



# Windlesham School Newsletter



Autumn 2  
December 2025

## Headteacher's Message

### Dear Parents and Carers,

It is always a great pleasure reflecting back on what has happened in school over the past term. Our children are very fortunate in the diet of education they receive, one that is broad, balanced and enriched with meaningful and engaging opportunities that develop our cultural capital. One of my key priorities this term was putting together our school development plan with staff, mapping out the direction we are going and the journey we are to make. It is important we do not stop on our journey to success and to ensure we keep focused on the end goal, which is the best opportunity for your children. I want to continue to build this school, the curriculum and everything about it, making it the best school it can be! Nothing matters more to me than the children's experience and education!



An absolute highlight for me this term was seeing the two nativity shows, they were both incredible, packed with fun and laughter, great costumes and had children acting, dancing and remembering lines - a great feat for children so young! If you were able to come then I hope that this was a real treat for you too. In a different way, it was great to see the carol concert and the impressive musical production that this was with live music, singing and readings. What more, it brought us together to really reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, ensuring that this important story is never lost.

As we continue to reflect on all our great opportunities this term, we also get excited about next. We are amidst a curriculum review here at school where we are reworking topics to keep them fresh, engaging and relevant. This will see some new opportunities ahead. There are many more trips on the cards, fantastic opportunities to a wide range of extra-curricular clubs, numerous sporting fixtures, visitors to the school and great theme weeks to get our teeth into. I know that the children will love our new 'Book Led Learning Journeys' which will be starting next term. These allow a new approach to the curriculum, and I am sure the children will get hooked on a new book - it would be great if parents wanted to buy your child their own copy of this book - more details to follow.

Well, as I sign off today, I wanted to extend a personal and genuine 'Merry Christmas' to each and every one of you. Thank you for all that you have done to support your child and for choosing our school. Thank you also for all the merry wishes that you have extended, or will extend to staff over the week, they do mean a lot to us all. I hope that Santa is kind to you all and that the weather enables us all to enjoy Christmas to its fullest.

Kind regards,

Nick Matthews,  
Headteacher & DSL

WINDLESHAM SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Windlesham School  
& Nursery



# General News

## Merits

The following children are to be congratulated for their tremendous effort or positive attitude (as at Wednesday 10th December 2025):

### Lower School

Isaac, Apollo, Cameron, Osian, Felix G, Will M, Nico, Mona

### Upper School

Toby W, Jack B (Yr 4), Felix, Marina, Toby P, Levi, Ariana, Jessica, Jack C, Jack SL, Essi, Sam, Thomas, Sophia, Zachary, Carme, Alex, Rumi, Michael O, Carla, Simona, Mark, Olive, MJ

## Autumn Term Owls

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

Ezra T, Ezzie G, Raffi, Rory, Otis, Felix G, Isaac, Huxley, Apollo, Aylin, Halle, Paolo, Freddie, Nico, Kit, Maxim, Ivy, Genevieve, Schroeder, Levi, Etta, Jack B (Yr3), Willow, Delilah, Lara, Matilda, Rocco, George F, Jude, Afie, Edison, Daniel, Ariana, Rosie W, Taigh, Archer, Thomas, Jack C, Sophia, Jack SL, Harrison, Essi, Seb H, Carmen, Michael O, Kyra, Zachary, Alex, Rosie I, Joe, Lucas, Jay, Simona

### Visit to Hangleton and West Blatchington Foodbank

Our recent experience at the Foodbank was amazing. All the volunteers were very friendly, especially Eleanor, the Co-ordinator.

We helped them to set up the room and then sort eggs into boxes of six. (We only broke 2!)

They took us to see where all the food is stored and they explained about check the 'use by' dates and rotating the stock.

Eleanor talked us through the process of how the clients are referred and what happens on the day.

Thank you to everyone who has donated some chocolate for their Christmas treats. We will be delivering them soon.

Reporters: MJ & Harry



### Windlesham Shines at the Church of the Good Shepherd Tree Festival

I had the pleasure of accompanying a small group of wonderful Year 3 and Year 4 pupils to the Church of the Good Shepherd, where we took part in their much-loved annual Tree Festival.

Matilda, Lucy, Albie and Justin proved themselves to be outstanding tree decorators, approaching the task with creativity, teamwork and plenty of festive spirit. They represented Windlesham beautifully, and we are very proud of them.

If you're passing by the church, do take a moment to visit our very own Stars of Windlesham tree—it's sure to bring a smile to your face!

Reporter: Mrs Farnell.





