

19th December 2025

Dear Families,

Can you believe we have reached the end of term? How time flies! The children have been so lucky to enjoy a very special few weeks full of events leading up to Christmas, including: ***our Tree Dressing Worship, our amazing PSA Christmas Fayre, visiting donkeys from East Clayton Farm, the Christingle Service at St Mary's Church, magical 'Woolly' Nativity performances from Reception and KS1, the Christmas Choir singing workshop and concert with Emily Barden at Arundel Cathedral....***

and there's more:

Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch, the very special KS2 Carol Services at St Mary's Church and finally yesterday, the very memorable Staff Pantomime of Cinderella followed by an afternoon of festive fun, craft, games and party food.

Thank you everyone for helping to make these special events so memorable!



PSA Christmas Fayre

Thank you so much to our lead organisers Jenn H, Emma P and our lovely PSA for their incredible efforts and organisation of our Christmas Fayre a few weeks ago. It was a very 'Christmassy' evening, with lots of festive treats, games, yummy food and a wonderful array of raffle prizes for the taking!

With your support the PSA have helped to raise an incredible
£5,555.48 for our school!

Thank you so much to all our families and to everyone who made the evening such a success. We hope many of you were lucky winners in the raffle!



Two Little Donkeys...

What a wonderful surprise the children had when two donkeys came to visit us a few weeks ago (despite the hideously cold, wet weather!)

We would like to say a huge thank you to Jake in Year 6, and to Katy Sharp and Jackie Duplock from East Clayton Farm for organising this special event and during the season of advent!

Each class visited the donkeys, and found out about how they are looked after, cleaned, groomed and cared for at East Clayton Farm.

Thank you Jake- you were such a help and made sure the donkeys were as happy as they could be in the rain throughout the day!



Christingle Service with West Park – Monday 8th December

As part of our Growing Partnership agreement between our school communities and St Mary's Church, we joined with West Park for an intimate Christingle Service a few Sundays ago.

Thanks to two of our Liturgy Team members, Alice and Seb, for their beautiful readings to the congregation. Father Keith gave out some beautiful Advent candles to help us share The Light and warmth of God's love, each day represented with a different name and title for Jesus. We were all reminded of peace and time for reflection and preparation.





Well done to all our Early Years and KS1 children- who sang and danced with sparkle and enthusiasm during their performances of **"Woolly", a generous sheep who taught us about giving and reminded us that we can all be special in our own, unique ways.**

Thank you to our narrators, whose clear and animated voices told the story beautifully and to our two main 'Woolly' stars aka Elsie in Owl Class and Leandro in Magpie Class.

Children, you were all AMAZINGLY brave in front of such a large audience, your costumes were fantastic and you simply sparkled!

Thank you to our Reception and Key Stage 1 staff team who worked tirelessly to ensure our performances ran so smoothly!

Thank you to our support staff for their efforts in creating the beautiful backdrop of the hills, Bethlehem and stable!

With your donations, including those everyone donated for Christmas Jumper day, we have raised a staggering **£769.39** for Chestnut Tree House!

Thank you!



Christmas Singing at Arundel Cathedral

Last Thursday we took 42 children from Years 4 and 5 to Arundel Cathedral, and enjoyed a fun, active singing workshop, led by West Sussex singing lead, Emily Barden. The children worked hard this half term, learning the four Christmas songs that were then performed alongside choirs from six other local primary schools.

The songs included the classic "Little Donkey", a complicated three part arrangement of "Winter Carol" by Fiona Lander, and a lively number composed by Emily herself, from the point of view of an item of clothing unused for 11 months of the year: "Christmas Jumper"!

The children were impeccably behaved throughout the day and during the performance to parents, sang like angels.

A moving experience but one that will be treasured. Well done children and to Mrs Whittaker for instilling such a passion for singing and music to so many of our children!



"I could not be prouder of our amazing children! They sung their hearts out, represented the School wonderfully and we all Had an amazing time!"

Mrs Whittaker

"This was the best day ever!"

Daisy



Secret Panto and Class Parties!

The children went on a journey, not to Bethlehem this time, but to the house of Baron Hardup where the story of Cinderella and her 'Fella' unfolded in an amazing Pantomime led by the staff.

Compost and Petal we love you really, even if you were really mean to your sister... 'Oh no we don't!'

What a treat... followed by an afternoon of fun, games and festive party foods in the hall and classrooms! Happy faces, laughter (slight hysteria from the staff) and full tummies!



St Mary's Church KS2 Carol Services

Our KS2 children shone during the two beautiful Carol Services on Wednesday morning at St Mary's Church.

Puffin and Seagull classes led each service so well with their unique and 'live broadcasts' from Bethlehem of the lead up to and birth of Baby Jesus.

Each class performed a special song that captured the spirit of the season and the congregation joined in with 'gusto' to some well-known Christmas Carols.

The service came to an end, with prayers and a blessing from Father Keith, who reminded us that we can truly make a difference to others with our small acts of kindness, care and compassion. Thank you Father Keith for letting us sing praise with you in our Lord's special place of worship and to Miss Leach and Mrs Whittaker for supporting the Year 4 children in their lead and narration.

GOODBYE

We say a sad goodbye to Mrs O'Brian who has supported our school for more than 9 years!

Seagull and Hawk Class will miss you in particular!

Mrs O-Brian is looking forward to the adventures that retirement brings! Happy traveling Mrs O'Brian and we look forward to hearing about your new adventures!

