



NEWSLETTER | 23/5/25

The Children's Parade May 2025

We were absolutely thrilled to take part in this year's Children's Parade in Brighton—and what a day it was. With the sun shining and the streets buzzing with colour, music and creativity, the atmosphere was nothing short of magical.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us, cheered us on, and helped make the day so special. Your support and energy truly brought the event to life.

Our children shone brightly, proudly showcasing their incredible creations and the hard work they've put in over the past term. It was a joyful celebration of creativity, teamwork and community spirit—a reminder of the values we hold dear.

Events like this don't just create memories, they strengthen our sense of togetherness and highlight the amazing things we can achieve when we come together.

Reporter: Mrs Mack





Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this half term, it's hard to believe only five weeks have passed—it already feels like I've been part of the Windlesham community much longer. In just 23 school days, I've seen what makes this place so special: from residentials and London trips to the Brighton Parade, WOW Days, sporting fixtures, and so much more. The richness of the children's experiences has been truly inspiring.

What stands out most, however, are the people. I now understand why you have chosen this school for your child. Our children, families, and staff create a community that is vibrant, welcoming, and full of heart. The sense of belonging and care is palpable, and it's been a genuine pleasure to meet so many of you. Thank you for your warm welcome and continued support – I already feel very much at home.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about leading the school into its next chapter. We have a dedicated team of hardworking staff who place your child's education, wellbeing, and happiness at the centre of all they do. As a school leader, I'm always asking: What next? How can we continue to grow and improve? Over the coming months and into the next academic year, you will see Windlesham continue to evolve and flourish. Please never hesitate to get in touch – open communication with parents is something I value highly, and I will always make time to respond to any questions or concerns you may have.

As we approach the next half term, things are only going to get busier, but I hope we can all pause now and then to reflect on what truly matters. Our children grow up so quickly, and here at Windlesham, we are committed to nurturing, challenging, and supporting every child as we 'prepare children for life.'

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend. I look forward to seeing you all next half term.

Nick Matthews

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!





GENERAL NEWS

Merits

The following children are to be congratulated for their tremendous effort or positive attitude (as at Wednesday 21st May 2025):

Lower School

Huxley, Reuben H, Sorrel, Freya, Paolo, Suri, Felix PG, Rosa, Kit

Upper School

Willow, Toby P, Toby W, Sophia, Mark, Seb H, Eve, Michael C, Essi, Siena, Jack SL, Georgie, Letty, Elodie, Dylan, Indy, Selin, Simona, Harry, Tia, Zachary, Mia

Spring Term Owls

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

Cameron, Felix G, Isaac, Kai, Kit, Mona, Aurelia, Lotta, Zoey W, Freya, Genevieve, Ivy, Feliks, Edison, Lara, Siyoo, Marina, Jack Yr 3, George, Rocco, Diego, Siena, Annie, Justin, Joe, Alex, Indy H, Eve, Abe, Letty





Willow and Elodie Lead the Way for Wildlife

We are incredibly proud of Willow and Elodie for showing such wonderful initiative over the Easter break. By selling their unwanted toys, clothes and books the girls raised an impressive £145 for The Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Their generous donation will help support local nature reserves, youth engagement programmes and the reintroduction of native species.

A huge well done to both of them for making such a meaningful contribution to our environment.









The Owlets - Marvellous Minibeasts

This term, the Owlets have been diving into the wonderful world of Minibeasts, with a special focus on caterpillars and butterflies.

The children have loved getting creative with colours, making beautiful symmetrical butterfly artwork. They have been exploring how patterns work by using alternating colours and learning that each wing of a butterfly is a mirror image of the other. It's been a fantastic way to combine creativity with early mathematical thinking.

The theme for our Wow day was "Minibeasts". The children were invited to dress up and came in an array of costumes from bees, to butterflies and bug hunters.

