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# FRIDAY FLYER

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head into the weekend, it's a joy to reflect on a week filled with kindness, creativity, and important conversations shaping the world our young people are growing up in. From heart-warming community spirit to remarkable writing achievements—and a national consultation that will influence the digital landscape for children—there has been no shortage of things to celebrate and consider.

One of the highlights of our week has undoubtedly been the triumphant return of the Duck Squad. This delightful group of thoughtful, community-minded Year 4 pupils has poured their energy into producing a fresh batch of nutritious duck food. Their efforts remind us how small acts of care can ripple outwards, nurturing both nature and neighbourly pride.

Armed with curiosity, teamwork, and a good deal of flour, seeds, and determination, they've modelled the very values we hold dear—empathy, environmental care, and action with purpose. It's moments like these that make our school feel like such a special place.

We're also celebrating *fantastic* news from our talented Year 5 writers, who have achieved success in the South Downs Writing Competition. Their entries—full of imaginative flair, emotional depth, and a rich sense of place—truly stood out.

Competitions like this offer children the opportunity to discover the power and beauty of their own voices. Seeing our pupils shine on a regional stage highlights not just their talent, but also their perseverance and the excellent support they've received from staff and families. A huge well done to all involved!

This week also brought significant developments on a national scale, with the UK government launching its first-ever consultation on social media use for children under 16. The consultation, announced on 19 January 2026, is exploring whether children under 16 should be banned from using social media, alongside broader questions about safety, age-checks, addictive design features (like *infinite scrolling*), and school mobile-phone policies.

The move comes amid growing public concern about the risks young people face online. A similar ban recently came into force in Australia in December 2025, and UK ministers plan to visit the country to learn from its early impact. <https://www.engadget.com/social-media/the-uk-is-mulling-an-australia-like-social-media-ban-for-users-under-16-130000446.html>

As part of the consultation, the government is also gathering views on:

- Raising the digital age of consent,
- Restricting data access by tech companies,

- Limiting addictive platform features,

Officials will be collecting opinions from parents, young people, schools, and civil-society experts, with findings expected to shape policy by the summer. Ofsted is already expected to assess phone-free school expectations as part of future inspections.

For you as families and us as educators alike, this consultation represents a significant moment. It's an opportunity to reflect on how children can build healthy relationships with technology—and how we, as a school community, can help support digital wellbeing in a rapidly changing online world.

As we wrap up another busy and inspiring week, take a moment to celebrate the kindness, creativity, and thoughtfulness our pupils continue to show. Whether they are caring for wildlife, sharpening their storytelling skills, or navigating discussions about online safety, our community is stronger because of their contributions.

Wishing you all a restful weekend and a wonderful week to come!

*Mark*

#### ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

I fear I need to emphasise the vital importance of good school attendance and to address growing concerns regarding the number of pupils whose attendance is falling below expected levels.

Regular attendance is essential for every child's learning, progress and wellbeing. Even small amounts of missed time can significantly disrupt a child's understanding of key concepts, their confidence in lessons, and their ability to keep up with their peers. School is where children build not only academic skills but also social relationships, routines, and resilience — all of which are crucial for their long-term success.

It is also important to be aware that attendance falling below 90% is classified as 'persistent absenteeism' in the eyes of the law. This definition applies nationally and is used by educational authorities to identify children who may be at risk of missing substantial amounts of education. When a pupil becomes a persistent absentee, schools are legally required to take further action, which may include referrals to the local authority.

I would also like to remind families that the school will not authorise holidays during term time except in the most exceptional circumstances. Term-time absences have a direct impact on learning, disrupt the continuity of a child's education, and can affect their overall progress. Family holidays should therefore be planned during the designated school breaks to ensure that children do not miss essential teaching and learning time.

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school every day, arrives on time, and is ready to learn. If you are experiencing any difficulties that may affect your child's attendance, please contact the school so we can work together to provide the appropriate support.

#### FINANCIAL HELP FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD!

We would like to remind all families—especially those with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2—to check whether they may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM).

