



NEWSLETTER | 14/2/25

House Spelling Bee Event

We had a fantastic time at this year's Inter-House Spelling Event.

It was great to see so many students and teachers engaged, with plenty of enthusiasm in the air. The event brought a sense of friendly competition as everyone worked hard to showcase their spelling skills. A big congratulations to our finalists, who did a great job representing their houses. It was clear that everyone put in a lot of effort, and it was exciting to see the range of talent on display. Well done to all who participated and made it to the final round. The final scores meant Lewes came out on top, closely followed by Arundel and then Bodiam.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for students to challenge themselves and celebrate their progress in a fun and supportive environment.

We are busy planning the summer term's House event, which will be Maths Mastermind.

Reporter: Miss DJ



Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter is a celebration of the learning and fun seen across the school over the last 6 weeks. It shows just a snippet of what has been going on but one thing is clear: Windlesham pupils embrace the opportunities offered by school life with enthusiasm, curiosity and energy. Topics have ranged from Bears, Toys and Castles in Lower School to Life at the Extremes, Ancient Greece, the Aztecs and World War II in Upper School. We've had Wow Days and trips bringing learning to life.

We have seen pupils gain confidence in cycling on their Bikeability courses and have represented our Houses in a highly competitive House Spelling Bee. Some of our Year 6 pupils pursuing places at independent senior schools have felt the pressure of entrance exams and interviews and they have met this challenge head on. We are extremely proud of their achievements and the way they have conducted themselves throughout.

Today marks Mr Hall's last day with us after nearly 17 years of Windlesham art teaching. We thank him for all of his contributions over the years. He will be missed but we wish him a restful, happy and healthy retirement.

In the second half of the term, we have much to look forward to. If you have not yet confirmed your attendance on 27th February at our Meet and Greet for Mr Matthews, please do so. He is very much looking forward to meeting you all.

I wish you all a restful, healthy half term break.

Katherine Croucher

Acting Headteacher

We all know that nothing influences people more than a recommendation from a friend. We would be really grateful if you could 'like' and 'share' our posts on Facebook & Instagram. To find us, just search for Windlesham School or click on the icons here.

Google reviews also raise our profile tremendously and help us to continue to be the best school we can be. So please do get involved in liking, sharing and reviewing!



Windlesham School & Nursery



Preparing children for life

GENERAL NEWS

Merits

The following children are to be congratulated for their tremendous effort or positive attitude (as at Wednesday 12th February 2025):

Lower School

Aurelia, Ethan Z, Felix PG, Zoey W, Ayda, Jack B, Nico M, Indy V, Suri, Edward L, Will

Upper School

Toby W, Ariana, Taigh, Tia, Seb H, Zane, Georgie, Jude, Levi, Eli, Zachary, Griffin, Timothy, Nathaniel, Afie P, George, Justin, Isabella W-R, Eve, Letty, Edison, Lucy, Thomas, Louis H, Ernie, Feliks, Jessica, Phoebe, Rebecca, Lara, Rocco, Abe

Autumn Term Owls

OWLS are awarded for outstanding work and learning. Congratulations to the following pupils who received an OWL this term:

Edison, Toby P, Willow, Matilda S, George, Rocco, Rosie W, Sophia, Siena, Annie, Eli, Akira, Simona, Joe, Michael O, Mia, Alex, Isabella RW, Zane, Phoebe W, Rebecca, Theo, Abe, Guin, Letty, Mona, Will, Jessica, Benjamin, Felix G, Cameron, Huxley, Isaac, Halle, Paolo, Carles, Aylin, Freddie, Eddie H, Edward, Zoe, Sorrel, Alfie



Help Us Grow Our Forest School

We are actively developing our Forest School area and would love your support. We are in need of pallet donations to help us create outdoor learning spaces and natural play structures.

If you have any spare pallets that you can donate, please get in touch. We would greatly appreciate any contributions to help make our Forest School a wonderful space for children to explore and learn.

