



# Windlesham School Newsletter



Spring 1  
February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Starting back after Christmas in January can be tricky. The dark mornings, grey skies and wintry weather can test everyone's resilience and growth mindset — staff included. Yet I am delighted to say that we have reached the half-term break with energy, optimism and a great deal to celebrate. It has certainly been a busy few weeks: the children are ready for a well-earned rest, the staff are looking forward to a pause, and the school itself will enjoy a moment of calm. Despite January's gloom, Windlesham has remained a hive of learning, a menagerie of experiences and, at times, a time portal — the weeks seem to disappear before our eyes!

Over the past few weeks, I have greatly enjoyed welcoming several governors into school to see learning in action, and I am pleased to share that we have recently appointed a new governor to the board. School tours and taster days have also kept us busy, and it has been a pleasure to introduce prospective families to the Windlesham experience. One parent the other week even left in tears — the happy kind — expressing how much she hoped her child would join us. Moments like these remind me, as do my daily visits to lessons and lunches with the children, just how fortunate we are to be part of this community. Education continues to evolve, expectations shift and curricula adapt, but our values and our heart remain steadfast. Windlesham offers a uniquely tailored education for our children, something we are proud of. The children will always be at the centre of every decision we make.

As you will see in the newsletter, there has been no shortage of exciting opportunities this half term: hedgehog encounters for our younger pupils, West End theatre trips, Valentine's discos, cycle training, and a visit to the Tate Modern — where, for the second year running, the fire alarm prompted a full evacuation. I was particularly proud to hear members of the public comment on how exceptionally well our Year 4 pupils conducted themselves during the trip. Next half term is already shaping up to be equally enriching, with further trips and visits, a whole-school e-safety day for pupils, staff and parents, a visit from an ever-popular history presenter, and a hike up to Devil's Dyke — just a taste of what lies ahead.

This week I hosted our first Windlesham Coffee Morning recently. It was a small gathering, but a very valuable one, and I appreciated the thoughtful conversations with those who attended. Please do look out for the next date in the summer term. Parents' Evening is also approaching, and I am sure you will have already noted this on the calendar shared earlier this week. We also said goodbye to Miss Dean and two pupils this week as they move on to new adventures. We wish them every success and happiness, and they will always remain part of the Windlesham family.

As we head into the break, I hope you enjoy some special time together as a family. Thank you for your continued support; we are committed to making this school the very best it can be, and your perspectives are always welcomed and appreciated. I wish you all a wonderful half term and look forward to welcoming you back in just over a week.

Kind regards,

Nick Matthews  
Headteacher

**Huge THANK You to our FOW for what was a brilliant Valentines disco. Your support and planning made it a brilliant event!**



WINDLESHAM SCHOOL & NURSERY

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www.windleshamschool.co.uk



Windlesham School  
& Nursery



# General News

## Merits

The following children are to be congratulated for their tremendous effort or positive attitude (as at Wednesday 11th February 2026):

### Lower School

Huxley , Cameron, Luna, Benjamin, Apollo , Halle , Felix PG, Suri, Kit, Aurelia

### Upper School

Genevieve, Sorrel, Freya, Alfie, Edward. Toby P, Matilda, Etta, Levi, Lara, Jude, George, Jessica, Afie, Feliks, Rosie W, Thomas, Guy, Annie, Diego, Alex, Carla, Michael O, Kyra, Eleanor, Jay, MJ, Joe, Lucas

## Spring Term Owls

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

Elijah, Finley, Ezra, Arlo, Raffi, Cameron, Osian, Felix G, Apollo, Benjamin, Felix PG, Kit M, Will, Suri, Mona, Ivy, Sorrel, Reuben, Alfie, Lara, Delilah, Willow, Felix L, Toby W, Lucy, Edison, Feliks, Rocco, Daniel, Elodie, Edison, Jude, Jack SL, Rosie W, Essi, Ethan, Sophia, Leo, Annie, Guy, Jack C, Sam, Zoe, Taigh, Michael C, Seb H, Theo, Eleanor, Carmen, Alex, Rosalena I, Isabella RW, Kyra, Zachary, Joe, Simona, Olive

## Supporting Your Child in an Age of AI

As artificial intelligence becomes a bigger part of everyday life—both in and out of the classroom—we know parents may have questions about how to guide their children in using these tools safely and responsibly.