## Why this is important?

Many families are unaware that Free School Meals (FSM) is *not the same* as Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

- UIFSM simply means all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently receive a free meal each day.
- FSM, however, is based on family income or benefit status and provides additional financial support to the school through the Pupil Premium Grant.

This Pupil Premium funding is extremely valuable and is used to support your child's learning and wider school experience throughout their entire time at our school. It can help towards:

- Wrap-around care (before/after-school clubs)
- School trips and residentials
- Extra academic support
- Enrichment activities and much more

Even if your child is already receiving a free meal under the UIFSM scheme, please apply for Free School Meals if you meet the criteria.

Please don't wait until the end of Year 2—your child and the school can benefit *now*.

## Who is eligible for Free School Meals?

Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit (with an annual net earned income below the government threshold)
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) and with income under the set limit
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

## How to apply

Applying is simple and only takes a few minutes!

You can apply online at West Sussex County Council's website [Apply Here for Free School Meals](#) If you need help, please contact the school office—we are always happy to support you.

By applying for Free School Meals—whether or not your child chooses to have the meal every day—you are helping the school secure important funding that directly benefits your child.

Thank you for taking the time to check your eligibility and for supporting our school community.

## DUCK SQUAD IS BACK!



A group of kind and generous year 4's have been working hard to make a new batch of food for the ducks on South Pond. We will be meeting a few times each week, mixing, bagging and packing the food ready for delivery to The Grange. Our food is

made from seed, pellets and meal worms.... all the favourite things that ducks love.

If you would like to contribute something to duck squad! We would love seed, pellets or meal worms, paper bags or any contribution to go towards our costs. All very gratefully received.

## PINE CLASS SHINE IN SOUTH DOWNS SCHOOLS WRITING COMPETITION

Pine Class have plenty of reasons to celebrate, as their incredible creativity and hard work have earned them first place in the South Downs National Park's *Species Stories* Schools Writing Competition. The competition invited pupils from across KS2 and KS3 to explore the remarkable wildlife of the South Downs through poems, stories, diary entries, songs, or spoken word. Inspired by four of the National Park's iconic species groups—Birds, Bats, Bees and Butterflies—students were encouraged to blend imagination with nature knowledge to create something truly special.

### Brilliant Individual Achievements

The judges were particularly impressed by the standard of writing from Pine Class. Flo was named the overall winner, with her piece praised for its originality, vivid imagery, and heartfelt connection to nature. Four other talented young writers from Pine Class received Highly Commended recognition:

- Freddy
- Miguel
- Layla
- Daisy

Each of their entries stood out for creativity, attention to detail, and a clear passion for the wildlife found on their doorstep.

### Fantastic Prizes for the School

As winners, the school has received a wonderful bundle of nature-themed prizes designed to inspire even more outdoor learning and environmental curiosity. The prize package includes:

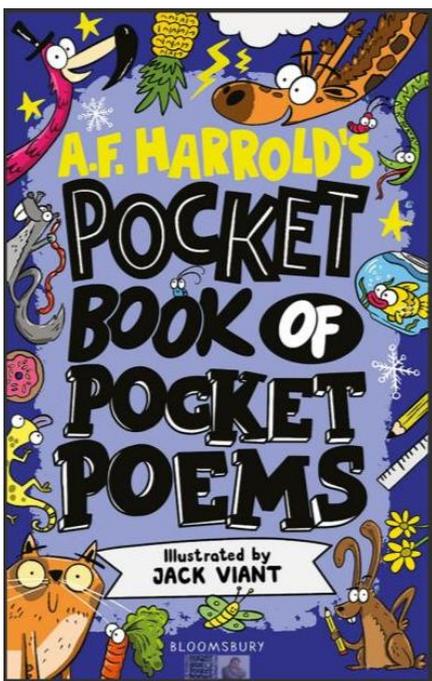
- A pollinator to support the school's wildlife garden
- A nature book filled with facts, illustrations and activities
- Identification cards to help pupils explore local species
- Seeds for planting and habitat creation
- Funding toward transport for trips into the South Downs National Park

These prizes will help bring classroom learning to life and give pupils even more opportunities to connect with the natural world.