A farewell message from Mr Hall

Though in total denial of my age, there comes a time when all good things come to an end. In the just over 17 years I have been here, I have tried to instil a love of art and prove that every child can achieve work of which they can be proud. Whether they have gained scholarship places or hardly used a sketching pencil since, I am proud of always trying to get the best from children. Some twentysomethings tell me with delight that they still have their Warhols, Hockneys etc hanging in their bedrooms. As I leave, rest assured Mrs Gomez will bring fresh ideas and huge enthusiasm to the job I have loved. I look forward to many afternoon naps, probably eating too much and no more tidying up of the Art Room!

Much love to all past and present pupils and parents.

Martin Hall



Please join us in supporting Mrs Smallwood, who will be taking part in the Brighton Half marathon in April this year.

Mrs Smallwood is raising funds for Amaze, a local charity who help parents of autistic children. They are a charity very close to her family's hearts.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/maliwan-triggs-1728840315908>



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Exploring Size in Owlets

This half term, our children have been busy learning about the size of different objects through exciting activities and discussions.

We explored the classic tale of Jack and the Beanstalk, where the children thought about just how big the giant must be! They used imaginative vocabulary to describe sizes, from tiny to ginormous. Through hands-on play with playdough and sorting bears, they compared various objects and used words like huge, medium-sized, and tiny to describe what they saw. These activities have helped develop their understanding of size and comparison in a fun and engaging way.

Keep the conversation going at home by asking your child to compare objects around the house—big or small, every learning moment counts.

Reporter: Mrs Older

Bears Puppets in Reception

The Reception class recently undertook an exciting project to design and create their own felt bear puppets. The children independently planned every stage, from sketching initial designs to sewing the final pieces, showcasing their creativity and problem-solving skills. Using materials such as buttons, lace, sequins, wool, and even matchsticks, they brought their imaginative characters to life.

Each child began by transferring their ideas onto paper, considering the unique personality of their bear. They selected materials thoughtfully, experimenting with different combinations to suit their designs. Throughout the process, they demonstrated resilience and adaptability, making changes until they were satisfied with the result.

Sewing required focus and fine motor skills, and the children took pride in threading needles and stitching felt with care. The final puppets are delightful representations of their creativity, imagination and hard work.

Reporter: Mrs Mills





SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Year 1 Dinosaur Reward Jar

Well done to Year 1 for filling up their dinosaur jar. Dinosaurs are given to the children when the whole class does something really well.

As a special treat, we held a Games Afternoon to link with our exciting topic, 'Toys'. The children brought in their favourite games from home and shared them with their friends. It was wonderful to see them taking turns, working together, and having so much fun!

Watching the children engage with different games, laugh together, and enjoy friendly competition was truly heartwarming. This activity not only encouraged social skills but also reinforced the joy of playing and learning together.

Reporter: Miss Jarman

Churches Conversation Trust - Features of Christianity workshop for Year 2

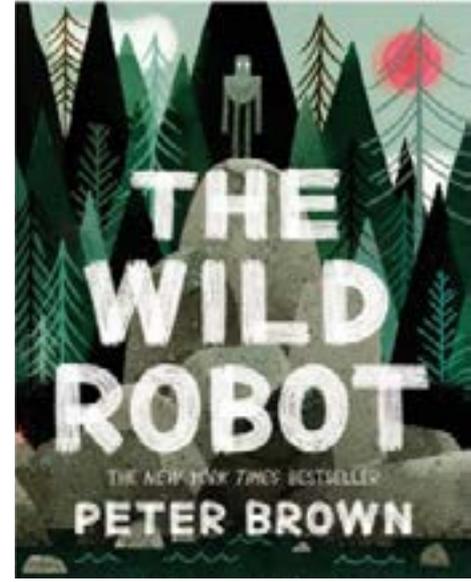
Year 2 were delighted to welcome Gaby from the Churches Conservation Trust into our class this half term. She planned a bespoke session, based on a stained-glass window from St Peter's Church in Brighton, that depicts the story of the 'Good Samaritan'.

