



FRIDAY FLYER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday, I had the absolute pleasure of joining a meeting with our wonderful Mental Health Ambassadors. These ambassadors are a group of remarkable children who have volunteered to take part in a special programme designed to help them become peer mentors within our school community.

The programme not only boosts the confidence and wellbeing of the children who take part, but also equips them with practical strategies to support their friends. They learn how to listen, how to show empathy, and how to encourage others to seek help when they need it. Watching them work together, share ideas, and support one another was genuinely inspiring.

What really stood out to me were the fantastic ideas they have been developing to help support their peers. They have suggested quiet spaces in school where children can go to take a break or reset, the introduction of play monitors at breaktime and lunchtime to help everyone feel included, creative ways to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month in May, and many other thoughtful initiatives. Their imagination and commitment to making a positive difference are truly impressive.

The role of a Mental Health Ambassador is incredibly important. Children often turn to each other first, and having trained peers who can offer reassurance, understanding, and positive support can make a significant impact on the everyday wellbeing of our school community.

I left the meeting feeling immensely proud of them all. Their willingness to step forward, learn, and support their peers shows real leadership and reflects the caring, inclusive values we strive to nurture in every child.

Watch this space—there are some brilliant ideas on the way as our Mental Health Ambassadors begin rolling out their initiatives throughout the year. A huge well done and thank you to them all. They are helping to make our school a brighter, kinder, and more supportive place for everyone.

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.

WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE CHANGES

There will be a change to booking procedures for wraparound care from the second half of term. Rather than restrict bookings to a half-term at a time, we have decided to try opening the breakfast and after school clubs for the whole academic year. This means that when bookings for after half term open next week, you will be able to book all the way up to 22 July if you wish. Then in July, you will be able to book from September 2026 to July 2027. Sessions can be reserved and paid for directly through MCAS as usual, and you will still be able to make changes up to 24 hours in advance, just as you can now.

If you have a payment plan, please continue to email your requests to Helen, our bursar, for as far in advance as you wish.

Don't forget that you may be able to get help paying for your wraparound care by setting up a Tax-Free Childcare account – for every £8 you pay into the account, the government adds £2 – and our clubs are already registered with the scheme so you can use the money to pay for your sessions. There's a link below to see if you are eligible, but if you need any help, please contact Helen.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

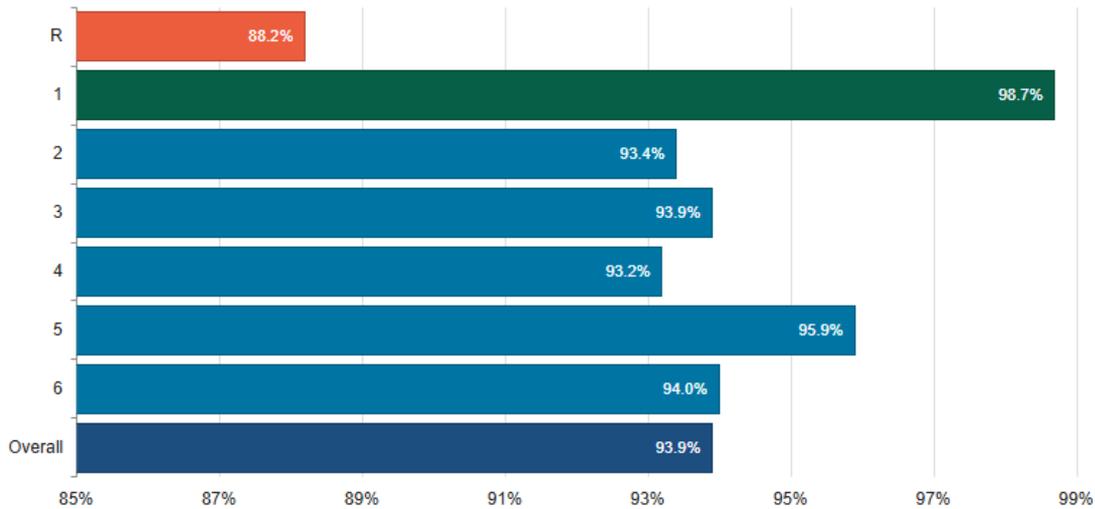
WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE – MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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 93.9% This is 1.1% below our target of 95%.

