

3 February 2026

Dear Families,



A belated but Happy New Year to everyone and can we again express our thanks for showing your appreciation for our staff at the end of last term. Your gifts, cards and good wishes were very much appreciated.

2026 has started well with the children embracing new learning topics and themes, showing an enthusiasm for their learning. Our children are exploring and growing in new and exciting ways. From our very first Forest School sessions for our Reception classes that help to connect our youngest learners with nature and the environment, to writing imaginatively about dragons and their amazing powers and skills in Year 3, to persuading our government to protect our seas from increasing plastic pollution in Year 6. Each theme is clearly sparking curiosity, creativity and a determination to make a difference to our world.

Learning Spotlight on Reception

As part of the children's 'What shall I wear' learning about past and present, Robin and Finch classes had a special box arrive in their classrooms! This contained lots of clothing and hats from the past, ready for trying on and role-playing with! The children have had a wonderful time, as you can see, and would you believe in the box contained a replica of Queen Victoria's Bloomers- for eyes only!

Talking to the children about the clothing, they decided that this is why Queen Victoria always looks grumpy in the pictures, because her bloomers were so big and uncomfortable!

Thank you Worthing Museum for this fascinating loan of items- you have certainly caught the children's interest and enthusiasm!



**Riley in Year 5, said,
"I loved it when it went
dark and we all lit our
torches, it was like a
of lights."**

Young Voices concert at the O2

A few weeks ago, 36 of our Year 5 and 6 children travelled up to the London O2 Stadium to participate in Young Voices, one of the largest massed choir concerts in the UK. Along with nearly 9,000 other young singers, a live band, professional singers and the 'Urban Strides' dance troupe, our children rehearsed and performed many musical songs from genres of pop to sea shanties and musical theatre! We were so proud of our children who were seated very high up, as they sang their hearts out for a capacity audience.

Thank you to the staff who supported a very long day and evening and who kept the children safe, happy and enthralled!

What an experience never to forget!

Sir Kier Starmer MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you with deep concern about the terrible pollution in our seas, an issue that is threatening the lives of all sea creatures and even some on land. As a young person, I am very disappointed about the plastic pollution and so will the next generations to come.

Plastic pollution in our seas has gotten horrific, with millions of tonnes of plastic in the seas. This includes plastic bags, bottles, straws, glass and microplastics. It's not just threatening the marine animals, it's also us!! Remember that there will be more plastic than fish, as soon as 2050. We should put a ban to single use plastic items because it's killing the fish.

There are a few things that the Government could do. Here they are: Firstly, shut down the companies that sell plastic bottles and tell them to use reusable bottles with water in. Did you know that fish and all kinds of different sea creatures are playing with plastic in terrible. Secondly, stop ignoring it and just help us birds eat fish and they die because they ate fish which has eaten plastic. Can you imagine that you will not be able to hear the squawks and squeaks of the birds in the

Learning Spotlight on Year 6

Over the last few weeks in English, the children in Eagle and Hawk Class have been exploring the damage caused by plastic pollution and the horrendous, long-lasting effects it is having on our planet and wildlife.

They have examined real-world examples and debated why this is such an important global issue. Using this knowledge, the children have written powerful and persuasive letters to our

Prime Minister, Sir Kier Starmer, calling for change to take place now and persuading the government to take action to reduce plastic waste and protect our environment.

Our theme for Collective Worship this half term is:

LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS.

We have been thinking of the importance of putting others before ourselves. This is not always easy, but we know that this is what God wants us to do to make those small differences.

Here are some of the children's ideas on what they could do this year to show they can do things differently and show love for one another:

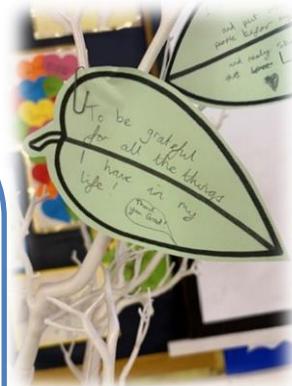
"Put others before ME."

"I want to be a better friend and listen better..."

"I want to be positive for all of my friends."

"God's love for us is unbreakable- so we must be sensible and show love to others just like his promise to us." Bow Y3

We have been exploring the story of The Good Samaritan and how Zaccheus, who didn't have any friends, changed his ways as he knew God saw him for the special person he could be.



Governors' Corner

January always offers an opportunity to reflect and we thought this might be a good opportunity to share a few reflections of our impact as governors. At the end of each governors' meeting, we reflect on the impact we feel that we have had on the school throughout the meeting. The agendas are always very full and this provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on our role - strategic direction, financial oversight and accountability of the school.

