



Palatine News



Head's Corner



Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have had an amazing first half of the spring term, despite the seemingly never-ending rain. They are so excited by their topics, and it is wonderful to see them engaged and enjoying their learning. What has been lovely this half term is to see so many children increasing their independence and confidence within school. I have also enjoyed hearing them communicate in so many different ways and watching their interactions with one another, especially

when they share, turn take and work together. We are seeing some beautiful friendships developing!

Many have been focussed on building the essential foundational skills for learning, for example being more engaged or persistent. It is fantastic when we see these skills developing. A key part of enabling the children to develop more independence is to teach them about how to keep themselves safe. This forms an important part of our curriculum. Just before Christmas, we held a competition for children to design posters for our road safety campaign, and we are looking forward to seeing the winning designs on a poster outside school within the next few weeks.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. Palatine is a caring, kind

and supportive community, and we all work together to ensure the children learn, develop and get the best experience of school. Thank you for your part in that.

I wish you all a happy half term and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 23rd February!

Very best wishes,

Catriona





Ladybird class have had a wonderful time in Forest School this term!



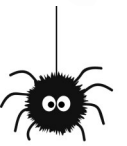


Their highlight was making their own pizza ...



... and of course, eating it too!





Ladybirds weren't the only children loving Forest School this term!

Our Forest School Leader Joseph says
"What a brilliant first half of the Spring term we've had at Forest School!"

We've been busy learning about all kinds of woodland creatures, splitting logs, practicing our mark making, playing the musical saucepans, building a boat, and even weighing ourselves on a seesaw. There's been plenty of muddy puddle splashing, tasty snacks, silly songs and - marshmallows - of course!

Last week, we had a lot of fun making and tasting our very own pizzas. What an adventure it's been - roll on the next half term!"









Owl class have really enjoyed exploring Apple Pies this term, as a part of their Amazing Americas topic!

They tested different pastry to see which was their favourite. Then, they practised making these before baking the apple pies.

Their favourite was short crust pastry!





Class teacher Toni is
very proud of her
Pelicans!



They have all had
an amazing term -
full of learning,
growing, adapting,
and (of course)
playing!



Oak Grove sports leaders came in to school to deliver a PE lesson.



They set up a range of boccia related stations for a group of children from Investigators.

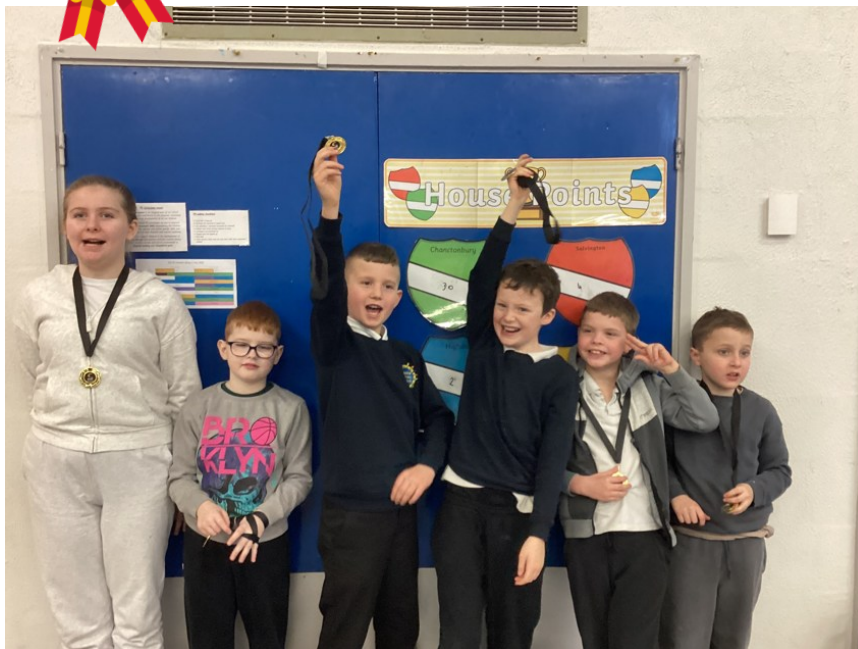


Everyone had a wonderful time and we look forward to them coming back to deliver some more lessons soon!