# School Activities

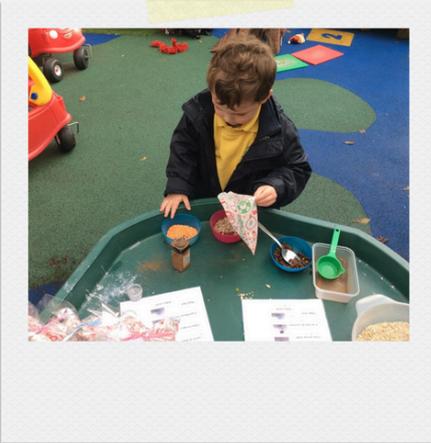
## The Owlets Stretch, Breathe & Sprinkle Christmas Magic



The children explored how to move their bodies into different poses and stretches. Alyx from Balance Yoga used an animal-themed book to inspire creative movements, and the Owlets practiced listening to the bell and focusing on their breathing to feel calm and relaxed.

The Owlets have also been making reindeer food by measuring out the correct number of scoops of oats, seeds, raisins and even some magic dust! The children hope that when they sprinkle it outside on Christmas Eve that the reindeer will smell the lovely cinnamon, eat the food and that the magic dust will help them fly the sleigh and deliver all the presents.

Reporter: Mrs Older



## The Power for Good: Reception's Superhero Mission Against Bullying

Reception had an exciting Anti-Bullying Week inspired by Supertato by author Sue Hendra. When the mischievous Evil Pea character from the story escaped, the children used this year's Anti-Bullying theme, The Power for Good, to work together and stop his tricks.

Through creative learning, the children designed superhero costumes and masks, wrote about the characteristics that make a good superhero, and even made a jelly trap to catch the Evil Pea!

In maths, the children explored the composition of number to 10 by adding numbers together to trap multilink peas under a bucket and used their "superpowers" to split numbers in different ways.

The children also explored kindness and making good choices through a moral dilemma: should they rescue the Evil Pea from the jelly? Using speech bubbles, they imagined what the Evil Pea might say when caught.

The week ended with a fantastic superhero dress-up day, celebrating friendship, teamwork, and using their Windlesham Values to make the world a kinder place.

Reporter: Mrs Mills





# School Activities

## Year 1 - Where in the World

This half term, our topic was 'Where in the World', and the children have been on an exciting journey to learn about our planet. They have explored the seven continents, discovered their names, and learned where each one is located on a world map. We have also talked about the different climates, animals, and landmarks that make each continent unique.

In Art, the children created their very own balloon globes. First, they inflated balloons and then carefully placed the continents in the correct positions. This hands-on activity helped them understand how the continents fit together and gave them a real sense of the shape of our world. The classroom was full of colourful globes and lots of proud faces.

Reporter: Miss Jarman



## Year 2: Exploring Shapes, Stories, and Synagogues

This half term has been wonderfully busy for Year 2, filled with lots of learning, exploring, and special experiences.

In Maths, the children have been growing in confidence as they use a range of resources to support their addition work. They have also been learning all about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, enjoying plenty of hands on activities along the way.



In English, our book focus 'The Snail and the Whale' has been a big hit! The children loved diving into the story and have been practising how to use expanded noun phrases, discovering how adjectives can make their sentences more descriptive and exciting- we have then put this into action in our writing.

We've also had a fantastic time on our synagogue trips, where pupils asked thoughtful questions and represented the school brilliantly. Throughout the half term, we enjoyed several themed days that brought our learning to life and added lots of fun to our routine.



Year 2 have worked incredibly hard and should feel very proud of everything they've achieved. We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break, and we can't wait to welcome the children back in January for even more learning and adventures!

Reporter: Mrs Smallwood



# School Activities

## From William Morris to Viking Trade – Year 3's Busy Half Term

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting half term.

In Art, the children explored Cubism, creating their own imaginative faces inspired by Picasso's *The Weeping Woman*. They also completed their study of William Morris, producing beautiful repeating wallpaper designs. Check out some of these outside Year 3 class on the display board!



The class took part in five Pedestrian Training sessions, learning about car lights, seatbelt safety, and how to cross roads safely — including why parked cars can be dangerous and why the quickest route isn't always the safest. So they should now all be really safe pedestrians, keeping themselves and others safe.

We were pleased to welcome Mr Morrin, who taught us about Viking trade and money, bringing our history learning to life. These experiences mean so much to our children and added a whole new level of depth to the topic.

The children also enjoyed working with their Year 2 Buddies, testing out the paper aeroplane instructions they had written in English.