Governor News

Wow, what a term! As a governing board, we have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a wealth of school activities this half term. We were honoured to be asked to lay some wreaths for the school at the Remembrance Service at St Laurence's in November. We have also enjoyed all of the incredible performances by the children this term: Y3's Ukulele concert; the fantastic KS1 and EYFS nativity; KS2's beautiful carol service ably led by Year 4 children and the Christingle at St Mary's in partnership with West Park.

We were also delighted to welcome Jason Brown to our governing board and we know that he will bring some excellent skills and experience as we continue to build our team.

We hope that you all have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Kirsty Luff and Melanie Smith



At this special time of year, it is important to express my thanks to so many

A personal thank you to all our staff and leadership team for their enthusiasm, endless support, care and dedication in fulfilling the vision of our school.

They know your children very well and continue to work so hard to ensure the children remain safe, happy and learn in engaging ways!



A big Thank you go to our Co-Chairs of Governors, Mrs Kirsty Luff, Mrs Melanie Smith and our Governing Body for their strategic vision, contributions and commitment to the school, its staff and pupils this term.
We also appreciate you joining us for so many events!

Our thanks to Father Keith and the wonderful team at St Mary's Church for the supportive work they do in our community and for leading some special Collective Worship this Autumn.

A huge thanks also to Rev Bev from The Place at St Laurence's Church, Sue Stamp from the Bible Society and Rev'd Steven Donnison, minister of Goring-By-Sea Methodist Church.

We thank them all for their thought-provoking worships and for their prayers and blessings of peace and kindness.

Thank You

Our thanks to parent volunteers who have helped regularly in the classroom this term, and to those of you who have helped on school trips and visits!

We do appreciate the time you can give to support our children in reading, sewing, art activities and much more! We look forward to your continued help next term!

Thank you to our wonderful PSA and a special shout out to Emma, Chair of the PSA for all the wonderful events we have enjoyed this term.

The work you do to fundraise for our school throughout the year, and provide the children with fun events to look forward to, is simply amazing! We are very lucky to have your ongoing commitment!



Finally, a thank you to all our families for their support, appreciation and for attending so many school events this term in support of your child and their education!
We do appreciate the partnership we have with so many of you!



A few reminders for the Spring Term!

Medicines back to school

If your child has any medication, please make sure you return this for the first week back after Christmas. If any medication has changed, we will need to update your child's records.

Equally, if your contact details or collection arrangements for your child have changed etc. please inform us at the earliest opportunity.



If you are ordering Hot School Meals for your child for the first week back of the Spring term (wk commencing 06.01.26),

please don't forget the Chartwells deadline for online ordering is 24th December.

We cannot order meals for you.

Lost Property!

Any unnamed, unclaimed items of clothing or uniform will be going to charity shops at the end of the first week back of the Spring term.

If you are aware that your child has lost something, please make sure you come in and check **before Friday 9th January.**



Lost
property

Please remember to regularly check our community page for new information on local events, clubs and other activities. We like to share these opportunities with you, so you are aware of what is going on in and around our community.

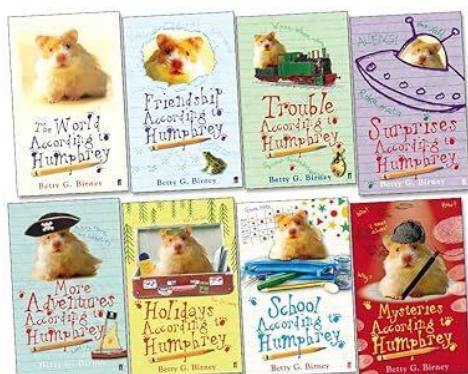
<https://goringprimary.org/parents/community-information>

PLEASE READ!

West Sussex Library Service have alerted us to the fact that on the back of some editions of the 'According to Humphrey' series there is a reference to the former website for the series. The domain name is now controlled by an unrelated third party where there could potentially be unsafe content.

In case you have any of these books at home, **Please do not open the link to the website on the back of these editions.**

These books have been removed from our school/class libraries.



Congratulations!



We must say a massive CONGRATULATIONS to Mia in Osprey Class, who recently competed in the South East schools trampolining competition, in the year 1-6 elite group.

Mia came 1st in the group and qualified for the zonal competition that is due to take place in Somerset in January. The video of her second routine (her first time competing it) was incredible and Mia makes all her moves look so easy! What an achievement and incredible experience for her. You are truly a star!



If your child has achieved something outside of school and worth celebrating, and they wish to share it, please feel free to email the school office with some information and a photo (with your consent for this to be shared) and I will do my best to include this in any future school newsletters.



A congratulations to all our children who have been nominated this term for a special Values Award, recognition for Wow work this term, or played an instrument in Worship to share your amazing talents with us!
We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Working in a Primary School on the run up to Christmas and enjoying the children's faces and responses to such wonderful events, just has to be the very best place to work at this time of year. I have so enjoyed being able to share my first Christmas with you all this term.

On behalf of all the staff and governors, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas with your wonderful families. Take time to enjoy this special time together, giving, sharing, enjoying some peace, compassion and love.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school for the Spring Term, on **Tuesday 6th January 2026 (Mon 5th is an INSET day- where school is closed).**

Mrs Brockhurst
Headteacher



Headteacher Mrs L Brockhurst

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PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2023 - 2024



FFT National
Attendance Award
2023/24