Here is a link to a helpful website with resources to help you support age-appropriate use and keep children safer:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/>

## We're looking for a Treasurer to join our FOW team!

If you're organised, enjoy working with numbers, and want to support a great school community, we'd love to hear from you.

This is a rewarding role where you'll help manage funds that directly benefit our children and school. Full support provided and you'll be joining a friendly, welcoming team 😊

✉ Interested? Please message us or email [fow@windleshamschool.co.uk](mailto:fow@windleshamschool.co.uk)

FRIENDS  
of Windlesham



# School Activities

## Owlets Explore Fairytales Through Storytelling, Play and Imagination



During our work on *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, the Owlets children sequenced the story to find out what happened first, next and last.

To support this activity the children used masks and puppets to act out the story to one another. They helped one another to remember the next part of the story and enjoyed exploring ways to use the puppets and masks during free play later in The Owlets.

On our Fairy tale day The Owlets enjoyed dressing up as their favourite character. They participated in a range of fun activities from matching up fairy tale characters, creating crowns and shields, making snow globes to using a variety of fruit to make healthy fruit kebabs.

They also visited the library to look at and read fairy tale books and talk about their favourite stories this half term.

Mrs Older



## Reception's Bear-illiant Learning

Reception had a wonderful Teddy Bears' Picnic themed week, full of excitement, learning and cuddly visitors!

The children began the week by learning about healthy and unhealthy foods, sorting different items and discussing which foods help our bodies to grow strong. This led perfectly into a variety of writing activities, where the children wrote an invitation to their teddy bear at home, asking them to come along to the picnic. The children also created speech bubbles from their teddies, explaining the bear's favourite sandwich filling. There were some very creative ideas and lots of fantastic vocabulary shared.



The children had great fun doubling with Numicon "sandwiches", then put their maths to work by making real sandwiches for their teddies! They chopped them into squares, rectangles and triangles, discovering how shapes can change. To top it off, they set off on a 3D shape hunt indoors and outside, excitedly spotting shapes everywhere using their new maths words.

All of the learning built up to the highlight of the week...the Teddy Bears' Picnic! The children and their bears enjoyed a lovely picnic together, celebrating a fun-filled week of learning.

Mrs Mills





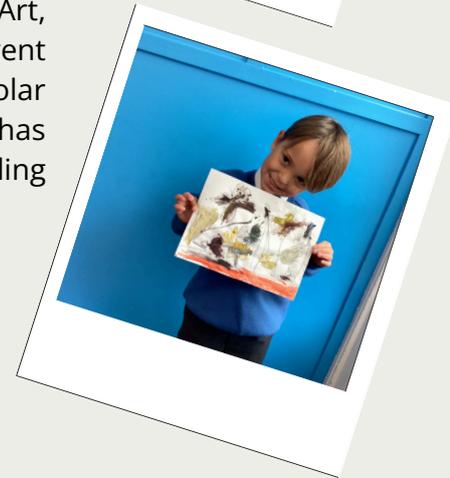
# School Activities

## Learning About Our World: Habitats in Year 1

This half term, Year One have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their new topic inspired by the beautiful text *Dear Earth* by Isobel Otter and Clara Anganuzzi. Through this story, the children have been learning about a range of habitats from around the world, discovering the animals that live there and the unique features that help them survive.

The children have also continued this learning in Art, where they have created fantastic pictures of different habitats using a variety of media. From icy polar landscapes to vibrant rainforests, their artwork has showcased both creativity and a growing understanding of the natural world.

Miss Jarman



## A Fantastic Start to the Year in Year 2

We have been developing our understanding of multiplication and division through grouping and practical activities.

It was also wonderful to welcome parents into school to take part in our Read Write Inc. workshops, giving you the opportunity to read alongside your children, and our maths workshop, where we demonstrated ways to support your child's learning.

