



NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM MRS METCALFE AND MR LEHMANN

We have reached the halfway point of the school year, with our spring half-term holiday coming up next week. It has felt like a short term; however, we have managed to achieve a lot! Visits to Goodwood Farm, art galleries, many sporting events, and visits from local emergency services have all enriched the children's experiences.

Our sporting teams have been very busy. Well done to our cross-country team and our dodgeball team; they showed excellent teamwork and sporting values throughout. A huge thank you to the staff who organised these events for the children.

Well done also to our choir for taking part in the Young Voices concert at the O2. This was an uplifting evening, with thousands of pupils coming together to sing songs with shared messages and values. The result was a joyful and inspiring night of bright voices and much excitement — even at midnight on the way home! Our children truly shone.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the visitors who have come to our school this term. We have been fortunate to welcome a wide range of individuals, including Canon Paul, Rev. Paul and Zena, volunteer readers, and members of our local community, who have generously shared their knowledge and experiences with our pupils. These visits have genuinely enriched our curriculum and broadened our pupils' horizons.

Despite the rainy weather, our spirits remain high as we eagerly await the arrival of spring. The new season brings a sense of renewal and excitement, and I am confident that our pupils will continue to flourish both academically and socially.



INTERNET SAFE EDUCATION

Safer Internet Day is an annual global event that encourages families, schools, and communities to think more carefully about how we use the internet — and how we can help children stay safe online. Held on the second Tuesday in February each year, Safer Internet Day 2026 is a timely reminder that online safety isn't just a one-day conversation, but an ongoing part of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents, carers, and guardians, it's an opportunity to pause, check in, and have open conversations with children about their online lives — without fear, judgment, or panic.

How Parents Can Get Involved (Without Lecturing)

You don't need to be a tech expert to take part in Safer Internet Day. Simple, everyday actions make the biggest difference:

Start a conversation

Ask your child what apps, games, or platforms they enjoy most — and *why*. Listening matters more than talking.

Check privacy settings together

Use this as a learning moment, not a crackdown. Explain why certain settings exist and how they protect personal information

Talk about smart choices

Discuss things like:

- What to do if something online feels uncomfortable
- Why not everything online is true or safe
- When to pause, log off, or ask for help

Reassure them

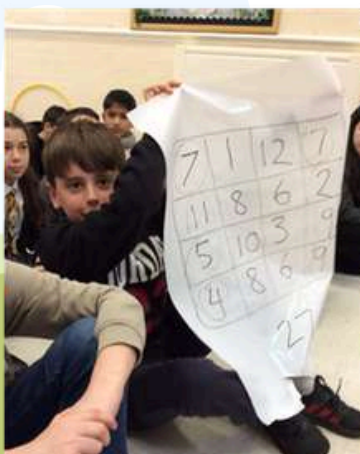
Make sure your child knows they won't get in trouble for coming to you — even if they've made a mistake online.

Number Day

NSPCC



On Friday, we enjoyed an exciting visit from Professor Poopenshtinken from Magical Maths! The children had a fantastic time exploring a range of fun maths activities and tricks designed to boost their confidence and enthusiasm for the subject. We would also like to say a huge thank you for your generous donations – we raised an amazing £44. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Nursery

This half term, Nursery have been making the most of their all-weather play, even taking a little trip to the junior playground to splash in the enormous puddle left behind by all the rain! During the especially cold spell, the children also spent time investigating the ice, and they have loved showing off their driving skills in the garden.

As a team, we believe that children flourish when they learn, play and explore outdoors throughout the year. Engaging in all-weather play helps to develop wellbeing, resilience, physical skills, communication, problem-solving, curiosity and a genuine love of the natural world.

Alongside this, the children have enjoyed plenty of muddy adventures in Forest School. They have learned new sounds in phonics, carried out science investigations linked to the Gingerbread Man, and used their kitchen skills to bake, decorate and—most importantly—eat Gingerbread Men, pizzas, pastries and apple pies. Music-making has been another highlight, with lots of singing of nursery rhymes, and the children have been delighted to meet new characters through our Fairy Tales.

At the moment, we are running extremely low on spare clothing (underwear, socks, trousers, tops, jumpers), waterproofs/all-in-one suits and wellies. If you have any items at home that are no longer needed and could be donated, we would be very grateful.





Robin Class



This term in Robin Class we have been learning all about the seasons and the weather! We have enjoyed reading books linked to different types of weather and the four seasons, and we have had daily discussions about what the weather is like each day.

In our indoor provision, our role-play area has been used in lots of exciting ways, including transforming into a café to support our personal, social and emotional development. In our outdoor provision, we have incorporated maths into our play—measuring our height and even creating a train!

In maths, we have been exploring numbers to 7. We used aliens to help us understand 6 and 7 as “5 and a bit,” and we have been supporting the Numberblocks to build a staircase pattern up to 5.

We are ending our term with a trip to the farm. To prepare, we have been reading farm-themed books and have even created our very own farm within the classroom!