During the morning the children played a bug hunting game and bug bingo. They also created puzzle butterflies and used their imaginations to make minibeasts using a variety of ingredients, choosing which ingredients to use for a body, legs and eyes.

We finished the fun with minibeast themed songs and danced to 'The Ugly Bug Ball' song.

Reporter: Mrs Older

Reception's Egg-citing Investigation

This term, Reception have been curious scientists. It all started when we discovered a mysterious egg nestled in a small nest in our outdoor area. This sparked a brilliant question—what kind of animal laid the egg? We learned that some animals, 'oviparous' animals, lay eggs, from birds and reptiles to insects, fish and even dinosaurs.

The children's curiosity didn't stop there. We began thinking about how delicate and precious eggs are and how animals keep them safe. To explore this, we designed and built special egg parcels with protective packaging to keep an egg from breaking when dropped. We used materials like bubble wrap, tissues, recycling boxes and even a plastic bag parachute. Then came the big test: the Egg Drop Challenge, launched from the external fire escape.

The challenge was full of excitement and suspense, some eggs remained perfectly whole, while others sadly cracked. We reflected on what worked well, like soft cushioning or tight containers, and how we could improve our designs next time. The project encouraged critical thinking, teamwork and care.

What will we discover next?

Reporter: Mrs Mills









London Comes to Life in Year 1

Year 1 kicked off the Summer Term in style with a fantastic London Wow Day.

The children arrived dressed in London-themed outfits or proudly wearing the colours of the Union Flag, ready for a day full of excitement and discovery. We began our adventure with a magical tour bus ride (imaginary, of course) through the streets of London, spotting famous landmarks along the way.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a carousel of creative activities, including building London landmarks from LEGO, designing their own crowns, crafting Union Flag bunting and collaging stamps featuring the King's head.

We had so much fun. What a lovely way to start our new topic.

Reporter: Miss Jarman



Year 2 Open Their Brand New Toy Shop

Year 2 are thrilled to announce the grand opening of their brand-new toy shop — and it's so much more than just a place to pick out favourite toys.

This exciting classroom addition has been specially designed to help children develop essential money skills. From adding up different amounts to giving change and recognising coins, the shop offers a fun, hands-on way for the children to build their confidence with everyday maths.

The class has fully embraced the toy shop, and it's already proving to be a fantastic learning tool. Not only is it helping pupils strengthen their numeracy skills, but it's also encouraging teamwork, communication.

Reporter: Mrs Jeffery



Vikings, Dragons and Discovery in Year 3

We've had an exciting start to the summer term in Year 3. The children were absolutely thrilled to take part in our Viking WOW Day, which launched our new topic in the most memorable way and really set the scene for the learning journey ahead.

In English, we have been reading 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. Through engaging drama activities, the children have been exploring the story's rich characters and themes, bringing the world of dragons to life. We're hoping to round off our exploration by watching the film adaptation at the end of term; something we are all very excited about.

Art has taken us outside as we have studied artists who use plants and natural materials to create their work. Inspired by their techniques, we have been collecting plants from around the school grounds and experimenting with crushing, printing, and painting with them. This ties in wonderfully with our Science topic, where we are learning all about rocks, soils, and fossils, making fascinating connections between art and the natural world.

Reporter: Mrs Slater





Year 4 Meet Their Owlets Buddies

Our Year 4 pupils had a wonderful opportunity to meet their new buddies in Owlets. The children teamed up for a minibeast hunt, exploring the natural world together and discovering all the tiny creatures that call our school grounds home. It was heartwarming to see the older children stepping into their nurturing roles, guiding and encouraging their younger buddies as they searched for worms, woodlice, and beetles.

The bond between Year 4 and Owlets will continue to grow, as we have an exciting joint maths lesson planned for Maths Week. The children will work together to explore 2D shapes in the world of minibeasts, blending learning and play in a truly hands-on experience.

These moments are such a valuable part of our school community, helping our older children develop their leadership and empathy while creating a sense of belonging for the youngest members of our school family. This is something quite unique to us here at Windlesham.