In the last few meetings we have:

- Scrutinised the budget and pupil premium strategy
- Planned an upcoming governor monitoring day
- Scrutinised internal attainment data
- Ratified policies including online safety and mental health and wellbeing
- Asked questions around staff wellbeing and SEN training for staff
- Heard from governors who have undertaken school visits.

Absence from learning
Please note that children should not be taken out of school for holidays during term time and requests for absence of this nature will not be authorised.

These will be marked accordingly on your child's record.

Attendance

It is very pleasing to see that despite many absences due to illness late autumn, our attendance in school has improved again. For those who struggle to ensure their child is in school every day, please make immediate contact with the school office and your child's class teacher for support. Our attendance lead, Mrs Whittaker, continues to monitor individual attendance levels and will make contact with parents/ carers to offer help as required, where there are concerns or particular trends.

We do have a few children who are regularly late into school. Please can a special effort be made to address this so that all children can have a calm start, accessing the introduction to the day's learning successfully with their teacher.

Sporting Highlights!

Athletics!

Our Year 5 and 6 Athletes enjoyed an evening's Indoor Athletics competition last week at St Andrew's High School. Thank you to our parents who supported the last minute change of venue, transporting the children to and from the high school!

During the evening, the children showed tremendous focus and a positive attitude throughout the races and other events. We are incredibly proud of them for not only winning the competition, but also representing our school with pride.

It was wonderful to see everyone wearing their gold medals as they came through the gates on Friday! Thank you to Mr Ireland and Mr Wilkins who were with them every step of the way!

Our Year 4 football team took part in a tournament last Tuesday, playing a number of matches with great determination.

They demonstrated skill, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. Their hard work paid off as they finished in an impressive 3rd place out of 9 teams.

A huge Well Done to everyone involved and thank you also to Miss Evans for attending and supporting our team of players.





Lost Property!

We seem to have a big volume of items still unclaimed. Any un-named lost property will be given to charity at half term.

If you are aware of your child having lost an item of uniform/ clothing or other belongings at school, please let us know so we can check!



Collection Arrangements

Please remember if plans for collection of your child for the end of the school day have changed, you must inform the school office as soon as possible.

We cannot release the children to someone different unless we have this confirmed by you as parent/carer.

No dogs in school please!

Please can we remind you that for our children's safety, no dogs should be brought into the school grounds. This includes them being held under the arm. Please can we respect and follow this policy.



Scooters, trikes and balance bikes

Please can we remind you that on entrance through the KS1 gates into school, all children including toddlers and pre-schoolers, dismount from bikes and scooters and walk into school.

We have had a few complaints about this and near misses, with young children riding very fast into the playground and waiting area, unaware of the dangers this could cause to others.

We really don't want any accidents.



Parking outside the school

Thank you to those of you who park sensibly to drop-off or collect your child each day and if you walk to and from school. We really appreciate this conscious effort to reduce the parking issues and encourage physical exercise for your child.

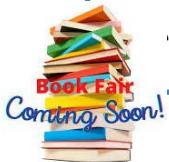
Unfortunately, at morning drop off for children who attend before school clubs, we have received a number of recent complaints from our local residents living next to the school. Complaints are about parents/ carers parking over driveways, blocking car access, parking over the yellow zig zag lines and over the pavement blocking pedestrian access. There have been a few occasions where drivers have been verbally abusive towards residents.

This is not how we expect families to behave towards one another, and does not set a positive example to the children who are in your care at the time.

We know parking is challenging nearby the school, and we encourage you, wherever possible, to park further away where it is safe and walk and stride with your child into school. Please consider how this would feel if the situation were reversed and be mindful when parking to support our neighbours.

Book Fair

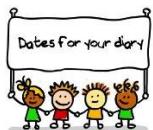
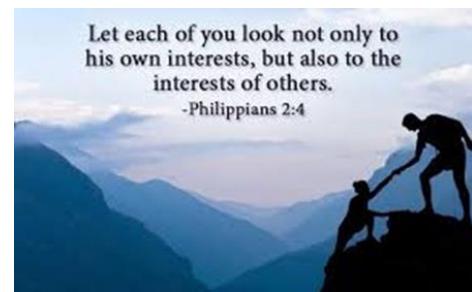
Our next Book Fair is on 12th March in the hall from 3.45pm to 6.30pm. Reminders near the time!



If your child has achieved something outside of school 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 we can include this in one of our newsletters.

Please remember that you are all a vital part of our school family, and I ask that you reach out if you require support at any point. We pray that the Lord continues to watch over our whole community, supports and guides us to make wise decisions through his love and care and helps us to see where we can make small differences for the better.