The children listened to the story with interest and recognised the themes of charity and kindness. Gaby explained how these themes underpin the Christian faith and compared key features to Judaism (their RS topic in the Autumn Term).

They then used clay to make models of the characters and dioramas of the story. This was a fun and interactive way for the children to learn and understand the key elements of the Christian Faith. We look forward to welcoming Gaby back in the future.

Reporter: Mrs Coego





SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Year 3's Exciting Learning Adventures

This half term, Year 3 have eagerly started reading *The Wild Robot*. We have been using the text to explore expanded noun phrases, subordinating conjunctions, character inferences, and instruction writing. The story has captivated us so far, and we can't wait to follow Roz the robot on more adventures.

In Science, we have been diving into the fascinating world of plants. We've learned about the different parts of a plant and their functions, and we've carried out two exciting experiments. First, we investigated whether plants can survive without soil, water, or light. Then, we observed how white flowers and celery absorbed food dye, changing color as the dye travelled up the stem.

It has been a fantastic half term of discovery and hands-on learning. Well done, Year 3!

Reporter: Mrs Smallwood

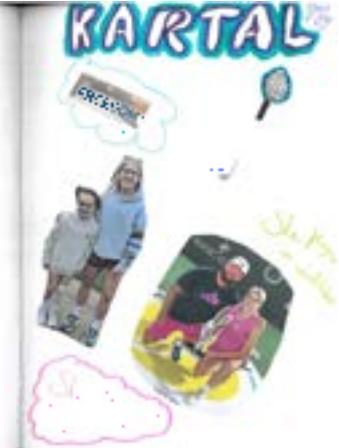
Making Learning Memorable in Year 4

In Year 4, we have been focusing on making learning both memorable and meaningful. In Maths, we explored how fractions relate to everyday life, using pizza as a fun and practical way to deepen our understanding.

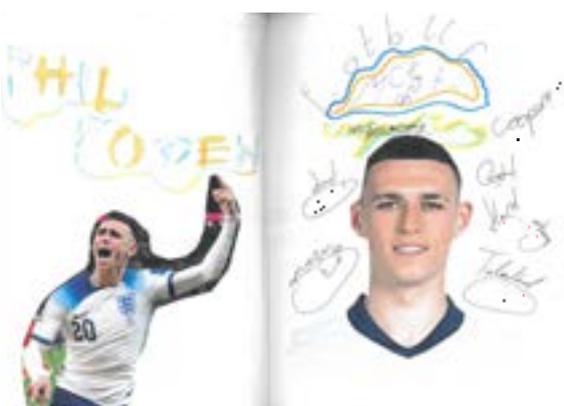
In English, we built on our understanding of subordinate and main clauses, engaging in hands-on activities where the children physically moved clauses around and discussed whether to use coordinating or subordinating conjunctions. It has been fantastic to see the children taking ownership of their learning and confidently sharing their knowledge.