It has been a wonderful half term, and we are very proud of everything Year 3 have achieved

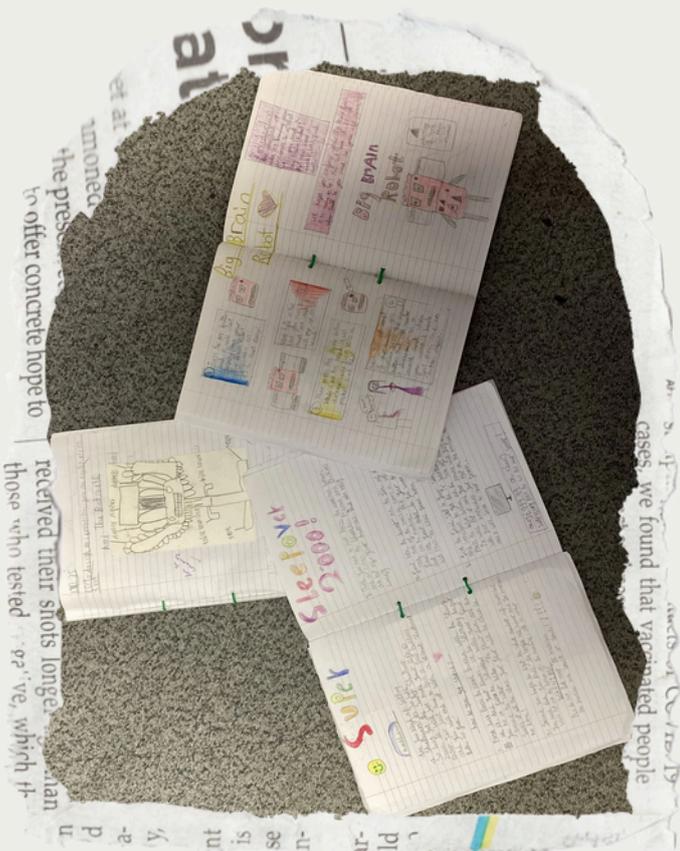
Reporter: Mrs Slater

## Explaining the Extraordinary: Year 4's Writing Journey

The children have been developing their explanation-text skills by inventing their own creations and writing clear, structured explanations of how they work. They learned to organise ideas logically, use technical vocabulary, and include key features such as sequenced steps and causal conjunctions. Their diagrams, labelled parts, and careful explanations showed real progress in their English writing.

It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine through this project. The class showed great enthusiasm, combining imaginative ideas with growing confidence as writers. Overall, they produced fantastic inventions and strong explanations — an enjoyable and successful learning experience for everyone.

Reporter: Mrs Coego





# School Activities

## Year 5 Primary Maths Challenge

What is the PMC?

Created by The Mathematical Association, the Primary Mathematics Challenge (PMC) is a fun and exciting mathematical challenge.

The PMC is not designed to be just another test in the school year. We are of the belief that the PMC encourages enthusiasm, boosts confidence in mathematics and shows the different way questions can be asked. We believe in the importance of problem solving as a means of helping pupils develop their reasoning skills.

Year 5 pupils embraced The Primary Maths Challenge 2025. A huge well done to all who took part. Certificate were awarded to the following pupils.

**Thomas** scored a well-deserved 22 points out of 25 Gold Certificate. I await to hear if this qualifies him for the Bonus Round in February 2026.

Certificate winners are: **Archer** – Silver Certificate; **Essi** – Silver Certificate; **Sophia** – Bronze Certificate; **Sam** – Bronze Certificate.

Reporter: Ms O'Dowd



## Year 6 Art: Activism Project

This term, Year 6 explored how art can be a powerful tool for activism. They studied artists who use creativity to champion causes and communicate important messages, focusing on Luba Lukova's striking poster designs.

Pupils reflected on issues they care about through a "Find Your Message" activity, considering questions like What do you care about? and What is your message to the world?

This reflective activity helped pupils explore their identities, articulate their beliefs, and develop confidence in expressing their own viewpoints.

Inspired by these ideas, they created their own activist 'Zines' using collage, photocopying, and mixed media. They experimented with bold imagery, text, and composition to communicate their chosen messages. The project encouraged pupils to express their beliefs and discover that art can inspire change and the results in their sketchbooks was superb.