Reporter: Miss DJ











Year 5 Bring French Vocabulary to Life Through PE

In an exciting cross-curricular project combining French, PE and Maths, our Year 5 students have been embracing language learning with an energetic twist.

Pupils have been exploring French vocabulary related to sports and honing their counting skills using real sports equipment. This hands-on approach has made learning both dynamic and memorable.

A highlight of the term has been the lively 'Tableau' game, where students create freeze frames and mime various sports. This interactive activity has brought French to life in a fun and imaginative way—encouraging not just language retention, but creativity and collaboration too.

Bravo, Year 5! You've shown that learning a language can be as active and exciting as the sports you love.

Reporter: Madame Flynn

Year 6 Shakespeare WOW Day

What better way to end our Year 6 Shakespeare topic than a 'Globe' experience on our very own Windlesham lawned garden! How proud we are of our children adapting Macbeth and performing scenes of battle, tragedy and supernature throughout the day. The children are confidently moving on to secondary school clearly ready for understanding the relevance of Shakespeare and his long-lasting effect on writing, film and theatre.

Our afternoon special guest (no other than Mr Kerr, (our Windlesham Premises Manager) was majestically donned in a robe and crown for the occasion. With his authentic Scottish accent, he starred in one or two of the performances as Macbeth himself much to our children's delight. What a cameo performance that Shakespeare himself would be proud of.

We were thoroughly entertained throughout the day that culminated into fine dining at our lunch time banquet where good food and goblets filled with 'fruits of the forest' was very much enjoyed by all. I was particularly impressed by their improvisations, interpretations and creative ideas with visual and sound props. What a fine group of young actors.

Reporter: Miss Thompsett













Artist Open Houses at Windlesham

Windlesham School celebrated spring with a vibrant exhibition of pupil artwork during the Artist Open Houses event.

From Owlets' nature-printed Hapa Zome bunting to Reception's spring photography, each year group has contributed something unique. Year 1 created imaginative minibeasts, Year 2 sculpted paper birds, and Year 3 designed pastel posters inspired by the Bloomsbury Group.

Year 4 created dynamic charcoal drawings using homemade materials, inspired by Heather Hansen. Their full-body mark-making was captured in expressive video footage.

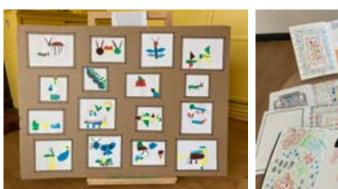
Year 5 explored spring-themed fashion design, developing ideas in sketchbooks and bringing them to life in 2D and 3D. A visit from designer Carley, who's worked with stars like Jessie J, inspired students to think big and share their creative visions.

Year 6 designed and painted a bold mural for our new outdoor space. Inspired by urban styles, they explored perspective, shading, and "throw" writing to create a vibrant piece that celebrates creativity and teamwork—a standout feature of the Open House tour.

We are incredibly proud of our students' hard work and creativity, and grateful to the artists and designers who helped bring these projects to life.

Thank you to everyone who visited and supported the event—it was a true celebration of artistic expression and community spirit.

Reporter: Mrs Gomez











Year 5 Residential to Hindleap Warren

SCHOOL TRIPS

This half term, our Year 5 pupils embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Hindleap Warren, and what an adventure it was.

From soaring through the trees on the high ropes to mastering archery, building shelters deep in the forest, and tackling team-building challenges, the children embraced every opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and try something new.

Throughout the week, they demonstrated resilience, independence, and fantastic teamwork—qualities that shone through in every muddy boot and beaming smile. It was a joy to see friendships grow stronger and confidence blossom in such a beautiful outdoor setting.