Reporter: Miss DJ





SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Year 5's Inspiring PSHE

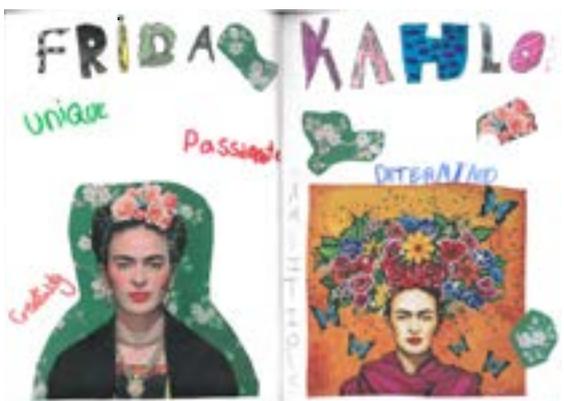
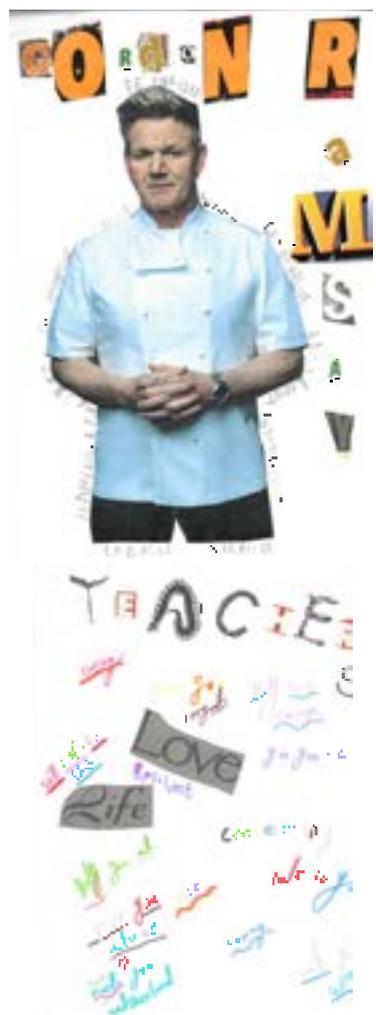
This half term Year 5 have been exploring the theme of Inspiration.

The children reflected on the people who inspire them and shared the reasons why. It was wonderful to see such a diverse range of role models, from family members to historical figures and even famous personalities.

Our discussions then turned to what made these people so inspiring. Together, we created a list of key characteristics and attributes that they embody. These included motivation, passion, determination, selflessness, and, of course, all of our Learning Powers.

Through this exploration, the children have not only celebrated those who inspire them but also discovered how they, too, can become an inspiration to others.

Reporter: Mrs Mack



Year 6 Times Tables Rock Stars Assembly

On January 31, Nathaniel, Dylan, and Abraham took the stage to present an exciting assembly on Times Tables Rock Stars. Their interactive mini-module captivated the audience, showing pupils how to challenge their peers and improve their speed in multiplication and division.

The trio impressed everyone with their rapid problem-solving skills, inspiring their fellow Windlesham School pupils to practise their times tables daily. We look forward to seeing them showcase more features of the program in future class sessions.



Reporter: Ms O'Dowd



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Windlesham Drama Society

In Drama club, the children have been busy exploring script work. They have been rehearsing the play 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations' by Alan Ayckbourn.

Ernie is a boy with an incredible imagination – everything he imagines becomes real, much to the consternation of his parents.

The children discussed the character's motivations and mood and explored their own interpretation of the script.

Reporter Miss McNally



Book Donations

Thank you all so much for the book donations coming in for our school library. Each week, our Year 6 librarians, Georgie, Guin and Elodie, will be interviewing the children who have brought in their previously read books.

Rosalena fondly reminisced about the books she has donated to the library. Look out for other children who have brought in their old books in our next newsletter!

Thank you, children, parents and carers for your kind generosity.

Reporter: Miss Thompsett

Windlesham's Philosophy corner

Hello and welcome to a new part of the Windlesham newsletter: Philosophy Corner! Pupils have a new philosophy topic every half term.

In Philosophy Corner we ask pupils across the school a question related to the half term's topic and see what they say.

This half term's topic is Biodiversity and the question we asked pupils was:

Do animals matter and why?



They are a friendly part of our ecosystem, and they are lovely to have as pets and company!

Yes, because they are wildlife and we wouldn't want them to die! We like animals!



They are good for the environment!





SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Windlesham Celebrates National Storytelling Week

We had a lot of fun celebrating National Storytelling Week across the school recently.

We had a daily Mystery Storyteller and each class had the opportunity to be read to. Wonderful stories were shared and the children enjoyed milk and cookies whilst enjoying stories. Some year groups enjoyed storytelling with their buddies and others had virtual storytelling sessions with renowned authors like Joseph Coelho.



We love reading and sharing books at Windlesham and it is always so wonderful to see the children embrace these too.

