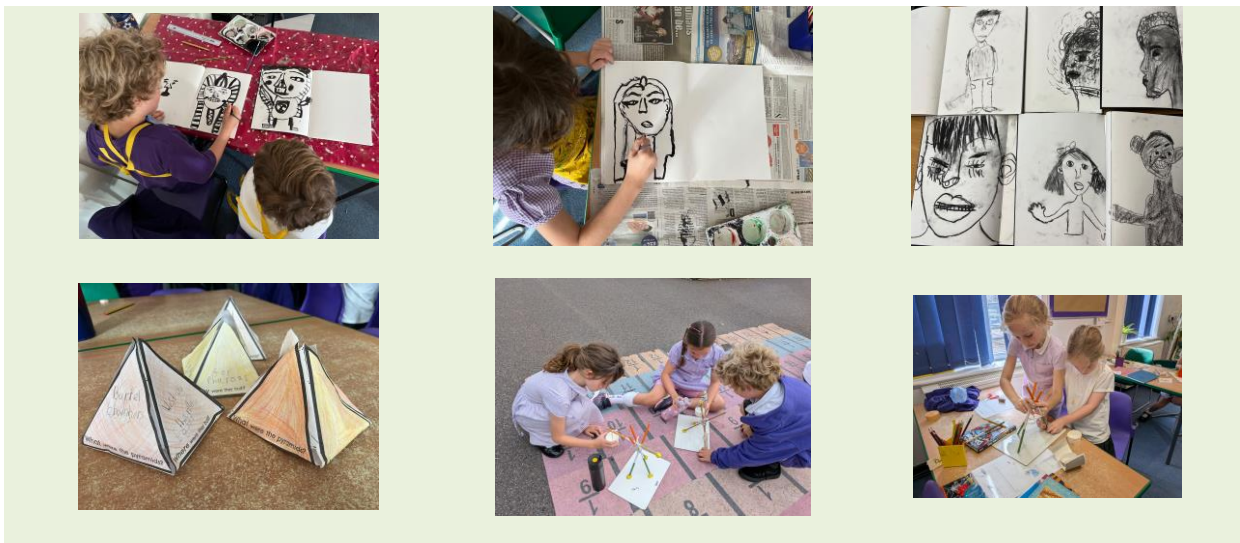
In Art, they have used charcoal and pencil to create striking self-portraits and ink to create Egyptian death masks. While in history they have been making paper pyramids and considering how these were made. In DT, the children have made shaduf's and how these clever devices were used to lift water from the River Nile.

Our Egyptian theme continues in English, where we have begun exploring *The Egyptian Cinderella*.

In Mathematics, the children have been developing their understanding of place value and building their confidence with numbers.

It has been a busy and exciting start, and we are so proud of the enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity Year 3 and 4 have shown already.

We're looking forward to another fantastic term of learning and discovery!



Peregrines

What a wonderful start we have had to the new academic year in Peregrine Class! The children have returned to school full of enthusiasm and positivity. They are settling into new routines, new expectations and starting to build our classroom community.

History and English News

Our exciting World War II topic is well underway and has already captured the children's imaginations. This term, we are focusing on the experiences of children during the war and will be discovering more about The Blitz and evacuation over the coming weeks.

The children have begun designing their own propaganda posters, thinking carefully about the messages and images that were used to encourage people to support the war effort.

In English, we have started exploring extracts from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Letters from the Lighthouse*. Both texts have inspired thoughtful discussion, prediction and curiosity. We can't wait to delve deeper into these wonderful stories as the term progresses.



Science Investigation

In Science, we are beginning our new topic on Forces. The children have already been asking lots of questions about how things move and why objects behave the way they do. There will be plenty of opportunities for practical investigation and scientific enquiry in the weeks ahead.