Mrs Brockhurst
Headteacher



Spring Term 2026

Monday 2 February	Yr 2 visit to English Martyr's Church
Wednesday 11 February	Year 5 London Trip to see 'Matilda' 'Big Little Sing' concert for Year 2 at West Park CE Primary School (children only) 9.30-11.30am
Half Term Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February	
Wednesday 4 March	Spring Parent/Carers Consultation Meeting 3.45-6.45pm
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day- dress up as a book character
Monday 9 March	Year 6 parent/carer SATS meeting time TBC
Thursday 12 March	Parent/Carers Consultation Meeting 3.45-6.45pm
Mon 16 – Thurs 19 March	Mock SATS week for Year 6
Wednesday 18 March	Year 4 Production to parents/carers 6.00pm (St Mary's Hall)
Thursday 19 March	Year 4 Production to parents/carers 6.00pm (St Mary's Hall)
Monday 23 March	Easter Services for school times TBC
Wednesday 25 March	Rocksteady Concerts times TBC
Thursday 26 March	PSA Easter Discos times TBC
Friday 27 March	Last day of Spring term
Easter Holidays Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April	
Summer Term 2026	
Monday 13 April	INSET day for staff - School closed for children
Tuesday 14 April	Summer Term begins

A few upcoming events you may be interested in for St Mary's Church:

Seekers Junior Church 10am - For children aged 3-12 years

St Mary's Church Hall (every Sunday except 1st Sunday of the month.)

All are welcome! We can't wait to meet you and your family.

For more information contact: Anne-Marie Coe 07887 690654 or email

amcoe@hotmail.co.uk



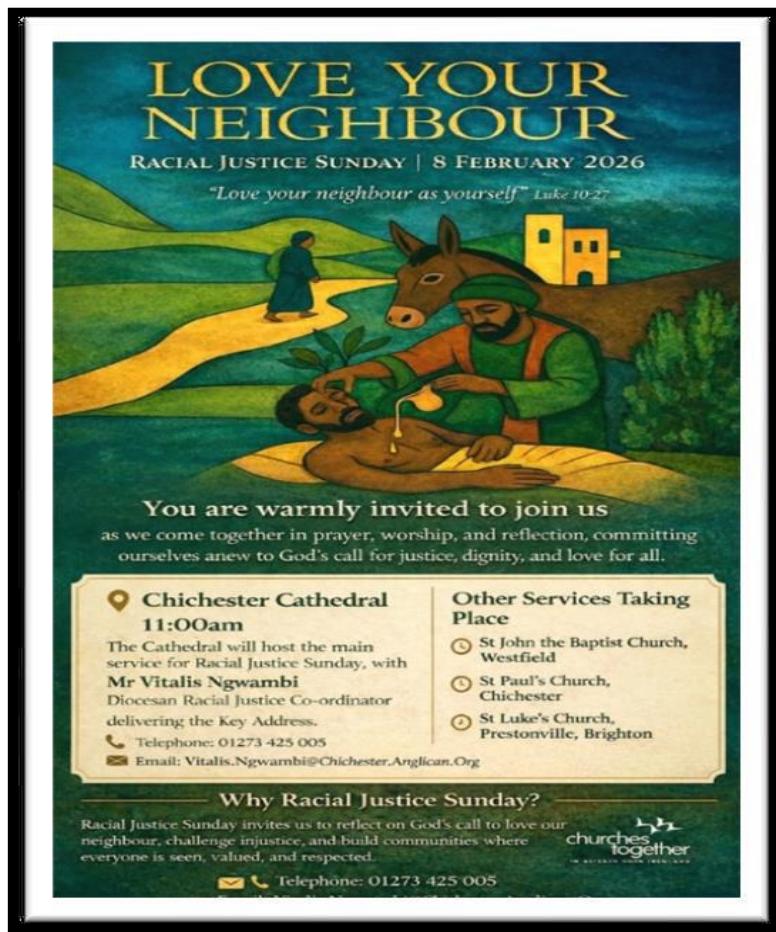
A Place of Welcome (drop-in have a cuppa and chat with others)

... is open every **Monday (including Bank Holidays!)** in St Mary's Church Hall **1.30pm – 3.30pm**. Everyone is welcome for refreshments and lively conversation.

Pastoral Visits and Prayer Circles

Please let the Vicar or Churchwardens know if you have a personal or pastoral concern or know of someone in need, and if your friends and family have special concerns for prayer. Please contact Barbara Webber (01903 240613) or Julie Marlow (07940 588880) who will pass them on to the Prayer Circles.

Both Churches are open daily for prayer 10am - 4pm, Sundays 12 noon - 4pm.



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