We competed in a key stage 2 Boccia tournament against local schools!

There were 18 teams in total. All of our players showed great skill and determination in every game they played. One of our teams made it to the finals and every game was extremely close. They finished in third place which is an incredible achievement.



Well done to all of them!





Our sessions are supportive and child-led, creating a dance, movement and sensory space designed to meet a range of needs.

Children can explore movement and sensory play at their own pace, with support from fully trained and experienced staff.



SCAN ME

First session half price, use code: TASTER50

Explore, feel and discover

1:2 adult-to-child ratio

Supporting movement

Dedicated SENDCo

Expression through dance

Trained Staff



Monday 3pm-4pm



Palatine School Hall



Book Here: <https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com/>

This workshop is ideal for children who enjoy drawing and telling stories. We'll be making story booklets filled with wild tales and illustrations!

Some of the numerous benefits of creative activities for children are developing social skills, empathy and supporting emotional wellbeing, building self-confidence and the ability to concentrate. And last but not least, it's really fun!

For bookings please use the barcode or link in the flyer or visit the Montague Gallery's webpage: <https://montaguegallery.co.uk/workshops/storybook-making-workshop-2>



STORYBOOK MAKING WORKSHOP

for 6-11 year-olds

1st April 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Montague Gallery



<https://tinyurl.com/bdhzf5jb>

The Mayor of Worthing is passionate about the arts and encouraging creativity in young people, and so she has decided to launch a Mayoral portrait competition. This is open to all primary school children in Worthing and is in support of her Mayoral charities.

Her aim is for children to produce a picture of the Mayor of Worthing. She is completely flexible about whether they choose to work from the featured photos or choose another source. She wishes to inspire creativity and support young artists in our community. It could be the perfect 'wet play' activity!

As a special thank you, the artists whose entries place first, second, and third will be invited to enjoy after school tea in the Mayor's Parlour, accompanied by their parents or guardians, and receive their awards.

Their work and that of other children will be on display in the town hall for several weeks for the public to enjoy.



**WORTHING
COMMUNITY CHEST**
unlocking funding for local projects
SINCE 2011

**WORTHING
FOOD
FOUNDATION**

**WORTHING
Vegan
FOOD BANK**

Madam Mayors Drawing Competition





Please send your picture with your:

Name
Age
School

**To: The Mayor of Worthing
c/o Worthing Town Hall
Chapel Road
Worthing
BN11 1HA**





The Judging Panel
and I can't wait to see
your drawings!

Please submit your entries by the 6th March 2026

**Mayor of Worthing Schools Portrait
Competition 2026**

**WORTHING
4 REFUGEES**

Recycle to Read Toys is a UK-wide campaign that encourages families to recycle broken hard plastic toys at participating Tesco stores.

The campaign is run by Wastebuster, in association with Tesco, Collins, and Products of Change, with the aim of promoting sustainability and reading for pleasure.

For more information and to find a recycling bin near you, visit the [Recycle to Read](#) website.

A large, colorful illustration of a recycling bin for toys. The bin is blue and green with the text 'RECYCLE HARD PLASTIC TOYS' and 'GET BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL & A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES!'. It features a 'Play Back' logo and a QR code. A yellow star is in the top left corner. A stack of books is on the left, and a small figure of a child is on top of the books. A pink car and a blue car are on the right.

RECYCLE YOUR TOYS

Drop off your broken hard plastic toys at one of our recycling bins in a Tesco store near you.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

Hard plastic toys only, please!

No battery powered, electronic or electrical toys, rubber or flexible plastic toys, metal or slime toys, soft toys, puzzles, inflatables, wooden toys, toys with fabric parts or packaging – we don't want things that will mess with our recycling magic!