Here is what some of the children had to say:

"Nobody gave up on the challenges. Most got involved in the mud challenge – the river looked shallow, but it was deeper than I thought. Hanging out with friends was good. Friends motivated each other." – Olive

"My favourite activity was carrying the jerry can through the obstacles." - Rosie

"I enjoyed Disc Golf. Throwing the disc into the basket from a distance and avoiding all the forest obstacles was a fun challenge." – Lucas

"I really enjoyed our time at Hindleap Warren. It was so fun – from throwing the axe to jumping into the mud!" – Michael

"Pentagon Low Ropes was super fun! The most surprising part was that Ms O'Dowd and Mrs Lilley completed it—but not without the support of all the children shouting, 'Go on, Miss!'" – Jay

"I loved hanging out with my friends in our room and telling stories." - Joe

"I really enjoyed the Pentagon High Ropes Challenge because it tested my flexibility in the air—and it was also a lot of fun! I also loved sharing a room with my friends." – Seb

"I really enjoyed sharing a bedroom with my friends." - Carla

"I loved the pentagon activity because it was high and challenging!" - Tia

"We cooperated in team challenges—like using planks of wood to cross the river. One of the puzzles was really tricky: if one person messed up, the whole team had to restart!" – Mia

Reporters: The Year 5 Team









SCHOOL TRIPS & WORKSHOPS

RepTylers Reptile Workshop Brings the Wild to Life

This term, the Reception children were thrilled to take part in an exciting and educational workshop led by RepTylers, a company that specialises in hands-on experiences with reptiles and other fascinating creatures. The visit brought the world of oviparous animals right into the classrooms.

The session began with an introduction to some of RepTylers' most popular reptilian species. The children had the opportunity to meet a friendly bearded dragon and a blue tongue skink, both of which quickly became classroom favourites. There was a buzz of amazement as a selection of snakes were presented, one stretching as long as the classroom carpet.

In addition to reptiles, the workshop featured geckos with their remarkable climbing abilities and even a tarantula, which had recently shed its skin, providing a unique glimpse into the moulting process. The highlight of the visit was the adorable baby meerkats who were only eight weeks old (not oviparous animals but the cutest mammals the children had ever seen).

The workshop was both informative and interactive. The children learned about the animals' diets, habitats and behaviours. They also discovered what makes reptiles and other oviparous creatures so special in the animal kingdom.

A huge thank you to the RepTylers team for bringing this unforgettable experience to our school. Their passion and knowledge left a lasting impression, sparking curiosity and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



Reporter: Mrs Mills

Library Prefects Trip to Waterstones

Our Year 6 Library prefects thoroughly enjoyed their enrichment trip to Waterstones this half term. The purpose of the visit was to understand the journey from a creative idea to an actual book on the shelves.

They enjoyed a tour of Waterstones and were taken behind the scenes, through secret doors, to see how author's and illustrator's books are made public. Not only that, but they also had the entire store to themselves and took part in solving scattered anagrams before creating book reviews which are now on the shelves for all to see. They were treated to hot chocolate, a luxury tasty treat and gifted a book of their choice to absorb themselves in as avid readers. Our librarians displayed all our school values and this was sincerely commented on and admired by all the staff who worked with them.

Reporter: Miss Thompsett







Windlesham School & Nursery



SCHOOL TRIPS





Year 4 Residential at Lodge Hill - A Wonderful Adventure

What an incredible couple of days Year 4 had at Lodge Hill. Our residential trip was filled with exciting adventures, teamwork and unforgettable memories. The children had the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities, including climbing, tunneling, and orienteering, each of which challenged them in new ways and allowed them to shine.

One of the things that stood out the most was the wonderful support and encouragement the children showed each other. Whether they were scaling the climbing wall, crawling through the tunnels, or navigating the orienteering course, they cheered one another on every step of the way. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were truly inspiring.

I was incredibly proud of how respectful and kind the children were, not only to each other but also to the staff at Lodge Hill. They represented our school with such maturity and warmth and were a true credit to both the school and their families.