Reporter: Mrs Gomez



# School Activities

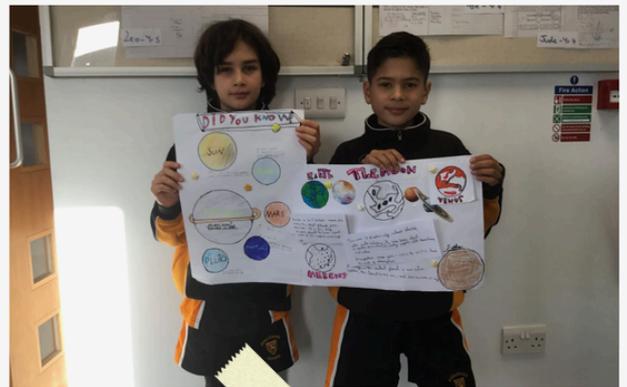
## Science Spotlight Across the Year Groups

Our pupils have been busy exploring the wonders of science this term:

- Year 4 impressed us with their vibrant Vertebrates Posters, showcasing their understanding of animal groups and characteristics in creative and eye-catching designs.
- Year 5 took a cosmic leap with their Partner Planets Posters, working collaboratively to research fascinating facts about our solar system and beyond.
- Year 6 have been budding scientists, investigating the conditions for mould growth. Their experiments are helping them understand how variables like moisture and temperature affect living organisms—real hands-on science in action!

We're so proud of the curiosity and creativity shown by all our pupils. Keep an eye out for more exciting discoveries next term.

Reporter: Mrs Colley





# School Trips & Workshops



## Reception's trip to the Theatre Royal

Our Reception children had a wonderful time at the Theatre Royal this half term, watching The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show. The performance was a brilliant collection of Eric Carle's much loved stories brought to life through magical puppetry and storytelling.

The children were captivated as the familiar characters from Brown Bear, Brown Bear, The Very Busy Spider, 10 Little Rubber Ducks, and The Very Hungry Caterpillar appeared on stage. There was lots of excited chatter on the way back to school and the children could not stop talking about it. This was definitely a great treat for our children. Well done, a great skill to master!

Reporter: Mrs Mills



## Year 4 Visit to the Sea Life Centre

Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Sea Life Centre this half term!

The children were thrilled to spot amazing sea turtles and take part in the interactive Sea Defenders Workshop, where they learned how plastic pollution impacts our coastlines and beaches. This linked perfectly to our science and geography curriculum on sustainability, habitats, and the impact of human activity on the environment.

Pupils discussed practical ways we can reduce plastic use and protect our oceans, reinforcing their learning about environmental responsibility. The day ended with an exciting rockpooling session, giving pupils the chance to explore marine life up close.

A wonderful experience full of learning and memorable moments—well done, Year 4

Reporter: Miss DJ





# School Trips & Workshops

## Year 6 Visit to Downs Air Raid Shelter

Year 6 had an unforgettable experience exploring our local air raid shelter as part of their World War II history unit. The visit gave pupils a real sense of what life was like during the Blitz and how people coped with the challenges of wartime Britain.

Inside the shelter, children saw the cramped conditions where children would have spent long hours during air raids. They learned about the importance of rationing, the role of gas masks, and even experienced an air raid! Our guides shared fascinating stories about how communities pulled together and stayed resilient during difficult times. We are incredibly lucky to have this historic air raid shelter right here in our community. It offers a unique opportunity for pupils to step back in time and experience local history.

The visit really brought history to life, helping pupils understand the courage and resourcefulness of those who lived through the war. A big thank you to the volunteers at the shelter for making the day so engaging and memorable! Some of which had strong connections to Windlesham. David Pierce sent both his daughters to Windlesham 40+ years ago and Miles Bingham was a Windlesham Head boy himself!

## Year 6 Zoom Workshop on World War II

Year 6 also took part in an exciting online workshop all about World War II. The session was delivered via Zoom by a specialist history educator, bringing the past to life in a truly interactive way.

During the workshop, pupils explored key themes such as life on the Home Front, evacuation, rationing, and the role of propaganda. They had the chance to see real wartime artefacts on camera, including gas masks, ration books, and identity cards, and learned how these items were used during the war. The presenter shared fascinating stories and answered lots of thoughtful questions from our pupils.

The virtual format meant that children could engage with history in a dynamic way, even from the classroom. It was a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of the challenges and resilience shown by people during the war.

Reporter: Mrs Lilley





# Sports News

## Netball & Football Fixture at Shoreham College

We started half term with a lovely netball and football fixture for the Years 3 & 4 at Shoreham College.

The netballers displayed superb teamwork all the way through, progressing up the court brilliantly with good movement and accurate passing. Marina scored one whilst Elodie scored an amazing four baskets in the game, to help win 5-3.

Meanwhile, the footballers showed great spirit and enthusiasm throughout their match. Seb and Albie were particularly strong in midfield, whilst Zac scored a fantastic goal. Shoreham won on this occasion, but it was a brilliant effort from everyone involved.

