OCTOBER 2026
NEWSLETTER 2
Sponsored by Green Willow Residential Home

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

What a great start to the year it has been, even if it has seemed very long! We have squeezed so much into each and every day - Reception have started Forest School and enjoyed getting very muddy, Year 2 have enjoyed their final Beach School sessions with some wonderful art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy and Year 1 have begun their visits to White Lodge. We hope you enjoyed our first stay and play sessions of the year for Years 1 and 2 and that you have a greater understanding of how we teach phonics across the school. Everyone really enjoyed the Pumpkin Discos – thank you to all who helped to make this a big success!

Big Thank You



We would like to thank everyone who came to support our autumn grounds morning to help us tidy up and get ready for the winter months. We would also like to thank Ferring Nurseries who very kindly donated some beautiful plants.

We would like to thank you for all the donations for the Turning Tides, a West Sussex Homelessness Charity. These were collected on Thursday and the staff from Turning Tides were extremely grateful.

Reminder: Junior School Transfer/ Reception 2027



All Year 2 children will by now have received their Junior School transfer instructions to apply online. Please note that the **deadline for applications is 15th January 2027.**

For those of you who have younger children due to start school in September 2027 please make sure that you apply for your place by the closing date of **15th January 2027**. These deadlines are extremely important and we have had parents in the past miss out on places as their paperwork was not submitted on time.

Staffing Update

Sadly, Mrs Christabel Britton, our new School Business Manager, will be leaving us today and, therefore, we are once again recruiting for this role. If you know anyone who may be interested, the advert, job description and person specification can be found on Indeed and West Sussex School jobs.

Benedict's Law

Some of you may be aware of the recent Benedict's Law change which came into force on 1st September 2026. Benedict's Law is a legal framework that makes allergy safety and anaphylaxis preparedness mandatory for schools in England.

The legislation was established following a campaign by the Benedict Blythe Foundation, named in memory of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, who tragically died from a severe allergic reaction at school in 2021.

The school has therefore, had to implement a number of key requirements this year. Our school position has always been that we do not hand out sweets or treats to children, however we know that over time a number of parents have chosen to provide sweets/treats for their child's class on their birthday and give these out on the playground at the end of the school day.

In order to help us ensure the children's safety, going forward **this will no longer be permitted. We please ask that you do not bring any type of food (cake, sweets, treats etc) to share with the class at any time and thank you in anticipation of your cooperation with this**.

From time-to-time parents/carers ask school staff to give out party invitations to the class. This has sometimes caused upset where not all children have been invited or where invitations have gone missing or have been unseen in trays or bookbags. You are welcome to stand with your child on the playground and hand out invitations before and after school but please do not ask school staff to do this, thank you.

Birthday Clothes!

We are really lucky because on our birthdays we can wear our own clothes for the day as part of the celebrations! If your birthday falls on the weekend or in the holidays you can choose a different day to wear your own clothes. In return, we ask that you make a £1 donation to school which goes to our School Council projects.



You can bring in cash or pay on My Child at School app.

From the School Council

Preventing Winter Illness

The UK Health Security Agency have asked us to share with our families some information to help prevent and manage common seasonal illnesses.

Please follow the link below:-
https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/08/28/a-guide-to-keeping-kids-healthy-this-school-year-for-parents-and-carers/

Holiday Activities & Food Programme Winter Bookings

Booking for the winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme will be available to parents and carers from **9.00am on 9 November 2026**. The HAF Programme provides free healthy meals, enriching activities and vital support to children accessing **targeted Free School Meals (FSM)** over the holidays. Every eligible child can book up to four free sessions this winter holiday and each session will include a free, nutritious meal.

Follow the link below:-

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/support-for-families/other-support/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/

Armistice Day Wednesday 11th November - Poppies for Sale

We will once again be selling Poppies via the school office from Tuesday 3rd November. The children will be able to wear Poppies in school up to and including Tuesday 11th November. We suggest that you write your child's name on the back of it so it does not get lost!

We will not be selling other products such as wristbands and pencils and we ask that children do not bring these into school if you have purchased them elsewhere. Thank you in anticipation of your support for this very worthwhile charity.