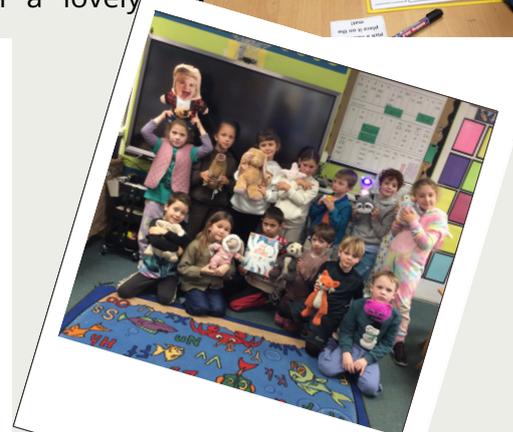
In our topic lessons, we launched our book-led unit *Leo and the Octopus*, which helped us learn about autism and different ways people experience the world. As part of this unit, the children designed communication devices and created their own safe spaces.

I am really looking forward to the exciting adventures that Spring 2 will bring. Wishing you all a lovely February break!

Mrs Smallwood



*We enjoyed a visit to Co-op, where pupils learned how to read food labels and explore what makes food healthy.*





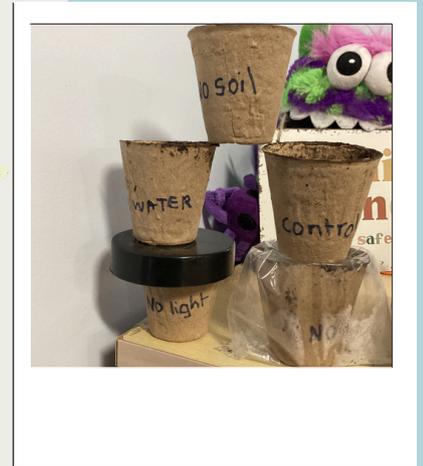
# School Activities

## Year 3 Budding Scientists: Exploring Flowers and Growing Our Own Plants

Year 3 have been very busy in Science this half term.

We have been learning about the different parts of a flower and discovering what plants need to grow and stay healthy.

We have planted grass seeds for our garden areas, as well as radish seeds that we are hoping to grow and enjoy eating at lunchtime. The children are very excited to watch their plants develop



Each week, we are carefully observing the changes and measuring how much our plants have grown. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic about their learning.

Mrs Slater

## Year 4 Explore Narnia and New Friendships Through Creative Learning

Year 4 recently visited their buddies in Owlets to learn all about the Pongal festival and the important role of cows.

The Owlets proudly shared their learning, including some fascinating facts, and showed off the cow masks they had made themselves. It was wonderful to see their confidence as they taught their Year 4 buddies.



Year 4 have been bringing their learning to life through an exciting stop-motion lesson inspired by **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**.

As part of our book-led unit this half term, all humanities lessons have been enriched by the text, giving pupils creative and meaningful ways to explore the story.

This even included a whole-class science investigation where the children made their own fake snow. These hands-on experiences have deepened understanding, sparked curiosity, and made learning both memorable and fun.

This special buddy relationship is a joy to watch, and we love how the children enjoy sharing their learning with one another.

Miss DJ





# School Activities

## Year 5 Transform Poetry into Art in Their Visual Zine Project

This half term, Year 5 created visual poetry zines, combining art and literature in a multi-step creative project. They began by making simple folded sketchbooks and explored how scale, composition and imagery work across a sequence of pages. Working from Berlie Doherty's *Ghost in the Garden*, the children read the poem closely to understand its rhythm and mood, using this to inspire their artwork.

They developed painted and collaged backgrounds, experimenting with subtle colour mixing and personal palettes linked to the poem's atmosphere. Using their painted papers for collage, they cut organic shapes guided by the poem's imagery. Students then added monotype prints and selected lines of text, creating expressive, layered pages.



The finished zines don't follow a strict linear order—each one reinterprets the poem in a unique way. Through this project, children deepened their understanding of poetry while building confidence in creative decision-making and visual storytelling.

Mrs Gomez



## Year 6 Explore the World of Books Behind the Scenes at Waterstones

Our Year 6 librarians, Carmen, Joe, Mark and Lucas, thoroughly enjoyed their recent visit to Waterstones as part of their important roles in our school. They were given an insightful behind-the-scenes tour, learning how a book develops from an author's idea to a finished product on the shelves, including editing, illustration, marketing and display.



Inspired by what they had discovered, the children then designed their own bookshelf book reviews, carefully crafting recommendations to encourage others to read. We are incredibly proud to share that their reviews are now proudly displayed in the store — a wonderful achievement and a testament to their enthusiasm and thoughtful writing.