World Book Day is just around the corner!

On Thursday 6 March, Windlesham will be taking part. Save the date, more details coming soon.

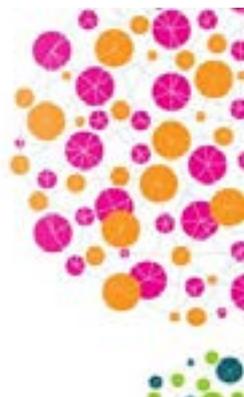


Let's get ready to #readyourway!

Reporter: Mrs Coego



British Science Week



Windlesham School is looking forward to British Science Week on 10th -14th March 2025. The theme this year is Change and Adapt. Here are some of the activities taking place:

- Whole school Assembly on Wednesday 12th March to introduce the topic.
- Topic Activity Visits by Science Prefects during the week to all Lower School classes
- British Science Week Poster Competition
- CHANGE AND ADAPT activities happening in all Science lessons and form times.

We are looking forward to the week very much - keep a lookout for photos.

Reporter: Mrs Colley



SCHOOL TRIPS

Young Voices at the O2

On Monday 20th January, children from the Nightingale and Lark choirs performed at Young Voices 2025 at the O2, accompanied by Mrs Gallant, Mrs Mack and Mrs Slater. It was a fantastic day, and the children were a pleasure, showing exemplary behaviour throughout.

Our pupils had an unforgettable day during their afternoon rehearsal, where they were treated to special guest appearances, including the incredible Jacob Collier, who sang with them, and MC Grammar. The rehearsal culminated in a wonderful evening performance along with 8500 other children. Many of our Windlesham parents attended the concert and thoroughly enjoyed it.

After a long but rewarding day, we finally arrived back at school just before midnight. It was truly a remarkable musical journey—one that our pupils will cherish for years to come.

Reporter: Mrs Gallant



Technology Meets Creativity at The Apple Store

Year 3 had an incredible school trip to the Apple Store in Brighton to support their computing lessons. The children dived into a world of digital art, exploring fun and imaginative ways to create vibrant emojis.

They started by sketching expressive faces and quirky objects, then brought their ideas to life using the Procreate app on iPads—paired with the precision of Apple Pencils. The results? A spectacular blend of art, technology, and creativity!

It was an unforgettable morning filled with inspiration and innovation.

Reporter: Mrs Slater





SCHOOL TRIPS

Year 5 Trip to the British Film Institute

On Thursday, 30th January (Jeudi, Trente Janvier), a group of our Year 5 pupils embarked on an exciting journey by train to the British Film Institute along the Southbank in London. The day was a fantastic opportunity for immersive language learning, as the interactive study session was conducted primarily in French by a native speaker.

The children engaged in a range of enriching activities, including short animation screenings, clip analysis, and vocabulary-building exercises designed to enhance their French skills.

A highlight of the day was the impressive stage performance by three of our pupils. Three courageous children, Olive, Delilah and Michael, took to the stage to perform the scripts they had written in French in front of an audience of 450 schoolchildren and their teachers. Bravo!

The experience concluded with a full screening of the beautifully animated adaptation of the classic book *Le Petit Prince*. The emotional journey of the film captivated everyone—some laughed, some cried, but all were enthralled by the timeless tale.

A huge thank you to the British Film Institute for hosting such an engaging and educational event. It was an unforgettable experience that truly brought language learning to life!

Reporter: Madame Flynn



Owlets Theatre Trip to see *The Smartest Giant in Town*

On Friday 31st January, the Owlets went on a fantastic trip to see “*The Smartest Giant in Town*” at the Theatre Royal.

We travelled by bus and enjoyed looking out for interesting vehicles and buildings on the way. The performance was good fun and we sang and clapped along to the songs that tell the story.

The children have been learning and retelling the story in nursery and to our buddies.