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS!

A huge congratulations to Birch Class, our two attendance champions this week with 98.7% attendance!

DIARY DATES

Date	Event/Activity	Details
Monday 2 nd February	Oak & Pine class – PE today	Please come in kit
Tuesday 3 rd February	Acorn, Birch & Hazel class – PE today CM Sports football club	Please come in kit 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 4 th February	Maple, Beech, Pine & Oak – PE today Oak Class – Information evening for Residential to PGL	Please come in kit 3.30-4pm
Thursday 5 th February	Maple & Beech class – PE today Swimming – Hazel Class	Please come in kit Please bring swimming kit
Friday 6 th 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
Monday 9 th February	Oak & Pine class – PE today	Please come in kit
Tuesday 10 th February	Acorn, Birch & Hazel class – PE today Vicar’s Award Forest School CM Sports football club	Please come in kit By invite only 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 11 th February	Maple, Beech, Pine & Oak – PE today	Please come in kit
Thursday 12 th February	Maple & Beech class – PE today Swimming – Hazel Class	Please come in kit Please bring swimming kit
Friday 13 th February	Acorns & Birch Class Forest School Hazel Class Grp 1 Cross Country club	Please come in kit Please bring kit 3.30 - 4.15pm



Chartwells Catering have vacancies



Are you interested in school catering that fits around your family life?
If so, why not join our friendly, professional team!

Wisborough Green primary school RH14 0EE – 10hrs per week

Stedham Primary school GU29 0NY – 12.5hrs per week

Area support – 16.25hrs per week Working in different schools in your local area– must be a driver

Appropriate training will be given, and smart uniform will be provided. DBS checks will be carried out on successful applicants.

For more information, please contact
email

Sharon.aldred@compass-group.co.uk

or 07867 202887



EAT LEARN LIVE
Chartwells

OPENDAY

FREE STREET DANCE CLASSES
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
THE GRANGE, MIDHURST

10.40-11.00 am 5-8 yrs
11.10-11.30 9-11

MIDHURST@STREETNATION.CO.UK



CAKE RAFFLE

**Banana &
Chocolate Loaf
Cake**
(May Contain Nuts)

Friday 6th Feb
5 Tickets for £1

Tickets for sale in the
playground or from
Mrs Simpson at break times



SUNDAY, 1ST MARCH

11AM - 2PM

THE GRANGE, BEPTON RD, MIDHURST GU29 9HD

Need more school uniform?

Quality checked/Cleaned

Unbranded/Logoed

Easebourne C.E
Stedham
Midhurst CofE

Midhurst
PRE-LOVED
PRIMARY UNIFORM
HUB

FREE

Variety of sizes available

Reuse/Recycle/Go Green

For more information email:
uniform@midhurstcommunityhub.co.uk
or visit our Facebook page





COCKING TRAIL RACES

10k 20k
Junior 3k & 5k



10th May 2026

Enter online at 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/whats-on



New Menu @
The Swan



The Greyhound
this February



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



Book dinner now
for Valentines:
Sat Feb 14th

Things to enjoy in town this week:

... On Wednesday 28th January..

- 🍖 Steak & wine night from 5pm @ The Greyhound
- 🔥 25% off Tapas @ Faustinos
- 🎰 Poker Night @ Midhurst Club
- 🕒 Open Mike Night @ Faustino's 8pm

...On Thursday 29th January..

- 🍽️ Lunch and Learn @ Cowdray: Truth about Supplements
- 🗣️ A Conspiracy History of the worlds: Stedham Talks

...On Friday 30th January...

