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NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a fantastic summer with the children. I am very impressed that they have returned to school with a positive attitude and they all look smart in their school uniforms.

A few bullet points for the benefit of our new parents, and as a reminder to all ...

- We send a newsletter home once a month. Letters go home by email to all parents registered on My Child at School (MCAS). If you do not wish to use this system, you will get a paper copy of letters in your child's book bag. A paper copy of this newsletter is being sent to the new Reception parents this time just in case you have not yet registered with MCAS. If you have not received an activation email or if you are having difficulties logging in, please speak to Sharon in the school office.
- **Parking** - We ask all parents not to drive into Hawkins Close. Parents are not permitted to park in the Residents' parking area or the school's car park. Disabled spaces are available outside the school for holders of a blue badge - please speak to the office about this. **Please park safely and with respect - not on junctions, not on yellow zig zag lines and not across the driveways of residents in the local roads.**
- **Before and After School Playground Safety - Bikes and scooters are not to be ridden on the playground during drop off or pick up** for safety reasons. This includes pre-schoolers. Please leave bikes and scooters just inside the school gate or carry/push them. Please do not let your children or toddlers play on or with any equipment before or after school for health and safety reasons.
- **Milk** is only delivered for children who are registered with Coolmilk (it is free for children under the age of five). If you would like your child to have milk in school, please register online at www.coolmilk.com.
- **Pupil Premium (means tested free school meals)** - please ask for details at the office if you think you may be entitled. If you are entitled to **TARGETED FREE SCHOOL MEALS**, we will cover the cost of any school trips, pay for them to have free milk in school once they have turned five and fund one after-school club for your child. Children entitled to **EXPANDED FREE SCHOOL MEALS** will not receive these things (Expanded Free School Meals is a new eligibility category introduced in September 2026 that extends free school meal access to all students in state-funded education whose families receive Universal Credit, regardless of their annual household earnings).
- **Sickness** - If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please phone the school office before 8.45 a.m. and leave a message on the answerphone. Alternatively, those who have successfully registered on MCAS can now report absence using this. **Any child suffering from sickness or diahorrea must be kept off school for 48 hours from the last incidence of vomiting or diahorrea.**
- **Lateness** - The school gates open at 8.35 a.m. Children need to be on site by 8.45 a.m. when the learning day starts. Any child arriving after 8.45 a.m. will be marked in the register as late and may miss key information for the first learning session. Arrival after 9.15 a.m. will be marked as an unauthorised absence. Please try and ensure that your child is here on time. The Year 1 gate by Butterfly and Ladybird classes will be locked at 8.45 a.m. every morning for security reasons. Please bring your child to the front office if you are arriving after 8.45 a.m. and they will be taken to their classroom.

- *Please name everything!* - Please can you ensure that everything your child brings to school, especially coats, hats, scarves and gloves, jumpers/cardigans, shoes, lunch boxes, water bottles and PE kits are named. We always have a huge pile of lost property, which would not happen if we could return everything to its owner!
- *Snacks and Lunchboxes* - The Government provide fruit and vegetable snacks for all the children. If your child brings in their own fruit or vegetable snack, please put this in a separate container, clearly named, to put in their drawer ready for snack time. If your child is having packed lunches, we ask that you do not put any sweets or bars of chocolate in lunchboxes (chocolate coated biscuits are fine).

We are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. This is because we have children in school with severe nut allergies. We recognise some parents may be disappointed that they cannot include nuts or products containing nuts in lunchboxes, but I am sure you understand that health and safety always comes first.