Starling Class



This half term, we have been learning all about the seasons—exploring what we might wear in each one, how the trees change, and the different activities we enjoy throughout the year. We also became weather watchers, keeping track of the weather every morning and afternoon and even setting up our very own class weather station! The children especially loved our week of “camping” together before heading off on our exciting Goodwood Farm adventure.

Reception children have grown so much in confidence across all areas of learning, and it is wonderful to see them thrive each day. We can't wait for our next adventure as we begin exploring growing and gardening.



Goldfinch Class

In Art, the children have been diving into the magical world of colour through hands-on, creative exploration! They discovered the power of primary colours and experimented with mixing them to create brand-new secondary shades. Using their growing skills, they painted, printed and played with colour in all sorts of imaginative ways. We ended the unit with a brilliant project inspired by the artist Clarice Cliff, where each child designed and painted their own decorative plate—bursting with personality, bold patterns and impressive colour-mixing techniques!

In Science, we've been on an exciting journey through the four seasons, exploring how weather, animals and the environment change throughout the year. The children particularly loved building dens, thinking like real wildlife experts as they considered how different animals create shelters to stay safe and warm in all kinds of weather.





Wren Class



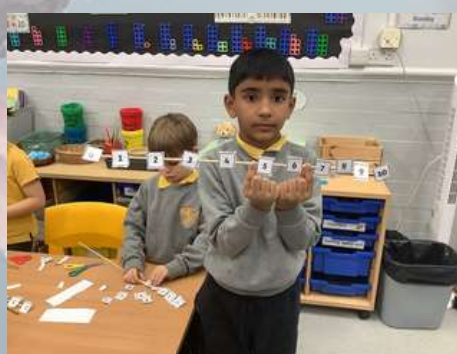
This half term, Wren Class have been buzzing with energy as they explored a whole range of exciting topics across the curriculum!

In History, the children discovered the incredible story of Mary Seacole, learning how she courageously cared for wounded soldiers during the Crimean War. Her bravery, kindness and determination truly inspired the class.

In Art, the children became designers in their own right, studying the bold and colourful work of Clarice Cliff. Using her vibrant patterns as inspiration, they created their own striking plate designs –each one bursting with creativity and personality.

Science has been equally thrilling, as Wren Class explored the four seasons and observed how the weather, daylight and natural world shift throughout the year. They were fascinated to learn about hibernation and loved using natural materials to build cosy nests for a chosen animal.

In English, the children have been developing their story-writing skills, crafting imaginative tales using full sentences, adventurous vocabulary and wonderful ideas of their own. Books such as Iggy Peck, Architect and The Magic Bed have sparked their curiosity and helped to deepen their love of storytelling and reading.



Owl Class

This term, our topic has been Check Out Chichester, and we've had an amazing time becoming real historians and uncovering fascinating facts about the place we call home! On our city trip, we explored some of Chichester's most iconic landmarks, including the Market Cross, the Cathedral and the beautiful Bishop's Palace Gardens. We compared old and new buildings and even discovered how the Romans cleverly designed the city centre in the shape of a cross—an incredible link to our past.

We also learned all about our very own school treasure: Majesty, our beautifully old rocking horse! The children loved using historical language to compare her features with those of our school buildings.

In English, we have been diving into Tadpole's Promise and The Owl and the Pussy-cat, using these wonderful texts to develop a whole range of writing skills. The children produced fantastic stories packed with expanded noun phrases, apostrophes, verbs and conjunctions. We also had great fun learning about syllables—especially clapping out the beats in our names while using music.

In Maths, we explored arrays to help us understand equal groups, multiplication and division. The children impressed us with their growing confidence using the 2, 5 and 10 times tables to solve practical problems.

Our Science topic on plants has been full of discovery. We designed our own investigation to explore what plants need to grow and stay healthy, and we created fun actions to help us remember each step of the plant life cycle—from first to next to finally!

Forest School has been one of the highlights of the term—often muddy, always exciting! The children loved exploring the natural world and spotting signs of new growth linked to our plant topic.



St Gabriel Class

This half term, St Gabriel's Class has been bursting with energy and curiosity, diving into a vibrant mix of learning across the curriculum!

In Science, the children have been exploring the amazing world of sound through a series of fun, hands-on investigations. They used balloons to feel sound vibrations, tested how loud different noises were with a decibel meter, and even created their own musical instruments from everyday classroom objects to experiment with pitch. Their faces lit up as they discovered how sound moves and changes!

Our History topic on the Anglo-Saxons has taken the class on a fascinating journey back in time. The children were intrigued to learn that England was once divided into seven separate kingdoms. They also explored how two different forms of Christianity returned to Britain, leading to the hugely important Synod of Whitby in 664 CE—where leaders chose to follow the Roman tradition led by the Pope. The class loved uncovering how these decisions shaped the country we live in today.

In English, the children were thoroughly inspired by Anthony Browne's *Gorilla*. They used the book as a springboard to craft their own imaginative retellings, filled with creativity, descriptive detail and a wonderful sense of adventure.

