St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter – Friday 25th September 2026



FOR YOUR DIARY

[ ]

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy and rewarding week it has been across the school! Our children have enjoyed a wonderful range of learning opportunities beyond the classroom, from exploring the natural world at Forest School to developing their problem-solving and design skills through engineering activities at Coastal School. Our pupils have also been busy on educational visits to London, visiting both the British Museum and the Natural History Museum, bringing their learning to life through firsthand experiences. These memorable opportunities enrich our curriculum and inspire curiosity and ambition. My sincere thanks go to all our staff, whose dedication makes these experiences possible while ensuring the school continues to run so smoothly every day.

Mr Murray

Time for Reflection & Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the gift of a new day, for our families, our friends, and our school community.

As we learn, play and grow together, help us to be kind in our words, thoughtful in our actions, and courageous when things feel difficult.

Bless our children, staff and families. Give us thankful hearts, helping hands, and peaceful minds.

May we remember that you are always with us, guiding us and caring for us wherever we go.

Amen.

Psalm 121:2

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."

School Dinners Census Day

Thursday 1 October is Census Day for our new catering company.

The menu and information are on the poster overleaf and also available on the FEED pre-order app.

Please note, some parents may have already placed orders for 1 October before the Census Day menu was published.

As the themed menu differs from the standard menu, please place a new order from the Census Day menu as your initial order has been cancelled.

Thank you.

Focus on Attendance – Autumn Term 2026

Attendance – 93.5%

Authorised Absence – 3.7%

Unauthorised Absence – 2.8%

Lates – 0.7%

Please keep an eye on your child's attendance on MCAS and ensure your child is at school at all times, unless they are too unwell to attend and the illness is recognized as an appropriate absence by the NHS.

Generally, absences for holidays will not be authorized.

If you have any news, children's achievements out of school or community events you would like to see in the newsletter, please do let us know.

A Message from Citizens Advice

Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice are recruiting for volunteers, with volunteering positions suitable for jobseekers, students, parents, those unable to work due to ill health, carers and more.

Volunteering can help boost confidence, teach new skills and provide valuable work experience

If you have any know anyone that you feel this would benefit, please do let them know of their Open Day and encourage them to pop in and chat with the Recruitment Officer on the day.

More information can be found on the poster overleaf.

West Sussex Young People's Strategy Consultation

West Sussex County Council is developing a new Young People's Strategy to help improve leisure-time and recreational opportunities for young people across the county over the next five years.

It aims to bring together young people, communities, activity providers, schools, health partners, voluntary organisations and local authorities to create a more joined-up, inclusive and high-quality offer for young people. The strategy focuses on young people aged 11 to 19 years, and up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It covers activities that take place outside of the classroom and school, college or work, including sports, arts and culture, youth clubs, outdoor activities, volunteering, community activities and other opportunities that help young people learn, develop skills, build relationships and thrive.

Please see the Young People's Leisure time needs assessment for further information: Young peoples recreational and educational leisure time activities

WSCC welcomes your insights and those of our wider school community to help ensure the Strategy is shaped by a broad range of experiences and focused on the priorities that will make the greatest difference to young people across West Sussex.

The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. There is an additional survey for young people, which should take approximately 5 minutes.

For more information, please click here: West Sussex Young People's Strategy 2027-2032: Have Your Say | Your Voice West Sussex

Take part here: Young People's Strategy - Targeted Survey for parents, carers, partners and providers | Your Voice West Sussex

Survey for Young People: *Young People's Strategy - Targeted Youth Friendly Survey | Your Voice West Sussex*

Closing date: *26 October 2026, 11.55pm*

Sponsorships: If you know of any local businesses who may be willing to sponsor us, please come and talk to Mr. Murray.

Event Dates:

Thursday 1st October – Year 5 & 6 Fun Run at TLA (3:45 to 4:45pm)
Tuesday 13th October – Individual School Photos
Tuesday 20th October – Pilgrimage to St Paul's Cathedral
Thursday 22nd October – NHS Flu Nasal Sprays
Friday 23rd October – Inset Day
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half Term
Thursday 5th November – Raise Your Voice Cathedral Choir
Friday 6th November – open morning for Sep '27 Year R intake
Tuesday 10th November – open afternoon for Sep '27 Year R intake
Thursday 17th November – Music Recital
Friday 18th December – Break up for Christmas

New dates are added in red




CHOOSE A SCHOOL MEAL.
SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL.
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER IS CENSUS DAY.
The number of children enjoying a school meal on Census Day can help determine the meal funding available to your school.
By booking a meal for your child, you'll be supporting your school while giving them the chance to enjoy our special Today's Harvest menu.
BOOK YOUR CHILD'S MEAL THROUGH THE FEED APP TODAY!
TODAY'S HARVEST
MAIN COURSES
• Chicken Goujons with Chips
• Halal Chicken Goujons with Chips
• Margherita Pizza Slice with Chips
• Jacket Potato with baked beans, tuna or cheese
SERVED WITH
• Sweetcorn from the Sunny Fields
• Country Baked Beans
DESSERTS
• Autumn Banana Bread with Custard
• Harvest Rainbow Fruit & Yoghurt
Plant-based and special-diet options are also available through the FEED app.

citizens advice Arun & Chichester

Can't make it?

VOLUNTEERING OPEN DAY

- Boost confidence
- Valuable work experience
- Roles available in Bognor, Chichester, Littlehampton & remote



Q & A



Role breakdowns



Meet us

Friday 25th September

9:30AM - 12:30PM

10A The Arcade
Belmont Street
Bognor Regis
PO21 1LH

Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice is an operating name of Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice Bureau
Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice Bureau is a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in Cardiff. Company No. 4787378 and is a Registered Charity, No. 1099640 10A The Arcade, Belmont Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1LH.
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