Children are invited to wear their uniforms from clubs such as Cubs, Beavers, Rainbows and Brownies on Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11th November.

Children in Need: Friday 13th November

Children in Need is on Friday 13th November this year and the children are welcome to wear their Pudsey ears to school on this day in return for a donation to Children in Need. If you would like to donate, please use the following link: https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/

FEPS Fireworks Event: Donations and the actual event



FEPS have been busy working behind the scenes to prepare for the amazing fireworks event on Friday 13th November.

Don't forget we have donation days coming up on Friday 6th and 13th November. Please see the FEPIS letter for the donations list.

Please note on 13th November children can wear non-uniform, **however as we have an Open Morning for prospective parents on 6th November, children should wear their uniform as usual on this day.**

FEPS are still looking for volunteers to offer help with setting up, manning stalls and clearing down so please click on the link to sign up if you are able to
https://volunteersignup.org/PXBP8

Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day: Monday 16th November

The week starting Monday 16th November is Anti-Bullying Week. This year's focus is 'Break the Silence'.



As part of our Anti-Bullying week focus, we will be inviting children to come in to school on Monday 16th November wearing odd socks along with their normal school uniform. These can be ones already in your drawer or more decorated versions.

This helps us to celebrate what makes us all unique - a core part of our school's Rights Respecting School ethos.

Repair Café

The East Preston Repair Cafe is now hosted here, in the school hall, on the second Saturday of each month. The next two dates are 14th November and 12th December. They try to fix your broken domestic items, including clothes repairs, toys, electrical faults, jewellery and general household items to stop them going to landfill. A knife sharpening service is also available. They request donations to cover their running costs. If you have any questions, please do contact eastprestonrepaircafe@gmail.com

Wild Science – October Half-Term



East Preston Parish Council is working with Wild Science to bring a small animal experience to the village during half-term.

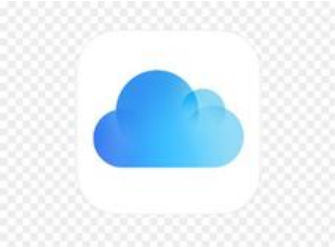
On Tuesday, 27th October, local families are invited to drop in to the Scout Hall in The Street anytime between 10am and midday. There, children (and their adults) will meet and handle animals, from bearded dragons to giant land snails, all with licensed, welfare-first handlers.

Wild Science specialises in providing top-notch animal entertainment tailored specifically for these sorts of events. Wild Science believes that animals are a fantastic way to bring family and friends together, fostering a warm, enjoyable atmosphere at any gathering. Incorporating animals into celebrations not only adds a unique element of fun but also encourages social interactions and shared experiences among guests. Wild Science also shares interesting stories about the personalities and quirks of various species, aiming to demystify them and highlight their gentle and affectionate nature.

This event is free to attend. We do ask people to register how many adults and how many children will be attending as we may need to put a cap on attendance if the event proves really popular.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wild-science-playscheme-tickets-2001049648365

Parent Consultation Evenings: Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November



Parent Consultations will be held face-to-face in the main school hall on the above dates and are available to book now.

In line with other schools, parent consultations are a short 10-minute appointment to inform you about your child's current progress and attainment. We understand that sometimes parents have issues they would like to discuss which may take more time than this, and so in these instances we would ask you to contact the class teacher to make an appointment outside of these times.

Teachers are happy to talk with parents at any point during the school year, you do not need to wait for consultation evenings to discuss concerns. Your child's work is available for you to look at on Open Morning on Thursday 17th December but again, if you wish to look at this at a time other than this, then please speak to your child's class teacher.

Spotlight on Safeguarding: Children's Safeguarding Policy

Did you know that we have a children's version of our Safeguarding Policy?

As well as our safeguarding policy for staff, we also have a child-friendly version designed specifically for pupils. This helps children understand how to keep themselves safe and what to do if they are worried about something.

The policy explains:

- How children can identify adults who should be in school;
- Things that may cause them concern or make them feel worried;
- What they should do if something is troubling them.