- *Health and Safety*
 1. Earrings must be **small studs**. Hooped earrings are not permitted, as they are not safe. During PE, earrings must be removed or covered with tape. Please provide a reel of micropore tape to be kept in your child's drawer.
 2. Long hair should be tied back for school.
- *Pick-Up Time* - Please let the office know by email or phone if someone different to usual will be collecting your child. We will not let your child go home with someone else unless we have spoken to you personally to get permission.
- *Requests for Absence from Learning* - Absence from learning will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. It is the school's policy to refer to the Local Authority for consideration of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for children who have unauthorised absence from school, where a pupil has a minimum of 10 school sessions (5 days) off in a 10-school week period. This includes any absence marked in the register as unauthorised, persistent late arrival at school after the register has been taken that is recorded as an unauthorised absence, or a holiday in term time which has not been authorised. The FPN is issued with an invoice for £160 and 28 days are given for you to settle the penalty. If the FPN is paid within the first 21 days, the amount payable is reduced to £80 per parent per child. From September 2025, schools may also make a referral to the Local Authority for consideration of a FPN if a child is absent for a holiday for 8 or 9 sessions during an **inset week or following a bank holiday** (see attached letter from the Local Authority). We would particularly ask that Year 1 children do not have any time off during May and June as this is when they are preparing for, and taking their phonics checks. A copy of our Attendance and Absence Policy is on our website for your information. We will be updating this later in the year and will let you know when the new policy is ready.

I look forward to working in partnership with you, to support your child's learning and to make their early experiences of school something that they will remember positively for the rest of their lives.

Sally Dreckmann

Mrs Sally Dreckmann
Headteacher



Term Dates for the 2026 - 2027
Academic Year

Term	Dates
Autumn term 2026	Starts: Wednesday 2 September (Tues 1 is an Inset Day) Half term: Monday 26 to Friday 30 October Ends: Friday 18 December
Christmas break 2026	Monday 21 December to Friday 1 January
Spring term 2027	Starts: Tuesday 5 January (Monday 4 is an Inset Day) Half term: Monday 15 to Friday 19 February Ends: Thursday 25 March
Easter break 2027	Friday 26 March to Friday 9 April
Summer term 2027	Starts: Monday 12 April Half term: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June Ends: Tuesday 20 July (Wednesday 21 is an Inset Day)

Inset Dates (School closed for staff training)

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

Local Paper Photos



Our Reception Teachers will be taking photos of their new classes very soon, to send to the local paper, which is running their annual feature on children starting school. **If you do not wish your child's photograph to be taken, please let Mrs Porter in the office know as soon as possible.**

Parent Consultation Meetings

A letter will be going out later this month regarding the arrangements for this term's parent consultations.

Welcome Wednesdays

As part of our school improvement work to further strengthen parent/carers relationships and engagement, we have open afternoons, called Welcome Wednesday. Three times a year (see dates list), we will open our doors just before the end of the school day, for parents/carers to come into classrooms, sit with their children and look at their work with them. We realise not every parent can come every time, but that is fine - there will always be other adults around to look at work with children if you can't make it.

We recognise that for some of you, 2.30pm on a Wednesday is never going to be 'do-able' due to work commitments, so if you can't make it but want to come in, please talk to your child's teacher and they can arrange an after-school slot to suit you.

Please look on the dates list for details of when this will take place. We also hold an Open Afternoon on a Tuesday in July.

PTA Annual General Meeting

The PTA will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 6 October from 7.00 - 8.00 p.m. in the school hall. We do hope you will be able to join us to find out more about the work of the PTA and how you can be involved.

Introduction to learning in Reception, Years 1 & 2

We will shortly be sending letters home from the teachers about the curriculum your children will be following this term.

Summer Fair

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who was involved in organising and helping at our summer fair on Friday 3rd July. It was a lovely evening and we raised £3,737 which is an amazing amount. We will be discussing how to spend it at our PTA AGM. Congratulations to Benjamin in Oak Class for his winning entry in the junior bake-off competition.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade fortnight starts on Monday 21st September until Sunday 4th October. We will be talking to the children about Fairtrade products and how we can support farmers across the world. We would like you to look out for the Fairtrade logo on the food you purchase and to bring in some examples of packaging for a display in school.