Reporter: Mr Wilkinson



## Netball At Shoreham College

On Wednesday 5th October, the netball team travelled to Shoreham for a fixture. We had a competitive match.

Windlesham took an early lead in the first half, with some great movement in the goal circle from Rosie and Essi and impressive shooting from Kyra. Carmen found some great space in the attacking end and fed the circle well. Defensive pressure from Sophia and Simona gave us plenty of opportunities, with Guy and Isabella also proving to be a great duo in defence. Shoreham staged a comeback in the third quarter, taking the lead! However, quick connections between Olive and Eleanor in the final quarter saw a sudden surge of goals and we got the win.

The match ended 7-5 to Windlesham. Shoreham awarded the Player of the Match award to Kyra.

Reporter: Mrs Mack





# Sports News

## Netball at Lancing Worthing

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November two netball teams travelled to Lancing Worthing for their fixture.

The Black team played a triangular fixture, with Lancing and Shoreham. The team worked brilliantly together even managing position rotations without any adult assistance. Their hard work over the last few weeks has really paid off and they managed to secure two wins, both 4-0. Players of the match were Olive & Kyra.



The Yellow team faced just Lancing. For many of the team it was their first fixture this year, however you would never have known this from their confident performance.

After the first quarter we had a 2-0 lead, which we extended in the second quarter to a 6-0 lead. The third quarter started with a great intercept and our defensive pressure continued but we couldn't quite make it count in the attack end.

We finished the game with another goal and celebrated Lancing's hard work paying off and them scoring a goal too- great sportsmanship. The match finished 7-1 to Windlesham with Zoe being award player of the match.

Reporter: Mrs Mack

## November Football Fixtures

We had a superb Year 5 & 6 football fixture with Lancing Worthing and Shoreham College to end our November.

Two football matches ran side by side and both teams did Windlesham proud.

We had a really tense 2-0 win against Lancing Worthing which was end to end the whole game. Sam and Leo scored superb goals to make the difference. Meanwhile, the other game against Lancing Worthing was equally close ending in a tight 4-3 loss with Jack C and Taigh scoring the goals. We also had a very close 1-0 loss to Shoreham where we were very unfortunate not to score.

All pupils showed great sportsmanship and teamwork throughout so a huge well done to everyone involved.

Reporter: Mr Wilkinson





# Friends of Windlesham



## 🎄 FOW: Christmas Fayre Round-Up

The Christmas Fayre this year was pure magic. From the snow machine, to our Santa's Grotto Windlesham felt like a little winter wonderland. What made it truly special, though, was how many people came together to make it happen. FOW, class reps, staff and parents across every year group really pitched in, creating an event that ran smoothly and was full of festive joy.



The stalls were buzzing. The Teddy Tombola was, once again, an unstoppable force. It remains one of life's great mysteries how every family donates one teddy and somehow goes home with three...we'll need Mrs O'Dowd to dig into those maths.



A huge thank you goes to our incredible teachers and staff, who continue to give so much of their time, energy, and heart to our children...not just during the Fayre, but every single day. And a very special mention must go to Mr Matthews, whose support, enthusiasm, and "YES, let's make it happen" attitude has taken every Friends of Windlesham idea and turned it into a reality.

We raised an amazing £2450, which will go straight back into school life and supporting experiences for all our children.



Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, set up, cleaned up, or simply showed up with festive spirit and had a few drinks. Your effort is what makes events like this feel so full of heart.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas!

FOW Team

FRIENDS  
of Windlesham





# Term Dates

## Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Term ends  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Spring Term 2026

Staff Inset Day  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Term starts  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half Term holiday  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February inclusive

Term ends  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Summer Term 2026

Staff Inset day  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Term starts  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Bank Holiday  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Half Term holiday  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May inclusive

Staff Inset Day  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Term ends  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

**HOLIDAY SKATE CLUB**

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED  
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME  
MOBILE SKATEPARK  
ARTS AND CRAFTS  
GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

W/C MON 29<sup>TH</sup> | 4 DAYS (NOT NYD) | 9AM-3PM

BOOK: [THESKATECLUB.COM/HOLIDAYSKATECLUB](https://theskateclub.com/holidayskateclub)

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**DETAILS:**

- Fridays
- 2 hours after school
- Ages 8+

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**Young Engineers Christmas Workshops**

Age 6-11 years

Dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec @ Brunswick Infants  
Time: 9:30 am - 3:30pm  
Price: £48 per child  
(Use code 'SIBLING' to receive 10% disc for any siblings being booked.)  
For more details and to book, visit: <https://bookwhen.com/brightyoungengs> or use QR code

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