A particular highlight of the trip was our evening together, when we gathered in our pyjamas with mugs of hot chocolate and settled down to read stories. It was a perfect, cozy end to a day full of adventure—a moment that really brought the group together.

All in all, the trip to Lodge Hill was an unforgettable experience that has left us with wonderful memories. It was a privilege to watch the children grow, challenge themselves, and enjoy their time together. What a fantastic adventure it's been!

We can't wait for more exciting trips and experiences like this in the future.

Reporter: Miss DJ











SCHOOL TRIPS







Year 6 - An epic week in the Isle of Wight

Enthusiastic children, fantastic activities and glorious weather ensured the trip was a total success.

We abseiled, we battled (in Lazer Tag), we climbed, we danced, we flew (on the zip wire), we paddled, we solved problems and we even slept!

Over the course of the week there were so many examples of our Learning Powersespecially Co-operation, Creativity, Reflection & Resilience. Fuelled by the hearty meals (and a seemingly endless supply of sweets) the groups encouraged, supported, guided and celebrated each other in every activity- a true reflection of how brilliant this group of children are.

Fears were faced, amazing achievements were accomplished and memories were certainly made.





Our trip to Tate Modern

First, we packed our lunch into our lunch boxes, then we walked down to the train station. We sat quietly waiting for our train. Finally, we got on the train and off we went, Tate Modern here we come!

After what felt like a long but fun journey, we arrived at Blackfriars station and we saw many London landmarks such as St Paul's Cathedral, The Shard and some of the London Eye. Tate Modern, the gigantic building appeared to us after a quick walk along the River Thames.

With our clipboards we went around Tate sketching some of the lovely pictures. After that we went to the main gallery and we all sat around an amazing sculpture representing lots of little people holding up a massive tower. We also saw a huge spider sculpture. We ate our lunch outside in the sunshine and then went to spend our money in the gift shop before getting on the train back to school. It was such a fun adventure.

Reporter: Zoey







SPORTS NEWS

Brighton & Hove Football Finals

On Wednesday 30th April, Year 6 played their final football fixture for Windlesham and it proved to be a fitting end for all the pupils involved. We played our fellow district winners Coldean in a highly competitive and entertaining match, which demonstrated why both teams did so well in the district tournament earlier in the year.

Coldean struck first to make it 1-0 despite Windlesham dominating possession and looking dangerous in their opponents area. Windlesham continued to build confidence and equalised late in the first half with a superb first-time finish from Theo with brilliant build up play from Rumi, Nathaniel and Dylan.

Windlesham then scored again early in the second half through a long-term strike from Dylan who had been instrumental throughout the game. Timothy, Ernie and Abraham were fantastic in defence, keeping Coldean players at bay whilst William made fantastic saves all game. However, Coldean responded with a second to make it 2-2.

Windlesham pushed for a winner and nearly had it with an incredible acrobatic effort from Dylan and another great chance from Nathaniel but we had to settle for a very good draw.

Well done to all the pupils who played, it was an enjoyable game to watch and I was extremely proud of the sportsmanship and teamwork on display too.



Sophia's Tennis Success

A huge congratulations to Sophia for her recent successes on the tennis court over Easter. Sophia won the Grade 3 Under 10 Weald Tournament, showcasing her determination and talent, and followed this up with a fantastic runner-up finish at the Grade 3 Under 10 Sutton Tournament.

Well done, Sophia — we're incredibly proud of your achievements and wish you the very best in your upcoming competitions.

Reporter: Mr Wilkinson



Cricket at Shoreham College

We had a brilliant double cricket fixture at Shoreham College, with superb batting, bowling, and fielding on display from our Windlesham pupils.

Dylan and Eleanor showcased excellent batting in one match, while Jay, Griffin, and Ernie impressed with the bat in the other. Olive, Abraham, and Theo stood out with their bowling performances, and everyone contributed strongly in the field.

It was a real pleasure to watch the children put their cricket skills to the test in competitive conditions, all while showing great sportsmanship throughout.