The whole school community is thrilled to celebrate Pine Class's success. Their enthusiasm for storytelling, nature, and creative expression has truly paid off.

Congratulations to Flo, Freddy, Miguel, Layla, Daisy, and the entire Pine Class for their outstanding achievement!

### A POCKET FULL OF POEMS



As part of the National Year of Reading, we are delighted to be partnering with Chichester Book Fest to welcome the poet A. F. Harrold on Thursday 12th February.

All children will take part in a workshop during the school day, and each pupil will receive a signed copy of The Pocket Book of Poems to bring home at no additional cost.

This wonderful event also leads us into the following month, when we will continue to celebrate and promote a love of reading as we look forward to World Book Day.

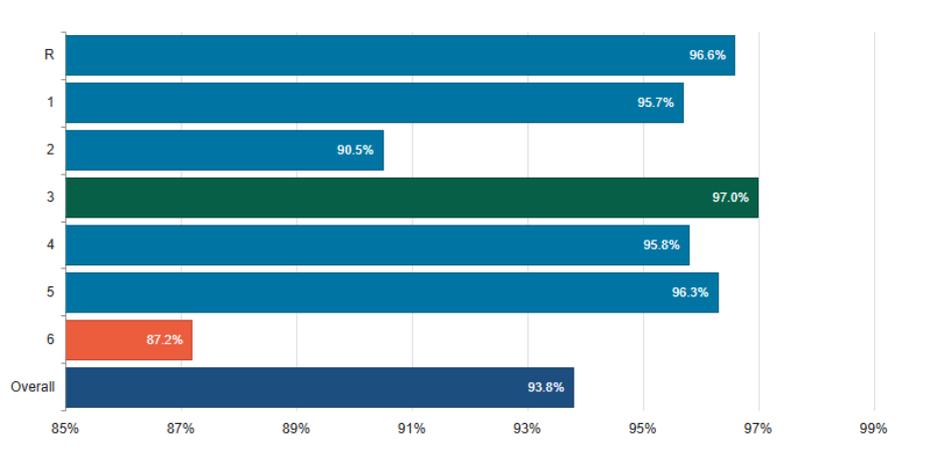
### WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE – MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

West Sussex County Council's Early Years and Childcare team has launched a new survey to understand families' experiences of wraparound childcare. Wraparound childcare provides families with care for school aged children before and after the school day. Please support this by sharing the survey with parents and carers at your school.

The survey is open to all families with primary school-aged children, whether they currently use wraparound childcare in West Sussex or not. It asks about what is working well, what could be improved, and how childcare outside of the school day can better meet the needs of local families.

Use [this survey](#) to make your voice heard! The deadline to complete the survey is **23:59 on Sunday 22 February**.

### ATTENDANCE



Our attendance this week was 93.8% This is 1.2% below our target of 95%.

### ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS!

A huge congratulations to Maple Class, our two attendance champions this week with 97.9% attendance!

## DIARY DATES

Date	Event/Activity	Details
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Oak & Pine class – PE today	Please come in kit
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Acorn, Birch & Hazel class – PE today CM Sports football club	Please come in kit 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Maple, Beech, Pine & Oak – PE today	Please come in kit
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Maple & Beech class – PE today Swimming – Hazel Class	Please come in kit Please bring swimming kit
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Acorns & Birch Class Forest School Hazel Class Grp 1 Cross Country club	Please come in kit Please bring kit 3.30 - 4.15pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Oak & Pine class – PE today	Please come in kit
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Acorn, Birch & Hazel class – PE today CM Sports football club	Please come in kit 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Maple, Beech, Pine & Oak – PE today Oak Class – Information evening for Residential to PGL	Please come in kit 3.30-4pm
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Maple & Beech class – PE today Swimming – Hazel Class	Please come in kit Please bring swimming kit
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Acorns & Birch Class Forest School Hazel Class Grp 1 Cross Country at MRC Cross Country club	Please come in kit Please bring kit Your child will have received a letter if they are involved 3.30 - 4.15pm



SAT FEB 14TH - SAT FEB 21ST

# HANDS-ON HALF TERM

THE SCOUT HUT (BY THE CO-OP) OLD LONDON ROAD, PATCHAM, BN18XR



# COCKING TRAIL RACES

**10k 20k**  
**Junior 3k & 5k**



**10<sup>th</sup> May**  
**2026**

Enter online at [www.midhurstmilers.org](http://www.midhurstmilers.org)



**10K , 20k**  
**Junior 3K & 5K**



Perfect Motion  
Physio.