Reporter: Mrs Older





Under 11 Touch Rugby at Shoreham College

This half-term, our rugby team enjoyed a fantastic fixture against Shoreham College. We kicked off with a 10-a-side match, allowing everyone to get comfortable with the rules and pace of touch rugby. As the players found their rhythm, we transitioned into two exciting 5-a-side games, giving everyone more space to showcase their skills.

Windlesham demonstrated outstanding teamwork and confidence as the matches progressed. Zachary scored two brilliant tries, both set up by Rumi, securing a 2-1 victory in one game. Meanwhile, Louis displayed incredible determination, running the length of the pitch to earn a hard-fought 1-1 draw in the other.

The team showed excellent sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout—well done, Windlesham!

Reporter: Mr Wilkinson

Netball at Shoreham College

On Wednesday 29th January, a mixed team of Year 5 and 6 netballers took on Shoreham College in a thrilling fixture.

We came out strong, with two early goals from Rebecca, thanks to some excellent passing from Eve, Olive, and Georgie, who linked up well in attack. Indy found great space to help drive the ball up the court, capitalising on multiple interceptions from Kyra and Simona. In defence, Rosie and Isabella applied relentless pressure on their shooters with close marking, while Guin showcased strong passing from the backline.

The team's quick reactions paid off as they won two crucial toss-ups, and the match provided a fantastic opportunity to test out different combinations and refine our through-court play. A third-quarter goal kept us in the game, but despite a strong effort, we fell short against a full team of Year 6 players.

A special mention goes to Kyra, who delivered an outstanding performance in both defence and centre, earning her the well-deserved title of Player of the Match.

Well done to all the players for their teamwork and determination.

Reporter: Mrs Mack





SPORTS NEWS

Netball against Lancing Prep Hove

On Wednesday 5th February, two teams faced Lancing College Prep in a Netball fixture. Each team had the opportunity to play two games, with players rotating and different combinations being tested.

One team had two challenging matches, but they demonstrated their resilience and perseverance, showing progress in their play. Eleanor and Selin were awarded Players of the Match.

There were closer scorelines for the other team, with some excellent shooting and the first match ended in a draw. Kyra and Elodie were awarded Players of the Match. Another great fixture, with plenty of encouraging play and skill on display.

Reporter: Mrs Mack

Netball against Lancing Prep, Hove

Our Year 3 and Year 4 girls put on a fantastic performance in their recent netball match against Lancing. It was great to see their continued improvement, especially in movement across the court and accuracy in passing.

From the first whistle, the team showed great determination and teamwork. The passing was sharper and more precise, allowing them to maintain possession and create more scoring opportunities. The movement off the ball also demonstrated real progress, making it easier to find space and support each other in attack and defense.

The girls' hard work in training is clearly paying off, and their confidence on the court continues to grow. Well done to all players for their effort and enthusiasm – we look forward to the next match.

Reporter: Miss DJ



Cricketing Success - Congratulations, Eleanor!

A huge well done to Eleanor for being selected to play for the Under 11 County Sussex Cricket Team.

Your dedication, hard work, and passion for sport is truly inspiring. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are all so proud of you. Keep aiming high and shining bright—your school community is cheering you on!



COMMUNITY & EVENTS

Level 1 & Level 2 CYCLE TRAINING at Preston Park and Hove Park



Monday 17 – Thursday 20 February
10am – 12.30pm each day
Ages 9 – 15
Levels 1 & 2 together is £45 per person.

Level 1 is where you will learn to control your bike.
Level 2 is where you start with real traffic, but sticking to quiet roads.

Level 1 – Riders must be able to ride independently with confidence and without stabilisers.
Progression to Level 2 training is dependant on meeting all level 1 modules to National Standards Level.

To book your place visit: www.brightonandhove.gov.uk/cycling or contact Emily Tester on 01273 293847 or email emily.tester@brightonandhove.gov.uk

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.



Level 3 CYCLE TRAINING at Preston Park and Hove Park



Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 February
1.15pm – 3.15pm each day
Ages 11 – 15

Level 3 is where you learn to cycle safely on busy roads within the city.

