



Newsletter

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Autumn
Term
Newsletter
Friday 11th
September
2026

Dear families,

It has been a pleasure watching the new classes settle into routine and some cohorts rekindling old friendships now that they are in the same class again! Willow Class and our new starters have settled brilliantly and there is a positive buzz of learning happening around the school.

As you know, there have been some teething problems with the new **hot meal provider**. The food tastes delicious but, as with any new system, it is just taking time to adjust. This is a county wide issue and Lucie, in our kitchen, is doing a tremendous job. The children have adapted brilliantly too and hopefully these initial issues will be ironed out quickly. Following discussions with staff, pupils and parents, Friday worship is going to change slightly this year. Each Friday, the school will hold a **celebration assembly** for academic and values awards and for maths certificates which will all come home on the day after a photo of the children is taken.

On the last Friday of each term, we will hold a celebration assembly that families are welcome to attend. This will include sporting achievements and other successes out of school, along with team points and attendance certificates. This worship will be followed by the opportunity for children to share work with family members. As a compromise for those families who regularly attend and enjoy our Friday worship, we are happy to open up our weekly Wednesday worship in the

church to any parents/carers who would like to join us. We will ensure that there is space at the back of the church for you to sit. Dates for the termly Friday family worship will be on the website.

Willow Class

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year. It has been amazing to welcome in the new reception children who have settled beautifully. We have had fun making new friends and trying new things.

Last week, we had a visit from the Horsham Museum, they brought in some old toys which we observed and played with. We learnt about all the different materials toys were made from in the past, including wax!



We have also met our buddies this week! They have been very kind to us and played with all of us at playtimes.



Beech Class

In Beech Class, we have started our first Big Question, What Is In My Toybox? In English, we started our Drawing Club journey with our first book, On Sudden Hill, a story about 2 boys who love to play together and their feelings when a new friend joins them. We have described the setting and characters and imagined how one of the characters feels. We have been learning about the features of letters and have sequenced events from the story. We have started our VIPERS journey with the story Little Red Riding Hood. In Maths, we have been practising counting in multiples of 10, placing them on a number line and completing equations about multiples of 10.



In Computing, we have been talking about uses of ICT. In RE, we have been sharing the story of Ruth and talking about kindness. In Science, we have been talking about materials, identifying materials and their uses and suggesting why they had been chosen for these purposes based on their

properties. Last week we had a toys workshop from Horsham Museum and looked at older toys. In Art, we have been drawing portraits of ourselves, positioning features accurately.



In Learning For Life, we have been talking about our rights and responsibilities, concentrating on our right to be listened to and to learn. In PE, we have been practising our throwing and catching skills. Some children have shared their favourite toys in class, and we would love to see more of these.

If anyone has an old world globe that they no longer require – please could Beech Class have it.

Holly Class

Holly class has started the year excellently. The children have returned to school with brilliant attitudes. The Year 4s have been great helpers and role models and the Year 3s are working really hard.



We have started the term with our big question 'What tools do we need to survive?'

We enjoyed the workshop with Horsham Museum all about the Stone Age. We became archaeologists for the morning – learning how to carefully sift and scrape through sand and dirt to find artefacts. We also looked at how to identify and categorise scrapers, cutting tools and hand axes from their features.

In history and English, we have been imagining life in a Stone Age settlement. We planned out our village and discussed what resources we needed. We invented characters and roles such as forager, hunter, guard and toolmaker. We've been hit with our first problem – rising sea levels and we had a debate about what to do next. This will inspire our diary writing where we will be describing our lives in the village.

In maths, we have been using efficient addition strategies. We have played card games inspired by last year's Maths Magician workshop and we have been manipulating numbers and using commutativity to add in a quicker way. For science, we have begun learning about teeth. We started by looking at animal skulls and deciding what they were and what their teeth revealed about their diets.



In art and forest school sessions we have created a collage of Stone Henge for display and made elder wood necklaces. We have also begun to practice knife

skills for cutting and making tools from wood.



Silver Birch Class

Silver Birch have had a brilliant first full week of the new term. We had the brilliant Horsham Museum's Petra come to super start our project, 'The Ancient Egyptians' and we made a good start trying to answer our big question, 'Is there life after death?'

Another fun task on Friday was making blood smoothies in science- we have started to learn about the circulatory system and our first lesson was all about blood and its four components-ask your child if they can name these!





In English, we have started our film unit, and we have become Time Travellers. We will be writing portal stories as a time traveller in Ancient Egypt. In addition, we have begun the amazing book 'Secrets of a Sun King.' In maths, we have been exploring additive and multiplicative structures using Cuisenaire rods. The children have enjoyed making up stories to match structures and will be moving onto using bar models to represent stories. Art has been challenging; drawing our facial Death Masks. It is quite tricky to draw a nose accurately!



Harvest Festival Big Soup and Appeal



Mrs Cheney will begin making the Harvest Festival Big Soup after school on Wednesday 30th September from 3:15-4:15pm. It will be served after our Harvest Festival on Friday 2nd October.

We would love to support the Haywards Heath Food Bank as in previous years with donations of tinned and dried foods and nappies. Please leave donations at the school office.

Bushcraft Badges

In an exciting addition to our Bushcraft sessions, this year all children will be working towards 'badges' (a little like in Scouts) and this is a sneak preview of those awards. More information to follow!



New Hot Meal provider

ISS Education have begun serving their new delicious hot meals. Anyone who has not received an invite to sign up – speak to Zoe. Meals will be just £2.95 per day. To find out more, including menus and how the new ordering system will work, visit www.feedwestsussex.co.uk. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Zoe in the office.

Changes to free school meals

The government has announced that the eligibility criteria for free school meals will change from 1 September 2026. All children who live in a household that receives Universal Credit can get free meals. If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, then check the WSCC website and apply today www.westsussex.gov.uk/e

[education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/e).

FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Important information for parents/guardians
The Immunisation Service are coming into school to offer your child the Flu vaccination. See recent email sent out.
For information about the Flu vaccine and frequently asked questions:
<https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/resources/patient-resources/flu-vaccinations>
To complete a consent form:
<https://www.susseximmunisation.co.uk/Forms/Flu>
You will need the school code found on the parent letter emailed to you.

Ms Lofthouse

See the website calendar for important dates:

<http://www.bolneyschool.org.uk/web/calendar/223211>

Please also take time to look at our website, which has a lot of information that you may wish to see, including class pages.

<http://www.bolneyschool.org.uk/web/home/223209>

Diary Date	Event (Where events are for specific children, it will say 'email')
14.9.26 2:30	Meet the teacher – Silver Birch
15.9.26 2:30	Meet the teacher – Beech
16.9.26 2:30	Meet the teacher – Willow
17.9.26 2:30	Meet the teacher – Holly
2.10.26 9am	HARVEST all welcome
7.10.26 3:30-4:45	Reception settling meetings
9.10.26 3:30-4:45	Reception settling meetings
19.10.26 1:30 & 5pm	Open sessions for new families
20.10.26	Open session for new families
20.10.26 3:30-6pm	Parent/Carer consultations Y1-6
21.10.26 3:30-6pm	Parent/Carer consultations Y1-6
23.10.26 9am	Celebration worship for all