# Some Bargains in Midhurst This Week!



Snap Me don't Take Me 😊

Never a Dull Moment in Midhurst

All Details Now on [visitmidhurst.com](http://visitmidhurst.com)



Town Council  
Release Date for  
2026 Skate Jam...  
16th May



New Kids Sing  
Group: Tues  
4:45-6pm  
Parish Church



English breakfast  
tea/coffee £10!  
@ Garton's in  
January.



25% of Food Bill  
this January  
(Pre-book with  
Discount card) other  
T&C Apply

## Things to enjoy in town this week:

... On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January...

🍖 Steak & wine night from 5pm @ The Greyhound

🔥 25% off Tapas @ Faustinos

🎰 Poker Night @ Midhurst Club

... On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January...

🗣️ A Conspiracy History of the worlds: Stedham Talks

🧠 Quiz night @ Faustinos

... On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January...

🎵 Savannah Hack plays Live @ The Wheatsheaf

... On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January...

🎪 Free Duke Box all Night @ The Wheatsheaf

🍷 Pie & Pint £7.50 as 'The Staggs' play Seaford 3pm M&EFC

🕯️ Charity Burns Night Fundraiser @ 7pm Memorial Hall

... On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January...

🚗 Indoor Car boot sale @ The Grange 10-1pm

🏡 Wedding Open Day @ The Walled Garden

🏊 Free Pool all day Sundays @ The Wheatsheaf

🍷 Sunday Roast 12:30 - 3:30 @ The Swan

🍷 Sunday Roast 12 - 8pm @ The Royal Oak

🍷 Sunday Roast 12 - 4pm @ The Bricks

🍷 Sunday Roast 12 - 5pm @ The Greyhound

... On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January...

🎰 Red Tooth Poker Night @ The Bricks

... On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January...

👦 'Sing Squad' Community Choir for kids

🔥 25% off Tapas @ Faustinos

... On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

🍖 Steak & wine night from 5pm @ The Greyhound

🔥 25% off Tapas @ Faustinos

🎰 Poker Night @ Midhurst Club



## Coming up Soon...



VISITMIDHURST.COM/WHATS-ON

for a full list of upcoming events in and around the Town incl. The Pubs, The Grange, Steadham, Weald & Downland, Cowdray, Goodwood, The Leonfield, Local Clubs & Societies, National trust & Others

"Whether you live in Midhurst, or are visiting Midhurst, [visitmidhurst.com](http://visitmidhurst.com)"

You Are Right Here Right Now!

## Midhurst & Easebourne



Midhurst & Easebourne



Community Board

#Midhurstwhatson



"Whether you live in Midhurst, or are visiting Midhurst, [visitmidhurst.com](http://visitmidhurst.com)"

[www.visitmidhurst.com/whats-on](http://www.visitmidhurst.com/whats-on)

# FEBRUARY

Half Term Holiday

# CLUBS

AT LODGE HILL

9AM –  
4PM



**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> & THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**£32**

PER CHILD

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT SCHOOL HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD? OUR FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY CLUBS ARE DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AGED 8-12 YEARS, OFFERING EXCITING OUTDOOR ADVENTURES IN A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

**LODGEHILL.ORG.UK**



# LODGE HILL SEND DAY

**WEDNESDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY**

**10AM - 3:30PM**  
Lodge Hill Centre,  
Pulborough

For families in West Sussex with a child under 18 with additional needs/ disabilities



## ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY:

- Abseiling
- Archery
- Climbing
- Low Ropes
- We Cycle Too Bikes
- Sno-tubing
- Orienteering
- Nature Trail
- Arts and crafts
- Freedom Through Fun with Chris North
- Woodland Crafts with Forest Knights



**BOOK VIA  
OUR WEBSITE  
NOW!**



# LODGEHILL.ORG.UK

# POTTERY BY NOOR

Beautiful and Useful

## Pottery Birthday Party Workshop!

**How it works:** Celebrate your special day through the art of pottery. For an immersive experience, book the studio and focus on making pottery in a fun and creative atmosphere. You will learn the craft of hand-building to create your own pieces from scratch whilst listening to music and mingling with your friends in a creative atmosphere.

**Why choose it:** This option is great for all ages, offering a fun, relaxed atmosphere for chatting, laughing, and creating together. It's a hands-on, social activity that allows guests to get creative and learn new skills, making it a memorable experience.

**What to expect:** Birthday parties can be tailored to your group's size and age range. A birthday tradition is to make a 'birthday plate', where you create this special item to use when serving or eating your cake year after year!

**What you'll get:** Studio space, clay & equipments. Noor will be your teacher on the day. Each guest will have their pottery fired & glazed (for collection at a subsequent date).

Beginner friendly. No experience needed!

Book your party at [www.potterybynoor.com](http://www.potterybynoor.com)





Pottery by Noor

Handmade Pottery  
Workshop & Shop

@potterybynoor



I'm Noor, **I produce ceramic pieces** that are durable and functional, decorating them using Arabic words. My product is refined, but its purpose is for everyday use and touch. Each piece is intimate and unique, with the addition of subtle surface textures and lingering marks that are captured in the throwing process.

I throw with high fired stoneware clay, predominately using the potters wheel making simple forms and I create my work in my studio in **Durleighmarsh Farm, Petersfield, Hampshire.**

I also teach **pottery classes** to all ages. Each class is designed to teach handmade pottery techniques in a fun, artistic, relaxed environment at my studio. Visit [www.potterybynoor.com](http://www.potterybynoor.com) to find out more.

[www.potterybynoor.com](http://www.potterybynoor.com)

@potterybynoor



# JOIN OUR UNDER 7s FOOTBALL TEAM!

**FUN  
SKILLS  
TEAMWORK**

**Training  
Saturday's  
9am**



**Midhurst & Easebourne FC, Dodsley Grove, GU29 9BE**

**Matches : Sundays, Kick off TBC**

**Boys & Girls under 7 – Need to be 6 by 28 Feb 2026**

**All abilities welcome**



**07855 310 628**



**[andrew.midhurstfootball@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.midhurstfootball@gmail.com)**

**Come and be part of the team!**

PETWORTH PLAYERS PRESENTS...



# THE LITTLE Mermaid

THE PANTO

**Tickets available online or from  
Austen's Petworth!**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Herbert Shiner Hall, Petworth**

**Friday 7:30pm**

**Saturday 2:30pm**

**Saturday 7:30pm**

**Sunday 2:30pm**

**Adult: £10 | Child / Senior: £7 | Family of 4: £28**

[petworthplayers.co.uk](http://petworthplayers.co.uk) [petworth.players](https://www.instagram.com/petworth.players) Petworth Players [petworthplayers56@gmail.com](mailto:petworthplayers56@gmail.com)



# Travelling Tales

Jump on board this half term to **row**, **ride**, and **fly** with us through stories about all the different ways we get around, plus some *wheelie*-fun crafts and activities!



**Tuesday 17 February**  
**2.00-3.00m**

**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.



**Midhurst Library**  
The Grange, Bepton Road, GU29 9HD  
01730 716671  
[midhurst.library@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:midhurst.library@westsussex.gov.uk)



# Travelling Tales

Jump on board this half term to **row, ride, and fly** with us through stories about all the different ways we get around, plus some *wheelie*-fun crafts and activities!



**Tuesday 17 February**

**10.00-11.00am**

**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.



**Chichester Library**  
Tower Street, PO19 1QJ  
01243 777351  
[chichester.library@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:chichester.library@westsussex.gov.uk)