Meanwhile, in DR, the classic story *Stig of the Dump* sparked rich, meaningful discussions about rural life in Britain's recent past. The children even took part in a thoughtful debate on the now-banned practice of fox hunting, sharing well-reasoned opinions and developing their understanding of ethics and traditions.

It has been an exceptionally exciting and productive half term—full of questioning, creating, debating and discovering. We are incredibly proud of the progress St Gabriel's Class has made and the enthusiasm they bring to their learning every day.



St Paul Class

St Paul Class have had an incredible term bursting with creativity, curiosity and brilliant learning. In Science, the children were amazed to discover how the pitch of a sound changes as a straw gets shorter—each snip making it squeak higher and higher! This simple experiment sparked a wave of excitement as they explored how sound really works.

In Art, the class wowed everyone by blending mathematical thinking with imaginative design. They created striking tessellations and even invented their own impossible shapes—optical illusions that seemed to leap right off the page. Their attention to detail and originality were truly impressive.

One of the biggest highlights of the term was our English work. St Paul Class poured effort and imagination into crafting outstanding stories inspired by the book Gorilla. Their writing was so powerful, creative and well-crafted that Mr Hamilton proudly declared them the best pieces he had ever seen from the class.

It has been a wonderful term filled with hard work, imagination and pride. St Paul Class should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.





St Bartholomew Class

St Bartholomew Class have enjoyed a wonderfully enriching and exciting half term!

The children were absolutely captivated during their visit to Chichester Festival Theatre, where they had the fantastic opportunity to watch a live orchestra perform. They loved discovering how different instruments create sound and seeing musicians bring music to life right in front of them.

Back at school, the class transformed into young scientists, carrying out a range of hands-on experiments to investigate how the world works. Their curiosity and enthusiasm shone through as they predicted, tested and explored new ideas.

In Art, the children have shown impressive creativity and determination, producing striking tessellation patterns inspired by repeating shapes and bold, eye-catching designs. Their attention to detail was brilliant, and the final pieces were a real celebration of perseverance and imagination.

To top it all off, the class had a fantastic time celebrating Number Day! They tackled a variety of mathematical challenges, puzzles and activities, demonstrating excellent teamwork and problem-solving skills.

It has been a brilliant half term , well done, St Bartholomew Class!



St Anne Class

It's hard to believe we are already approaching the end of another half term – and halfway through Year 5! St Anne Class have had a wonderful, busy and enriching few weeks, full of curiosity, creativity and hard work.

In Geography, the children have been diving into the fascinating world of the Amazon Rainforest. They can now confidently talk about the different layers of the rainforest and what makes each one unique. Their enthusiasm for this topic has been fantastic to see.

We are also incredibly proud of the progress the children have made with their times tables. Through dedication in class and consistent practice at home, our Soundcheck results have shown a brilliant upward trend. The improvement is clear, and the children should feel very proud of themselves.

In Art, the class has been experimenting with “poem portraits,” combining their creativity with watercolour backgrounds to produce thoughtful and imaginative pieces. I am looking forward to seeing their finished work.

Computing has been a real highlight this term too. The children have had the opportunity to explore Micro:bits – tiny programmable computers that open the door to real-world coding. By following and inputting simple programs on the laptops and then downloading them onto the devices, pupils have been able to see the code come to life. Their excitement and enthusiasm during these lessons have been infectious, and many look forward to Computing each week.

As we move towards the half-term break, we want to celebrate the achievements of every child in St Anne. It has been a productive and inspiring start to 2026, and we are excited to see what the next half term brings.



St Catherine Class

St Catherine's have had an absolutely amazing time in Forest School this term!

The children have thrown themselves into every activity with huge enthusiasm. They used real tools to design and carve their own mini wooden mushrooms, and learned how to safely light a fire—an exciting challenge that they rose to brilliantly. Their proudest moment? Cooking and tasting delicious jam pancakes over the flames!

Their adventures didn't stop there. The class embraced the mud kitchen (with plenty of knee-sliding for good measure!), explored the swing and den-building area, and set off on bug- and worm-hunting missions with great excitement. It has been a joy to watch their teamwork, imagination and confidence flourish outdoors.

We are also becoming fantastic Internet Safety Experts!

As part of National Safer Internet Day, the children took part in a live BBC lesson all about the role of AI. They were fully engaged and asked thoughtful questions throughout. Every child can confidently explain that AI is not human and can talk about how to stay safe, sensible and responsible online. Their awareness and maturity have made us incredibly proud.



St Richard Class

St Richard Class have had a wonderful half-term of learning and exploration. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their Forest School sessions and especially loved embracing the rain and mud with big smiles and plenty of enthusiasm! They also had a fantastic time visiting the Oxmarket Community Art Gallery, where they spent time sketching alongside local artist Nicola Rose, who inspired them to look closely and draw with confidence.

Looking ahead, we are very excited about our upcoming residential trip to Windmill Hill. This promises to be a memorable adventure full of new challenges, teamwork and fun. Don't forget to pack more than one pair of shoes, as the activities can get a little muddy!

Thank you for your continued support.