Before/After School Clubs

Just a reminder that all our before and after school clubs have now started for Years 1 and 2. We hope to offer up the clubs to Reception children after October half term.

Free School Meals (FSM)

We would like to make you aware of changes to FSM eligibility in England, taking effect from the start of the 2026/27 academic year. The Department of Environment has expanded FSM eligibility so that all children in households receiving universal credit may now qualify. There will be two categories of benefits based FSMs:-

- Targeted FSM - which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering pupils in households in receipt of universal credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less;
- Expanded FSM - a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM but who are in households receiving universal credit.

All children in our school receive universal infant free school meals anyway but we receive extra funding for those families eligible for the targeted FSMs. We use this additional funding to subsidise school trips, milk and after school clubs for the eligible pupils.

If you think your child may be eligible, please go to the following link from the West Sussex County Council:-

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

Staffing update

We would like to welcome the following new members of staff:-

Mr Renville, Class Teacher in Willow Class
Miss Williamson, Class Teacher in Daisy Class (our new special needs classroom)
Miss Lodge, TA in Buttercup Class (Wed - Fri)
Mrs Green, TA in Daisy Class
Miss O'Brien, Year 1 TA

We have also appointed one of our existing TAs, Mrs Davis, as our new Higher Level Teaching

Assistant, following the completion of her HLTA qualification - congratulations to her! She will be covering most of the classes when the teachers take their fortnightly planning, preparation and assessment days, until Mrs Honeywood returns from maternity leave.

Congratulations to Mrs Honeywood and her husband, who welcomed baby Lucy over the summer break.

Benedict's Law

As of 1 September, all schools in England are required to have spare adrenaline pens in school and an Allergy Awareness policy. Our pens are located in school, on the wall outside the main office. Our policy is available on the school website - a paper copy is available on request. We have also had a KS1 assembly about allergy awareness as it is important that children have an age-appropriate understanding of allergies.

Dates for your Diary - more details to follow

Event	Date	Time
Fairtrade Fortnight	21 st September - 4 th October	
Flu Vaccinations for Reception, Year 1 & 2 (more details to follow)	Thursday 1 st October	all afternoon
PTA AGM - All welcome to attend	Tuesday 6 th October	7 - 8.00 pm
Individual school photos	Thursday 15 th October	all morning
Parent Consultation Week	w/c 19 th October (more details to follow) and w/c 2 nd November	
Inset Day	Friday 23 rd October	
Half Term	Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th October	
Children in Need (non-uniform day)	Friday 13 th November	
Science Week	w/c 16 th November	
Year 2 Pantomime	Monday 30 th November	am
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesday 2 nd December	2.30 pm
Reception Christmas Nativity for parents	Wednesday 9 th December	2.15 - 2.45 pm
Reception Christmas Nativity for parents (no babies or pre-school children)	Thursday 10 th December	9.15 - 9.45 am
Save the Children Fund Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 10 th December	
PTA Christmas Fair	TBC	5 - 7.00 pm