We CAN accept

All small hard plastic toys like these...



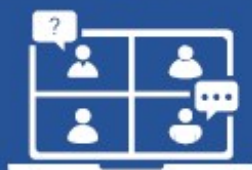
We CAN'T accept...



Any battery powered, electronic and electrical items to be recycled, including toys must be recycled separately, find your nearest electricals recycling point on the [Recycle Your Electricals website](#).

TRAINING

SPRING TERM 2026



WORKSHOPS

Understanding Autism	Tuesday 24 th February	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Understanding Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)	Friday 27 th February	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Making Sense of Wellbeing - Resilience skills for parents and carers	Tuesday 3 rd March	10.30 am - 12 pm
Making Sense of Universal Credit	Tuesday 10 th March	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	Thursday 12 th March	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Making Sense of Education Health & Care Needs Assessments and Plans (EHCPs)	Tuesday 17 th March	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Behaviours that Challenge (age 2-11 years)	Wednesday 25 th March	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Making Sense of Transition to Secondary School	Wednesday 25 th March	7.30 - 9.30 pm

THE SEND FOUNDATION COURSE

An introduction to SEND and the key issues parent-carers will encounter as their children grow and develop.	Wednesday, 4 th , 11 th & 18 th March	7.30 - 9.30 pm
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All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge. For more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com



Reaching Families

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1150906
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8261096

UMBRELLAS

Parent Support Groups

Spring Term 2026

Connecting parents and carers of children and young people in West Sussex with special educational needs and disabilities



Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

The Cherry Tree Centre

13th Jan / 3rd Feb / 3rd Mar

Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)

14th Jan / 11th Feb / 11th Mar

Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Durrington Community Centre

20th Jan / 10th Feb / 17th Mar

Umbrellas Online

Thursdays via Zoom

7.30 - 9pm

15th Jan / 12th Feb / 5th Mar

Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Horsham Family Hub

21st Jan / 25th Feb / 18th Mar

Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Adur East Family Hub

27th Jan / 24th Feb / 24th Mar

Bognor Regis Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am

Arun West Family Hub

29th Jan / 26th Feb / 26th Mar

If you would like more information about Umbrellas or the link to join Umbrellas online, please contact our outreach team.

outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



**Reaching
Families**

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Dove Lodge, 49 Beach Road,
Littlehampton, BN17 5JG

Registered Charity No: 1150906

Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8261096





Reaching Families

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person in West Sussex who has, or may have, special educational needs and disabilities?



Reaching Families is a parent-carer led charity which aims to empower parent-carers and families of children & young people with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex through the delivery of information, advice, training and peer support.

Making Sense of it All

In-depth parent-carer guide covering SEND issues from birth to adulthood

Fact sheets

Covering a range of SEND issues localised to the needs of West Sussex families

Umbrellas

Parent support groups based at locations across West Sussex and online, via Zoom

Benefits Advice Service

1-2-1 advice & claim checking support for families applying for DLA, PIP & Carers Allowance

Training

Workshops and courses on a variety of issues delivered online, via Zoom

NDP Navigation Service

Support service for parent-carers of children undergoing assessment on the West Sussex Neurodevelopmental Pathway (via referral from a professional)

Face-2-Face

Peer based befriending for parents of children undergoing diagnosis

Facebook Group

An online parent support group providing news, information and peer support

Animations

Short animated films on a variety of subjects

If you would like more information about how Reaching Families can help, please contact:

Email: admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk

Telephone: 01903 366 360

Reg Charity No 1150906



Reaching Families

www.reachingfamilies.org.uk

Wrap-around Care Survey

West Sussex County Council's Early Years and Childcare team has launched a new survey to understand families' experiences of wraparound childcare. The survey is open to all families with primary school-aged children, whether they currently use wraparound childcare in West Sussex or not. It asks about what is working well, what could be improved, and how childcare outside of the school day can better meet the needs of local families. The survey is anonymous, and your feedback will contribute to countywide planning and development. Please share your views and complete the survey [here](#). The deadline to complete the survey is 23:59 on Sunday 22 February.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

As part of the Best Start in Life initiative, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme will continue to offer support to families during the Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays for the next three years. Eligible children are able to access holiday activities and have a free meal.

