Discovering the Wonders of Learning

5th November 2026

Autumn Term 2026 Newsletter 3

Dear Parents and Carers

Staff leaving at Christmas

At the end of this term, we will be saying a very fond farewell to two much-loved members of our staff. After 14 years at our school, Miss Burrough has decided that the time is right to leave after Christmas to pursue other interests. Miss Burrough first joined us as a teaching assistant in Year 6 before gaining her teaching qualification several years later. Since then, she has taught part-time in Sapphires Class, making a wonderful contribution to the lives of so many children along the way. She will be greatly missed by both children and staff, but we are pleased that she has promised to come in for supply teaching when needed, so we are sure this won't be the last we see of her!

Mrs Thompson-Smith, who works part-time as a teaching assistant in Diamonds Class, will also be leaving us at Christmas as she begins her well-deserved retirement. Over her 11 years at our school, Mrs Thompson-Smith has been a wonderful support to the children in Diamonds, providing the care, encouragement and guidance they needed to flourish.

We are incredibly grateful to both Miss Burrough and Mrs Thompson-Smith for all they have contributed to our school and the children in their care. They have both been valued members of our school family, and we wish them every happiness as they begin their next adventures.

Fortunately, we are very pleased that existing members of our team will be increasing their hours to help ensure continuity and familiarity for the children during this period of change. For the month of January, Mr Brown will be teaching in Sapphires every Monday, with Mrs Rose teaching the class for the rest of the week. From February, Mrs Rose will take on the full-time teaching role in Sapphires.

In Diamonds, Mrs Wardley will be teaching the class full time from February. We have also made some changes to the organisation of our teaching assistant team to ensure that all children continue to receive the care, encouragement and support they need each day.

We are grateful to our staff for their flexibility and willingness to help, and are confident that these arrangements will provide a happy and settled transition for the children.

Spooktacular Event

A huge thank you and well done to Lisa Garcia and Karen Green, their families and helpers for organising a hugely successful Halloween Party just before half term which raises much needed funds for the school. A letter from the Friends has already been sent out detailing their festive fundraising arrangements over the coming weeks.

Poppies for sale
Poppies are available in the school office for a donation from children to buy at break time.

Christmas Choir Lunchtime Club
I am running a Christmas Choir Club every Monday lunchtime for those children who are interested in singing at the Christmas Market on Saturday 5th December, (see below). Children from Years 3-6 are invited to attend.

Pearls Class trip to the Haslemere Museum on 4th November
As part of their learning about the Ancient Greeks, children in Pearls class visited the Haslemere Museum today and took part in a Greek theatre workshop.

Pearls Class Ancient Greek Day on 11th November
As part of their learning about life in Ancient Greece, children in Pearls Class will be taking part in an Ancient Greek Day. The children will be taking part in a range of fun activities to support their learning in this topic. Further details have already been sent to parents.

Emeralds Class Maya Day – on 25th November
As part of their learning about the Maya civilization, Year 6 will be having a Maya Day in which they will be taking part in a range of different activities to support their learning of this era. Details of this day will be sent out to parents of children in Year 6.

E-safety information newsletter for parents
Please find attached November's issue of our online safety newsletter for parents with information about protecting your child from online grooming and COM networks.

Christmas Activities
There will be a lot of exciting Christmas related activities happening in school during the coming weeks, of which the main ones are below.

Children's Christmas shopping morning–4th December
The Friends are organising a Christmas Shopping Morning for the children on **Friday 4th December**. During this morning, children will be able to go Christmas shopping for presents for their immediate family.
Please make sure your child comes to school on this day with their money in a named purse, a carrier bag and pre-labelled tags to go on to the presents they buy. **If you are able to help out during this morning to wrap presents or offer your support in other ways, then please speak to any of the Friends.**

Christmas Market at St. Mary's Church, Buriton on Saturday 5th December 1.00-4.00pm
As in previous years, the Friends will be running several Christmas stalls at the Christmas Market to raise money for the Friends Association. This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to buy some lovely gifts and raise money for the school, during what promises to be a very festive afternoon. The children's Christmas Choir will be singing at two intervals from 1.30 and 2.30 during the afternoon.

Christmas Performances at St Mary's Church - Wednesday 9th December
This year, Diamonds and Sapphires classes will be performing their version of the Nativity called 'Superstar' on Wednesday 9th December at 2.00pm in the church. The church will be open from 1.30 pm and you are invited to take your places from this time onwards.

Pearls and Emeralds Classes will be taking part in a pantomime called 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' on Wednesday 9th December at 6.00pm also in the church. For this performance, please ensure that your child arrives back at school between **5.00 pm and 5.10 pm** on Wednesday evening. The church will be open from 5.00 pm onwards and you are invited to take your seats from this time onwards.

Children's Christmas Lunch on Monday 14th December
The Children's Christmas lunch will be on Monday 14th December and is free for infants and those in receipt of free school meals. For children in Year 3 and above, the cost is £2.75. A copy of the festive menu will be sent out in due course.

Children's Christmas Parties –Wednesday 16th December
The children in Diamonds and Sapphires classes will have their Christmas Party in school during the afternoon of **Wednesday 16th December** and hopefully Santa will be stopping by!

Pearls and Emeralds children will have a Christmas Disco in school on **Wednesday 16th December** from **6.00pm – 7.30 pm.** Letters will be coming home nearer the time asking for contributions of party food for both events.

Whole School visit to the Fareham Live theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk on 17th December
As many of you will remember, on alternate years, we plan a whole school trip to the theatre to see a festive pantomime, so this year's festive treat will be Jack and the Beanstalk at Fareham Live theatre. The performance will be during school time and the children will be back at school before the end of the day. Further details of this trip including payment information will be sent out shortly. This treat will be a rare opportunity for the children to experience a magical performance in a major theatre and provide them with memories that will last for a very long time. Details for payment and consent will be sent out shortly.

End of term 18th December at 1.00pm
As the end of term is rapidly approaching, I am sure that you do not need reminding that the end of term will be Friday 18th December at **1.00 pm**.

The Spring term starts for the children on **Monday 4th January 2027.**

Important Dates – all on the website!
All important dates can be found under the 'News and Events' tab on our website in the 'Calendar' section.

Thank you for your continued support.
Yours sincerely
Danielle Brown

Mrs Brown, Headteacher