- 🐟 Fish and Chip Friday £7.99 @ The Grange
- 🎵 Rylee Spooner plays Live @ The Wheatsheaf

...On Saturday 31st January...

- 🎵 Pop, Soul and Motown with Emmas Marshall @ The Bricks
- 🎟️ Free Duke Box all Night @ The Wheatsheaf
- 🕒 January Evening Dining: 6:30pm @ Cowdray

...On Sunday 1st February...

- 🏊 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
- 🚚 Midhurst RC Truck Bash 2-6pm @ Methodist Hall
- 🎰 Charity Poker Tournament 4pm @ Midhurst Club

... On Monday 2nd February...

- 🎰 Red Tooth Poker Night @ The Bricks

... On Tuesday 3rd February...

- 🎵 'Sing Squad' Community Choir for kids

... On Wednesday 4th February...

- 🍖 Steak & wine night from 5pm @ The Greyhound
- 🎰 Poker Night @ Midhurst Club

Coming up Soon...



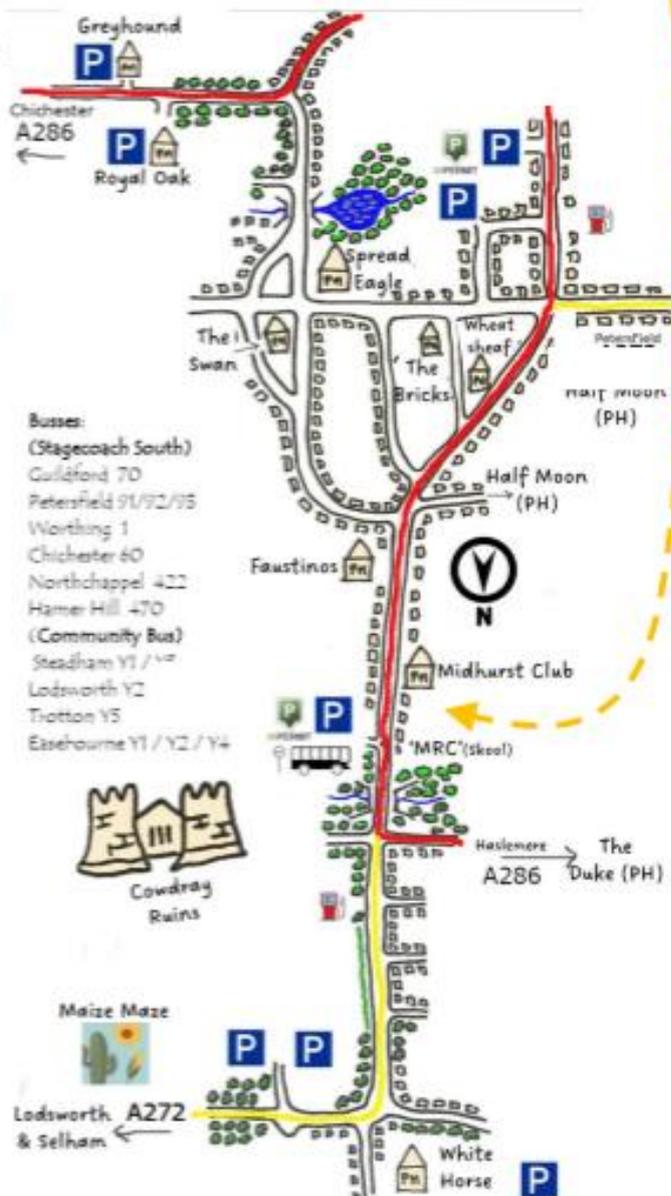
VISITMIDHURST.COM/WHATS-ON

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

"Whether you live in Midhurst, or are visiting Midhurst, 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"

www.visitmidhurst.com/whats-on

FEBRUARY

Half Term Holiday

CLUBS

AT LODGE HILL

9AM –
4PM



TUESDAY 17TH & THURSDAY 19TH 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
18TH
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





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 to find out more.

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

Come and be part of the team!



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



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