Bookings for the Easter holidays will open on Monday 2nd of March 2026.

Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Team
Education and Skills
Children Young People and Learning
HAF@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF
[#HAF2026](#)



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme – Easter booking procedures

Bookings for the Easter holidays will open on **Monday 2nd of March 2026**. All HAF bookings need to be made using our [online booking system](#).

Booking page link: <https://haf.bookinglab.co.uk/westsussex/37147/login>

Alternatively, you can find the booking system by scanning the QR code below or by following the links on our [website](#).

Website link: www.westsussex.gov.uk/HAF

Before making a booking, you will need to either, log into your account or, create one using your child's existing HAF code. This is the same code you will have used to book your HAF place previously. If you have recently registered for benefits related free school meals, you will find your HAF code on the award letter sent to you by the Free School Meal team. You may be able to find your HAF code by asking your child's school office or alternatively contact us on haf@westsussex.gov.uk



HAF eligible children will be able to book the following amount of sessions;

Easter – 4 sessions
Summer – 16 sessions
Winter – 4 sessions

These sessions will remain free of charge if you are accessing benefits related free school meals. Each session will include a free nutritious meal.

West Sussex County Council is really pleased to be working with a wide variety of different providers across the county to put this on for children and young people. The free places are funded by the Department for Education, you can follow [#HAF2026](#) and visit our website to find out more.

Yours sincerely

West Sussex Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Team



Dates for your Diary



Friday 13th February – INSET Day

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February – Half Term

Tuesday 24th February – Parent's Evening

Wednesday 4th March – Parent's Coffee Morning

Monday 9th March – Parent's Workshop (Healthy Eating, Sleep and Dental Hygiene)

Monday 23rd March to Thursday 26th March – Open Classrooms Week

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April – Easter Holidays



To reserve a place at one of our Parent Workshops, please email Kaarina at kdougherty@palatineschool.org Places are limited and on a first come first served basis!

Our Parent Focus Group, in collaboration with local councillors and residents, is working to make the roads around our school safer for everyone. A key goal of this campaign is to secure a **pelican crossing on Palatine Road**, along with a **crossing patrol officer** to support safety until the crossing is installed. Please add your name below to show your support for these vital road safety improvements. **If you completed the petition at Parents evening or have added your name to this digital petition already, please do not complete again as we already have your signature.** If you didn't, please do so now! Thank you!

[Palatine Road Safety Improvements Petition – Fill out form](#)



For children who are not FSM eligible but whose families need urgent support with food in West Sussex, support can be accessed through the **Community Hub**. More details can be found [here](#).

For urgent support, for example, you are going to run out of food within a couple of days, please phone **033 022 27980**. Lines are open between **9.00am and 5.00pm** seven days a week, except bank holidays, when they are open between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the UK Government is providing funding through the Household Support Fund. They will use this funding to support low-income households with the rising cost of living, including energy, food and essential bills.

The fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including:

families with children of all ages	pensioners
unpaid carers	care leavers
disabled people	larger families
single-person households	
those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events	

This list is not exhaustive so to find out more or apply for support, visit <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/community-hub/>

If you have an urgent request for support, for example, you are going to run out of food within the next two days, please phone **0330 222 7980**. Lines are open between 9.00am and 5.00pm seven days a week, except bank holidays, when they are open between 10.00am and 2.00pm.



Local Offer West Sussex helps parent, carers, and their children aged 0-25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities find information and services. Please visit [Local Offer - West Sussex County Council](#) where you will find a lot of information, including a directory of services, groups, activities and SEND events.

Wellbeing support for parent carers can be found at [Wellbeing for parent carers - West Sussex County Council](#)