

The Blue Letter: 9th September 2024



Learning, Loving, Growing,
Together with God.

Dear Parents and Carers,

New Blue Letter day

No. The blue letter isn't late!

We are trialling sending the blue letter at the start of the week rather than the end. It will contain the diary for Tuesday onwards and the following Monday. Please read the blue letter when it is sent home, as it contains information about all events coming up as well as sharing pictures and write ups of things that have happened in school. The Blue letter will also be posted on the school website on a Monday.

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone has had a great summer - we've certainly had some warmth and sunshine, despite the odd days of rain!

Welcome to our new reception children, and their families: Hattie, Arlo, Bethany, Caitlin, Ruairi, Poppy, George, Hallie, Jack and Adelaide. Welcome to Elodie, new in year 4.

Welcome also to our new members of staff - Mrs Turner, Mrs Green and Mrs Ford. We are really excited about some of the new things that are going to be happening this year.

Bookbags

We ask that all children in Squirrel and Fox Class have a bookbag to bring school books and reading records etc backwards and forwards to school. Please don't put water bottles in them in case of leaks! Following some feedback, we have decided that children in Owl Class do not need a bookbag. They do not fit well in the lockers, which means children are folding them - defeating the purpose of the bookbag! We do ask that children in Owl make an effort to ensure books are protected well inside a bag. Just a reminder for everyone that cloakroom space is limited and children should have as small a bag as possible. Thank you for your support.

Forest School

Mr Rogers has almost completed his Forest School Leader Training and after half term our outdoor learning sessions will be able to run officially as Forest School! Sessions will take place on Wednesday afternoons. A separate letter will follow for year 2, whose sessions start in a couple of weeks.

Topics

We are changing some of our topics and their titles. Instead of having a new topic each half-term, the topics will change termly. With three topics each year instead of 6, the children will be able to get really stuck into the learning. The topics are history or geography based and have linked learning for the other subjects. These topics will ensure effective coverage and progression in the national curriculum. Topic letters should have come home this week. They can also be found on the school website.

Thank you

A huge thank you to the staff, governors and families who came and helped decorate the Community Room during the Summer. It looks fantastic - do pop your head in and have a look. We are planning another volunteer week next August, where we hope to decorate another area of the school.

Collective worship

This term, on Mondays, we are reflecting on some of Jesus' words in the 'Sermon on the Mount', containing the statements known as the 'Beatitudes' which set out the topsy-turvy manifesto of God's Kingdom. We reflect on how these ideas might help to shape our school community life in the way that we try to treat each other. The 'how-to-beat(t)itudes' also line up with significant calendar events in this term, such as Harvest and Remembrance, and even towards Christmas, when we will celebrate the topsyturviness of the story of how God came to earth as a tiny baby through some prophecies, including Mary's own song of worship on hearing the news from Angel Gabriel. On Tuesdays, Year 5 will continue to lead our Picture New worship. Mr Rogers will lead Praise on Wednesdays. On Thursdays we will be celebrating children's achievements. This year certificates will be awarded for children showing our school values of Resilience, Wisdom, Compassion and Respect. On Friday, we will either be joined by Fr Ian or when he isn't able to join us, we will be looking closer at each of our school values and what they look like in action.

School Photos

The photographer will be here on the morning of Wednesday 18th September for individual school photos. If you would like a photograph with pre-school siblings please arrive at 8.30am and these will be taken first. Any siblings in school will be photographed together during the morning. Please ensure your child has a school jumper or cardigan that day as they are photographed against a white background.

The diary and advance dates are on the next page...

Census Day - Thursday 3rd October

Census Day is an important day in the Primary School Calendar as the government uses data gathered on this day to identify the level of funding each school receives.

As parents there are some things you can do to help ensure the school receives the highest level of funding possible.

1. The first is to ensure you have applied for free school meals status if you qualify (even if you don't want the meal or your child is in squirrel class and gets a free school meal). Children entitled to Free School Meals can access free holiday club places and get food vouchers in some of the holidays.

Free School meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of state Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Applications must be made online via this link. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

2. The second is to order a hot school meal for your child. We have an American theme day, with beef burger or macaroni cheese on the menu. Even if children bring in a packed lunch on the day but try a little of each dish, as long as they have an order on ParentPay, we can count them as a meal taken. If you are taking this option please let us know, so that we can ensure they try the meal. Orders must be made on ParentPay by Thursday 19th September.

If you have any questions or need any help with this, please speak to Mrs Dommett or Mrs Sheehan.

Attendance

There have been some changes to the law with regards to unauthorised absence and penalty notice fines. A separate Parentmail has been sent with the details of the changes. Please make sure you read it carefully. Each school day is 2 sessions, so 10 sessions is one school week. The details also include what is not considered exceptional circumstances.

If we have concerns about your child's attendance or punctuality, you will be asked to make an appointment with Mrs Dommett to discuss how we can help you. School starts at 8.45am and your child should be in school and ready to start learning by 8.45am.

Tuesday 10th September	
Wednesday 11th September	
Thursday 12th September	Dance club starts
Friday 13th September	Visit from Andrew Griffith MP Create club starts
Monday 16th September	

Advance Dates

Wednesday 18th September School photos
Wednesday 18th September Forest School starts - Year 2
Tuesday 24th September _ Squirrel Class Farm Trip
Thursday 26th September - knife and for training Year R and 1
Tuesday 8th October - author visit Fox and Owl Class
Friday 18th October whole school walk
Monday 28th October Half term
Monday 4th November INSET Day
Monday 6th January 2025 INSET Day
Monday 24th February 2025 INSET Day
Monday 2nd June 2025 INSET Day