Of course, the visit was made even sweeter with delicious hot chocolates, babychinos and scrumptious cakes enjoyed together in the café area — the perfect setting for book talk and celebration.



We are extremely proud of our librarians, who represented our school beautifully and demonstrated curiosity, maturity and a genuine love of reading throughout their visit.

Miss Thompsett





# School Activities

## National Win for Windlesham Writers!

At the end of last term, Year 5 pupils were offered the opportunity to participate in a national writing competition called 'Give Nature a Voice'. The competition, organised by 'The Natural Curriculum' and launched by Chris Packham, was open to children across the UK. The Year 5 pupils watched a short BBC nature clip provided by the competition organisers and were then invited to write a piece that brought the scene to life. The video depicted a herd of elephants travelling across the Okavango Delta in search of water.



As January came to an end, we received news from the competition organisers. Thrillingly, 5OD, as represented by the superb writing of Rosie, Sophia and Thomas, was selected as the winning Year 5 class beating all other Year 5 classes across the country. What an achievement on a national level!

The feedback given was that "the quality of the children's writing was truly outstanding and left a lasting impression on the judges. They were particularly impressed by how effectively the pupils captured the atmosphere and mood of the stunning visuals."

Excitingly, Thomas, Rosie and Sophia's writing has now been published on the Natural Curriculum website and we are eagerly awaiting the £150 prize money for the school. What will it be spend it on? Well, that will be up to our fabulous winning Year 5 writers!

Huge congratulations to our Year 5 pupils on this wonderful achievement.

Mrs Croucher

## Whole School Spelling Bee Competition

A wonderful interhouse spelling bee competition! It was fantastic to see our Year 6 house captains and prefects confidently stepping up to help organise and manage the event, demonstrating excellent leadership and responsibility.



It was clear that we have some very strong spellers in the school, with students showing focus, confidence, and determination throughout the competition. The event was a truly heart-warming celebration of learning, filled with school spirit, teamwork, and encouragement for one another.



Miss DJ



# School Trips & Workshops

## Year 6 Houses of Parliament Trip and Matinee Performance of Wicked!

Starting our day with a brisk walk to the station in the glorious winter sun, we boarded the train and had a relaxing journey up to Victoria Station. We walked quickly to the Houses of Parliament, seeing many famous sights and landmarks on the way.



As we entered we went through security, walked through the Sovereign's Entrance at the base of the Victoria Tower where all the laws of the UK are stored - some dating back 1000 years! Once inside, we were taken on a tour of Parliament and House of Lords - a real treat! We saw lots of politicians, a picture gallery and Westminster Hall where Queen Elizabeth II lay in state in 2022. Finally, we had a fantastic workshop about the processes of the government and how it works.

After a quick lunch and stroll, we arrived at the Apollo Theatre excited to watch Wicked. Everyone loved the show, in particular the costumes, the set design, the props and special effects. The voices were outstanding and it was very hard not to sing-along. All in all - Wicked was Wicked. It was a long day, but it was well worth it!

**Simona, Eleanor, Olive & Mia**





# Sports News

## Netball & Rugby at Shoreham College

We had a superb netball and touch rugby fixture against Shoreham College. Our Year 6's were on a school trip which meant that we were able to take all of the Year 5's which was a lovely opportunity.

In the rugby fixture, our pupils were fantastic, winning 4-2 with Sam and Sophia scoring two tries each! Michael consistently showed excellent timing in his passing whilst the whole team worked so well together. What makes this result even more impressive is they were playing Shoreham College Year 6s! So we arrived as the underdogs and left as the champions!

It was a truly outstanding performance.

Meanwhile, our netballers produced a spirited display against a very strong Shoreham side. Everyone was so enthusiastic and showed good elements of passing and movement off the ball. Thomas was a ball of energy and scored superbly, whilst Guy and Essi were very strong defensively.

It was lovely to see such great sportsmanship and lovely smiling faces throughout the day - Well done to everyone involved.

Mr Wilkinson



## Martial Art Success for Ethan

At school we have been incredibly proud to celebrate Ethan's recent success at a London taekwondo tournament, where he won a gold medal in the Special Technique category.



