



Newsletter

26.09.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week I met with headteachers from other local schools. It is always good to catch up and support one another. I am always happy to return to our lovely school afterwards!

Interestingly during the meeting we heard from an organisation called Smartphone free childhood. It is my understanding that this organisation started amongst a group of concerned local parents and has now spread nationally. The talk was focused upon the benefits of children not having a smartphone with consideration of the impact of smart phones upon developing brains.

There is so much information out there and I know you will make your own decisions however I include some takeaways from the talk:

- We are proud to be a phone free school. Children do not and must not bring digital devices including phones, smartwatches and iPads to school
- The Weald secondary school (who were present) has expressly stated that children do not need a smart phone for year 7
- The longer you can keep children away from smartphones the better for their mental health, social skills and education.
- They are not helpful to childhood and can actually put children at more risk than less

As a school I am happy with our position to be phone free. Part of my role as safeguarding lead is to highlight concern and direct parents to information that may be relevant. I am sure as concerned parents these issues are on your minds!

Warm wishes,

Tracey Newbold

Reading Workshop

On Wednesday 1st of October, we are running a reading workshop. We will be outlining our approach to teaching reading at school and ways for you to support and encourage your child with reading. The workshop will be run by Mrs Callaghan and supported by myself and is suitable for parents and carers of all children. We are both passionate about reading and very much looking forward to the session.



• I LOVE BOOKS AND COFFEE •

Please do come along...this will be a lovely start to our increasingly chilly mornings.

Tea and biscuits will be available alongside the opportunity to talk us and other parents in a supportive environment.

With the approach of winter what better way to commit to developing a love of reading!



A date for your diary!

Supporting your child with worries and managing our worries as parents' workshop.

To be held at 9:10am on Tuesday 21st October

This will be led by Rachael Highfield and myself and will be an opportunity to discuss practical tips and explore options for support.

Please do use this as an opportunity to speak to Rachael or myself about any concerns you may have in a supportive and understanding environment.

At school we are always here to help.

Hair Cuts

I have noticed that several children are coming to school with patterns cut into their hairstyles. These are not appropriate for school and are against the spirit of our uniform policy.

I know this may be a trend and I really like the actual hairstyle, but please refrain from the lines and patterns. I politely ask you to allow these to grow out or ideally have them removed.

Other than that, our children are still looking smart, four weeks into term! (Although the unnamed lost property is piling up!!)

PGL – Years 5 & 6

Please make sure your PGL payments are up to date (unless you have spoken to Mrs Coxon with an alternative arrangement). If you are paying by instalments the September payment should bring the total paid to £151.

Starting School 2026

Admissions – key dates

Monday 6 October 2025

Online applications open.

You must provide an email address to apply. You can apply online for your child's school place by visiting westsussex.gov.uk/admissions.

Schools will have their prospectuses available and will have arranged open events.

Thursday 15 January 2026

National closing date for starting school applications.

You must submit your completed application by this date. Failure to do so will affect the priority attached to your application.

Thursday 16 April 2026

National offer day.

Applicants will be notified which school their child is offered by email, where an email address is supplied.

Making an online application

To make an application using the online system you will need:

- an email address; and
- create an account on Parent Portal if you do not already have an account.

Your Username will be your email address.

Your password must adhere to the following rules. It must:

- be at least 8 characters long;
- have at least one character that is UPPERCASE;
- have at least one character that is lowercase;
- have at least one special character (such as: * ! \$); and
- have at least one number.

To apply for a school place please visit westsussex.gov.uk/admissions or call 03330 142 903.

westsussex.gov.uk/admissions



Starting school in September 2026

Deadline:
Thursday 15 January 2026



Stay in touch

- @WestSussexCC
- @WSCCNews
- wscvideo



How to apply

If your child's date of birth is between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 it is now time to apply for their school place. You need to apply online by visiting westsussex.gov.uk/admissions

Please be aware that the email address which you provide will be shared with your preference schools and allocated school, as parents and schools increasingly communicate electronically.

If you do not have access to the internet, free access to apply for a school place is available in all West Sussex libraries.

The website provides information needed for completing your application, including details of all the schools in West Sussex, your catchment school, if applicable, and important information for parents. Please read it carefully before making your application.

There are some benefits to applying online and we strongly advise all parents to do so. However, if you really can't access the internet you can obtain a paper form by calling **03330 142 903**.

Please note, you must provide a valid email address with your application in order to receive the outcome of your school offer.

You must apply on time

It is very important that you apply before the closing date of **Thursday 15 January 2026**.

If your application is received after the closing date of **Thursday 15 January 2026** your chance of securing a place at one of your preference schools could be seriously affected.

Applications received after the closing date of **Thursday 15 January 2026** are late applications and will only be considered after all those that were received on time.

It is your responsibility as a parent to ensure that your application is received by the Pupil Admission Team on time.



Your preferences

We advise all parents to think very carefully about their three preferences and to use them wisely.

School places are allocated according to the published oversubscription criteria for that school. This can include criteria such as whether you live in the catchment area, whether there are siblings already at the school and the distance you live from the school.

Please be realistic in your preferences. You have a higher priority for local schools. If you chose an oversubscribed school, the further away you live the less likely you are to be offered a place.

Please note that personal circumstances, such as child care arrangements, are not part of the oversubscription criteria for any school and will not be taken into consideration.

Finally, we always advise parents to include their catchment school, if applicable, as one of their three preferences.

Apply online at:
[westsussex.gov.uk/
admissions](https://westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)

Cool Milk message

Dear parent/guardian,

As you may be aware your child's school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Mid-morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/register. Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late – our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at www.coolmilk.com/parents.

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below – we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☐ : 0800 321 3248
☐ : www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DHSC via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Defra via the School Milk Scheme.

Dates

September

w/c 29th – Bikeability for Year 6 children

October

Wednesday 1st – RWI meeting for Dormouse and Hedgehog – 9am (community room)

Flu vaccination

Thursday 2nd – School Census – all KS1 children to take a hot meal

Wednesday 8th – Year 4 Multiskills Festival at The Weald

Splash assembly

Friday 10th – Year 5 Theatre in Education at Christ's Hospital

Monday 20th - INSET day (no children in school)

Tuesday 21st – Supporting children with worries workshop 9.10am

Wednesday 22nd – Parent/Teacher consultations

Thursday 23rd – Parent/Teacher consultations

Friday 24th – Break up for half-term at 3.20pm

November

Monday 3rd – Children back in school

Wednesday 12th – Open day for 2026 Reception children 9.15am

Thursday 13th – Open day for 2026 Reception children 2.15pm

Thursday 20th – Stay and play session for 2026 Reception children 3.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 26th - Stay and play session for 2026 Reception children 3.30-4.30pm

December

Friday 19th – Break up for Christmas holidays

January

Monday 5th – Children back in school