Through our PSHE curriculum, we teach children about trusted adults and who they can talk to if they have any worries. We help them to build positive relationships, understand what caring friendships look like, recognise when they may be feeling unsafe, and know what to do if they do not feel safe.

We also teach children about staying safe online and what actions they should take if someone or something online makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Children in Years 1 and 2 are also introduced to Childline and learn how the NSPCC is there to support children who may need help.

Further information about safeguarding can be found on our website. A copy of the Children's Safeguarding Policy is attached to this newsletter for your reference.

Governors Corner

Hello! My name is Chris Dingle and I am delighted to introduce myself as the Chair of Governors at our school.

I live locally with my wife and our two daughters, and in my professional life I work in emergency services leadership, where collaboration, planning and supporting people are central to what I do.

As Chair, I am looking forward to working closely with our fantastic staff, fellow governors, parents and carers to ensure that our school continues to be a happy, safe and inspiring place for every child to learn and thrive.

Could you help shape the future of our school?

We currently have two exciting opportunities to join our Governing Board:

- Parent Governor: An opportunity for a parent or carer of a child at our school to contribute to the strategic direction of the school.

- Co-opted Governor: An opportunity for someone from the wider community to bring their experience, skills and fresh perspectives to our Governing Board.

You don't need previous experience in education or governance. What matters most is enthusiasm, commitment and a genuine desire to make a difference.

If you're interested in either role, please contact the school office to find out more.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months!

Chris Dingle
Chair of Governors

Dates for your Diary

Attached are the dates for you to note on your calendar, please check each newsletter for any updates or amendments.

Please remember that there is an INSET day Monday 2nd November and so the children return to school on Tuesday 3rd November. Have a lovely half term break.

Mrs Claire New
Headteacher



Green Willow Residential Home

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- Qualified staff on duty 24-hours a day.
- Providnig a safe and comfortable home where people are treated a indviduals.
- Full activities programme and trips out, to stimulate and maintain physical and social well-being.
- Excellent standard and choice of healthy, balanced meals, catering for individual dietary needs.

Inspected and rated Good

CareQuality Commission

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OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

Diary Dates

Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October inclusive	
Monday 2nd November	**Inset Day – school closed to pupils**
Tuesday 3rd November	School restarts for pupils FEPIS Pre-loved Uniform sale until 13th Nov
Thursday 5th November	Y2 to visit EPJS with parents
Friday 6th November	Open Morning for 2027/28 intake 9-15am – 10.15am & 10.30am - 11.30am
Tuesday 10th November	YR Learning in Action Phonics – 9am
Wednesday 11th November	YR Learning in Action Phonics – 9am Armistice Day – children can wear club uniform
Friday 13th November	FEPIS Firework Event 5-7pm
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November	Parents Consultations – 3.30pm to 6pm
Thursday 19th November	Parents Consultations – 3.30pm to 6pm
Friday 20th November	Hewson Enterprise visiting Y2
Tuesday 24th November	Open Morning for 2026/27 intake 9.15am – 10.15am & 10.30am – 11.30am
Tuesday 8th December	9.30am – Y2 Christmas Play 2pm – Y1 Christmas Play
Wednesday 9th December	9.30am – Y1 Christmas Play 2pm – YR Christmas Play
Thursday 10th December	9.30am – YR Christmas Play 2pm – Y2 Christmas Play
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Services at St Mary's Church -more details to follow (YR 9.30am/Y1 10.15am/Y2 11am)
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Lunch PM – Year Group parties
Thursday 17th December	Open Morning for current parents – 9am to 10am
Friday 18th December	Pantomime – Dick Whittington – Whole School School finishes at 3.15pm
Monday 4th January	**Inset Day – school closed to pupils**
Tuesday 5th January	School restarts for pupils
Wednesday 6th January	Open Morning for 2026/27 intake 9.15am – 10.15am
Thursday 11th February	FEPIS Happy Hearts Disco

Please note 'Learning in Action' was formerly 'Stay and Play'

INSET Days 2026/27

Monday 2nd November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Friday 28th May 2027