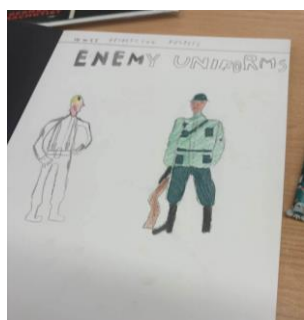
RE Learning

In RE, we are learning about how Sanatani's (Hindus) show commitment to God. The children have approached our discussions with respect and interest, developing their understanding of different beliefs and traditions while reflecting on the importance of faith and commitment.

Maths Matters

Our mathematical focus has been place-value. We have been working hard on reading, writing and understanding six-digit numbers, as well as developing our confidence when rounding numbers. The children have shown great determination and are already making excellent progress with these important skills.

Thank you for your continued support.



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/>

A LETTER FROM STONEPILLOW IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF YOUR GENEROUS GRAFFHAM HARVEST DONATIONS ..



Good Afternoon,

I am emailing from Stonepillow regarding the social media post of your donation to Stonepillow from your recent harvest service and appeal.

I'd first like to take this opportunity to thank you for this very kind gesture, we are so very grateful.

Your support will help Stonepillow continue to offer a wide range of services, all centering around our 5 pillars of support:

Prevent homelessness and rough sleeping through supporting people early to retain their homes or make positive and planned moves.

Relieve harmful impact upon those who find themselves homeless or with nowhere stable to live through provision of basic needs e.g. showers, laundry, food and crisis support, as well emergency or temporary accommodation.

Recover our clients' health, wellbeing and independence through focused casework addressing the root causes of a person's homelessness or insecure housing.

Resettle into new, sustainable supported or independent housing

Restore lives; preparing clients to be tenancy ready, equipped with the skills they need to live independently and to reintegrate into the community.

Between them, these 5 pillars are strong, impactful and empowering. They encompass the breadth and depth of the many services we now provide, and reflect the holistic, end to end approach that our homelessness charity offers. Hubs and hostels are still our core services, but we offer far, far more.

It would be great to keep in touch as we regularly share news, success stories, impact and campaigns via our [website](#), social media and [quarterly newsletter](#).

Once again, on behalf of the team and clients at Stonepillow I would like to say a huge thank you for your support.

Best wishes, The Stonepillow Fundraising Team.



Family Learning Curriculum

A range of fully funded courses and workshops for parents, carers and grandparents, supporting children's development, learning and family wellbeing.





Learning Through Play and Early Development

- **Little Steps, Big Skills:** An Introduction to Learning Through Play
- **Roar and Explore:** Learning Through Creativity
- **Nature Explorers:** Learning Through Nature
- **Mini Movers:** Learning Through Movement
- **Sing, Say, Play:** Learning Through Communication
- **Once Upon a Playtime:** Learning Through Stories
- **Play, Taste, Create:** Learning Through Food
- **Starting School:** Getting Ready for the Next Step

Supporting Your Child's Learning at School and Home

- **Reading Together:** Supporting Early Reading Skills
- Supporting Your Child with Phonics
- Supporting Your Child with Learning in Reception and KS1
- Supporting Your Child with KS2 Literacy
- Supporting Your Child with KS2 Numeracy
- **Starting School:** Preparing Your Child for Primary School

Understanding Your Child and Family Life

- **Understanding Your Child:** Supporting Feelings, Behaviour and Boundaries
- Understanding Boundaries in Family Life
- Understanding Routines in Family Life
- Managing Screen time

Parenting Teens

- **Raising Teens:** An Introduction to the Teenage Brain
- **Raising Teens:** Navigating the Teenage Brain

Family Wellbeing and Resilience

- Supporting Wellbeing in Family Life
- Supporting Children with Anxiety and Developing Resilience
- Supporting Your Child to Build Resilience
- Supporting Your Child to Build Confidence and Self-Belief



Next Steps: Your Learning and Work Journey

- Getting into a Career

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GO
ALL
IN.



Books About Books!

Are you overdue some fun? Treat *yourself* to a brilliant book-themed storytime and check out our novel crafts!



Wednesday 28 October

2.00 - 3.00pm

Suitable for children aged 4+ years

Booking essential – please speak with staff to reserve a place
Parents and carers must remain with their child during this activity



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