This impressive event showcased his flying kick and high bicycle kick—skills that require strength, precision and fantastic focus. A huge well done to Ethan for this outstanding achievement

## Success for our Reception Swimmers

The Reception have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly swimming lessons and have shown fantastic growth in both confidence and skills. Many children who were once unsure are now happily joining in, splashing, and trying new things.

They have learned how to move safely in the water, practise kicking and floating, and listen carefully to Mrs Malpass, Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Mack. The children are also becoming increasingly independent when dressing and undressing, proudly managing their own clothes and belongings each week.





# Community & Events

## HOLIDAY SKATE CLUB

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

FEB 16TH-20TH | 5 DAYS | 9AM-3PM

BOOK: [THEKATECLUB.COM/HOLIDAYSKATECLUB](http://THEKATECLUB.COM/HOLIDAYSKATECLUB)

TAX-FREE CHILD CARE + VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

The Church of the Good Shepherd invites you to our

## PANCAKE PARTY

Pancakes · Games · Crafts · Races

### Sunday 15 February

### 4pm-6pm

Pancake Day fun for all the family, and especially suitable for children aged 0-11.

Sweet and savoury pancakes provided.  
 Suggested donation: £5 per family.  
 To RSVP scan the QR code or go to our website.

[www.goodshepherdbrighton.org.uk/families](http://www.goodshepherdbrighton.org.uk/families)

## Wired & Tired

For mums raising neurodivergent kids (diagnosed or suspected)

Wired & Tired is a monthly community for mums raising neurodivergent kids of any age - a calm, low-pressure space to connect with people who really get it.

Click below to book your place

Annabella Smith  
Career Coach

@yourbalancedcoaching  
yourbalancedcoaching.com

### Level 1 & Level 2

## CYCLE TRAINING

at Preston Park and Hove Park

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.

Monday 16 - Thursday 19 February  
 10am - 12.30pm each day  
 Ages 9 - 15

Levels 1 & 2 together is £47 per person.

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

Brighton & Hove City Council

### Level 3

## CYCLE TRAINING

at Preston Park and Hove Park

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

Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 February  
 1.15pm - 3.15pm each day  
 Ages 11 - 15

All children must have attended a Level 2 course and allow 3 months practice between levels.  
 All trainees will be assessed on Level 2 outcomes before progressing further.

Training includes roundabouts, traffic lights and filtering. You must have completed Levels 1 and 2.

Places are limited and on a first-come first-served basis.  
 Level 3 training costs £52 per person.

To book your place visit: [www.brightonandhove.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.brightonandhove.gov.uk/cycling) or contact Emily Tester on 01273 293047 or email: [emily.test@brightonandhove.gov.uk](mailto:emily.test@brightonandhove.gov.uk)

Brighton & Hove City Council

## COFFEE MORNING

### The launch

- Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March  
From 9.30 AM - 11.30 AM
- Harbour Hotel  
Brighton seafront
- Ticket includes: community access, hot drink + pastries, lifelong support from mums

Only 15 tickets available!  
Buy yours now - link in bio.

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!

BOOK NOW ONLINE

Scan me to book!

Creating wonderful childhood memories...

Contact us:  
 E: [toamylow@piedpiperactivities.co.uk](mailto:toamylow@piedpiperactivities.co.uk)  
 W: [piedpiperactivities.co.uk](http://piedpiperactivities.co.uk)

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BRIGHTON SCIENCE FESTIVAL

SAT FEB 14TH - SAT FEB 21ST

## HANDS-ON HALF TERM

THE SCOUT HUT (BY THE CO-OP) OLD LONDON ROAD, PATCHAM, BN18XR



# Term Dates

## Term Dates 2025 - 2026

### Spring Term 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

## Term Dates 2026 - 2027

### Autumn Term 2026

Staff INSET days  
Tuesday 1st September & Wednesday 2nd September

#### Term starts

Thursday 3rd September

#### Half Term holiday

Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October inclusive

#### Term ends

Friday 11th December 2026

### Spring Term 2027

#### Term starts

Monday 4th January 2027

#### Staff INSET day

Friday 12th February

#### Half Term holiday

Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February inclusive

#### Term ends

Thursday 25th March 2027

### Summer Term 2027

#### Staff INSET day

Monday 19th April

#### Term starts

Tuesday 20th April

#### Bank Holiday

Monday 3rd May

#### Half Term holiday

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June inclusive

#### Term ends

Friday 9th July