Training includes roundabouts, traffic lights and filtering. This must have completed levels 1 and 2.

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.
Level 3 training costs £50 per person.

To book your place visit: www.brightonandhove.gov.uk/cycling or contact Emily Tester on 01273 293847 or email emily.tester@brightonandhove.gov.uk



2nd Spring Half-Term STEM Club



18th to 20th February daily from 9.30am to 3.30pm

3 days of holiday club where your kids will enjoy building amazing motorised lego creations with each day having different models including towers and bridges based on the "construction" theme. They will learn about the science behind the models using games, creativity and engineering skills to problem-solve and upgrade to make their play even more fun.



YOUNG ENGINEERS BRIGHTON & HOVE
T: 01273 807328
brightonyoungengineers.com
E: b-centre@young-engineers.co.uk

9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Stanford Junior School
18th to 20th February
£48 per day
Use "SIBLING" for 5% disc per child

BOOK HERE



<https://bookwhen.com/brightonyoungengineers>

ACTIVITIES 4 KIDS FEBRUARY CAMP



Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025

Windlesham, Hove
Includes Swimming
Open Daily 8:30am to 4:30pm

Balfray, Brighton
Includes Swimming
Open Daily 8:30am to 5:50pm

www.windlesham4kids.co.uk
info@windlesham4kids.co.uk



Windlesham School Holiday Camp (Brighton)

Pied Piper Activities holiday camps at Windlesham School

Embark on an exciting journey with Pied Piper multi-activity camps, the ultimate experience for children aged 4 to 12 during their Easter and Summer holidays!

Providing fantastic OFSTED registered childcare with over 60 different activities for children to take part in, you will have complete peace of mind knowing that your children are not only having a great time but are safe and cared for too.

Our camps are safe, friendly, and secure, ensuring your child's adventure unfolds in a nurturing environment. Our handpicked staff are carefully selected for their fun-loving, caring, enthusiastic and committed nature and their ability to deliver the Pied Piper difference throughout your child's week at camp.

Join Pied Piper at Windlesham School, where joy knows no bounds, and every moment is a chance to create wonderful childhood memories that last a lifetime!



Creating wonderful childhood memories

Contact us:
E: tony@piedpiperactivities.co.uk
W: piedpiperactivities.co.uk

Follow us on:
@PiedPiperActivities
[piedpiperactivities.co.uk](https://www.piedpiperactivities.co.uk)

BOOK NOW ONLINE



Christmas Collection Update

We were delighted to welcome Hannah to our assembly this half term. She is the fund-raising manager for AMAZE Sussex, the charity which we selected to be the recipient following our Christmas performances.

Thanks to parents and friends generosity we presented her with the AMAZING total of £580. The charity was created nearly 30 years ago by a group of parents who had children with various disabilities and they wanted a group where they could give and receive support.

Reporter: Ms Groves



TERM DATES

Provisional Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Staff Inset days

Monday 1st September & Tuesday 2nd September

Term starts

Wednesday 3rd September

Half Term holiday

Monday 20th October - Friday 31st October inclusive

Term ends

Thursday 11th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Staff Inset Day

Monday 5th January 2026

Term starts

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half Term holiday

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February inclusive

Term ends

Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Staff Inset day

Monday 20th April

Term starts

Tuesday 21st April

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May

Half Term holiday

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May inclusive

Term ends

Thursday 9th July

Staff Inset Day

Friday 10th July

2024 - 2025 Term Dates

Spring Term 2025

Half Term holiday

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February inclusive

Term ends

Friday 28th March

Summer Term 2025

Staff Inset day

Tuesday 22nd April

Term starts

Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May

Half Term holiday

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May inclusive

Term ends

Thursday 10th July

Staff Inset Day

Friday 11th July

science BRIGHTON FESTIVAL

QR Code

Find out more at BrightonScience.com

**HANDS-ON
HALF TERM
SCIENCE FUN FOR FAMILIES**

FEBRUARY 15-22

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