Well done to all involved – a fantastic effort from the whole team.

Reporter: Mr Wilkinson



FRIENDS OF WINDLESHAM



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has whizzed by! We were delighted to meet with Mr Matthews and start discussing future projects for the FOW to support. We hope to be able to share more details next half term.

We are looking forward to the Beach Clean day on Saturday 7th June. A chance to get together whilst doing something to support World Ocean Day in our local area. We hope to see some of you there. Thanks to Miss DJ for leading this.

We are hoping to squeeze in a final Upper School Movie Night next term, for a viewing of Despicable Me 4 as promised. Details to follow!

We have been busy behind the scenes planning the Summer Fayre. With a new inflatable run coming, combined with the usual favourites, we think it will be a fantastic day. The success of the day relies on the support of all our families and local businesses, so thank you to all for getting involved in whatever way you can.

We are hosting a live auction on the day. We have started collecting prizes, but we'd love some more! If you own a business, or know a local business that would be happy to donate please get in touch. Vouchers, products or services greatly appreciated!

This year we are also looking at sponsorship opportunities for the fayre. Again, if you own a business or work for one that would be interested in sponsorship opportunities please get in touch.

We are in search of someone to join Emily as co-treasurer next year. If you would like to volunteer please speak to one of us or email fow@windleshamschool.co.uk. We are always looking for more people to get involved, and would love some additional committee members. If you would be interested, again please speak to one of us or drop us an email.

Have a fantastic half term holiday.

The Friends of Windlesham Team



& Nursery





BRIGHTON IULY IULY so Spectacular 14-18 21-25 Windtenham School BIAGUE: 201 Dyne Rd, 104 ġ Limited spaces, book now! BELIEVE ACHIEVE EXCEED

Theatretrain is coming to Brighton! As an introduction I will be running an Early Bird Summer Musical Theatre week from 14-18th July 2025 at Windlesham school. Children aged 7-11 are being offered an exciting week of West End fun with a final performance to parents on the final afternoon.

Spaces are limited so please book your child's place early to avoid disappointment by following the link and scrolling down to the booking form and choosing your class(es) on the dropdown: https://www.theatretrain.co.uk/brighton/new-customers/ Price per week : £195 per child 25% sibling reduction of above rate £50 deposit A second week (July 21-25) is available at a different venue (BHASVIC)



10am – 12.30pm each day

Ages 9 –15



at Preston Park and Hove Park

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evels 1 & 2 together is £47 per

cycling envelope host/courses/ act Emily Tester on 01273 29384 I: east central@brighten-hove.gov (



at Preston Park

and Hove Park

on busy roads within the city.

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

Level 3 training costs £52 per person

https://cycling.envelope.host/courses or contact Emily Tester on 01273 29384 or email: east.central@brighton-hove.gov.ul

/ 27 – Thursday 29 May 1.15pm – 3.15pm each day

Ages 11 - 15 ren <u>must</u> have attended a le Ind allowed 3 months pract ssessed on level 2 gressing further.



MONDAY 4TH AUGUST - FREDAY 6TH AUGUST 2825 Register Now ULTIMATE FRISBEE SUMMER SKILLS CLUB Introduction to Outdoor Ultimate Frisbeel Join us for an exciting new outdoor Ultimate Frisbee summer skills club! Learn to play Ultimate, have fun, and make friends while improving coordination and Age Groups: ⊘ 5-8 years 9-14 years 15-17 years Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Patho units 4 PMA on 9 AM, pick-up as Cost: £29 per day Location: Brighton Football Chill, BN1 SVII

> To book your place, scan the GR code or visit www.brightonyouthuttimate.uk/summer-skits



TERM DATES

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

> **Staff Inset Day** Friday 19th June

Term ends Friday 10th July

2024 - 2025 Term Dates

Summer Term 2025

Half Term holiday Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May inclusive

> **Term ends** Thursday 10th July

Staff Inset Day Friday 11th July