PTA Christmas Shop	tbc	
Year 1 Christmas Concert for parents	Monday 14 th December	9.15 - 9.45 am
Year 1 Christmas Concert for parents (no babies or pre-school children)	Tuesday 15 th December	2.15 - 2.45 pm
Christmas Dinner	tbc	
Year 2 Christmas Songs for parents	Wednesday 16 th December	2.15 - 2.45 pm
Year 2 Christmas Songs for parents (no babies or pre-school children)	Thursday 17 th December	9.00 - 9.30 am
Christmas holidays	21 st December - 1 st January	
Inset Day	Monday 4 th January	
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 5 th January	
Parent Consultation Week	w/c 8 th February and 22 nd February (more details to follow)	
Half Term	15 th - 19 th February	
Creative Week	w/c 1 st March	
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesday 24 th March	2.30 pm
Easter holidays	26 th March - 9 th April	
Start of Summer Term	Monday 12 th April	
Class Photos	Thursday 22 nd April	All morning
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May	
Walk to School Week	w/c 17 th May	
Reception Sports Afternoon	Monday 17 th May	2.00 - 3.00 pm
Year 1 Sports Afternoon	Tuesday 18 th May	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Year 2 Sports Afternoon	Thursday 20 th May	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Reserve Reception Sports Afternoon	Monday 24 th May	2.00 - 3.00 pm
Reserve Year 1 Sports Afternoon	Tuesday 25 th May	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesday 26 th May	2.30 pm
Reserve Year 2 Sports Afternoon	Thursday 27 th May	1.30 - 3.00 pm
Half Term	31 st May - 4 th June	
Inset Day	Monday 7 th June	
Phonics Testing Week	w/c 14 th June	
Sports Week	w/c 21 st June	
Summer Fair	tbc	
Maths Week	w/c 5 th July	
Transition Day	Wednesday 7 th July	All day
School Reports to go home	Friday 9 th July	
Open Afternoon	Tuesday 13 th July	2.00 - 3.00 pm
Year 2 Concert for parents	Wednesday 14 th July	2.00 pm
Year 2 Concert for parents (no babies or pre-school children)	Thursday 15 th July	9.00 am
Year 2 Leaver's Disco	Thursday 15 th July	4.00 - 5.15 pm
Outside Playday	Friday 16 th July	All day
Year 2 Leaver's Assembly (for parents)	Tuesday 20 th July	9.00 am
Last day of Term	Tuesday 20 th July	
Inset Day	Wednesday 21 st July	

3 September 2026

Guidance on fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for school attendance

Dear Parent/Carer,

In June 2024, we wrote to all parents explaining the new Department for Education and Local Authority guidance around the use of fixed penalty notices (FPNs). This included the increase in the fine, together with the process of the first, second and third FPN in a three-year rolling period and how the Local Authority will address each referral.

The new guidance included schools being able to refer to the local authority for an FPN to be issued where a child is taken out of school for 8 or 9 unauthorised sessions for family holiday in order to avoid the 10-session threshold. The direct wording from this government directorate communicated on 24 June 2024 was:

'The Government has also directed fixed penalty notices can be issued for less than this threshold (10 sessions) should circumstances direct, offering details of when this would occur. For example, a parent taking steps to avoid the use of a fixed penalty notice by taking their child out of school for 9 sessions as this would mean the threshold would not be met.'

If the Local Authority (or other authorised officer) believes a penalty notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue one before the threshold is met. This might apply for example, where parents take several term time holidays below threshold, or a 4-day absence during an inset week or following a bank holiday. The West Sussex Code of Conduct allows the Local Authority to use this discretion under point 16 as follows:

16. *If in an individual case the Local Authority (or other authorised officer) believes a Penalty Notice would be appropriate, they retain the discretion to issue one before the National threshold is met.*

Therefore, if a child is absent for a holiday for 8 or 9 sessions without authority during an inset week or following a bank holiday, the school may still make a referral to the Local Authority for consideration of an FPN. Our attendance policy and holiday request form reflect this information.

Kind regards

The Governing Body

Rose Green Infant School



A Greener Screen

ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

Exploring the environment through
special workshops and fantastic
films.



Cine-Mini Workshops

Saturday 12 September

10:00am & 11:45am

A magical interactive first cinema experience for
children aged 5 and under.



Rainbow Kaleidoscope-Making Workshop

Saturday 12 September, 3:00pm

Inspired by the film ARCO this workshop invites
children aged 6+ to explore the magic of light, colour
and moving images.



ARCO

Saturday 12 September, 12.30

This colourful film follows two children affected by
climate catastrophes.



Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom From Friday 2 October

The residents of Mossy Bottom Farm are looking
forward to Halloween until the clumsy farmer trashes
the flock's beloved pumpkin patch.

FIND OUT MORE AND BOOK

www.chichestercinema.org