



# English Martyrs Newsletter

## 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Our Mission Statement

To accept each individual as they are and to enable them to develop their full potential within a Christ-centred, worshipping community in a spirit of love, happiness and understanding

### 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?' 'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. 'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

Luke 21:5-19



### Book Nook visit to the School

The children had a wonderful time during the recent Book Nook visit! They enjoyed exploring a fantastic range of stories,



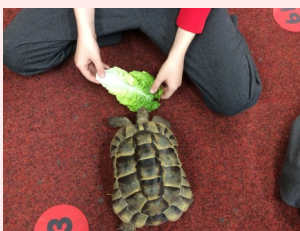
from timeless favourites to exciting brand-new titles fresh off the press. The energy and enthusiasm for reading were incredible as everyone discovered new authors, genres, and adventures waiting in every read. It was a true celebration of books and the joy of reading!



We will be collecting donations on Thursday 20th November for St Barnabas Hospice. During the day the children will be taking part in a reindeer dance. Please encourage family members to support your child by donating on Thursday for the great local cause.

### Visit from Betty the Tortoise

Year 2 have been learning all about the lifecycles of animals, and to bring our topic to life we had a very special visitor... Betty the tortoise! The children discovered how Betty began life inside an egg, how she hatched, and how she grew into an adult tortoise who can now lay eggs of her own. Everyone loved having the chance to hold, stroke, and feed Betty.



## Building and Grounds Update

As you will be aware, over the half term holiday a new fence was installed along the north side of the playground. This cost £8,490 which was funded from the Governors' account with a 10% donation from the Friends. We plan more work for the future as we upgrade the buildings and grounds for the children. Work can only go ahead with your support. Regular donations from the parents to the Governor funds have recently enabled new interactive whiteboards in three classroom and new iPads for the school. Looking to the future we are hoping to upgrade all the school toilet areas. We would be grateful if you could donate £5 a month to the Governors' account. For more details, please contact the clerk to the Governors by emailing [clerk@englishmartyrs.school](mailto:clerk@englishmartyrs.school).



## Chartwells Update

On Wednesday staff from Chartwells and West Sussex visited the school as part of the school dinner contract proposal evaluation. For the occasion a new oven and a chef were brought in the school. A roast dinner was prepared with crunchy roast potatoes followed by a pudding of jam sponge with custard.



We look forward to hearing the outcome of the evaluation process and who will be providing school dinners in the future.

## Sen Coffee Afternoon

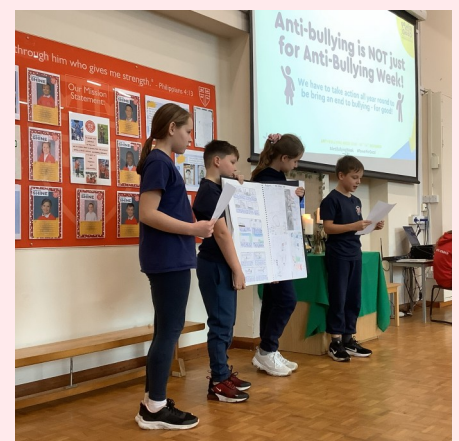
Mrs Jobbings (SENCo) is looking forward to seeing you at her first termly Coffee afternoon on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 1-45 - 3.15. This is open to all parents. Mrs Jobbings will be talking about what her role involves and what changes she has implemented so far as well as seeking feedback on other things parents would like to see in place.



## Anti-Bullying Week

Over the last week, we have been taking part in 'Anti-Bullying Week'. We started on Monday with the children wearing odd socks to celebrate that everyone is unique, and that this is to be valued and celebrated. The theme of Anti-Bullying week this year was 'Power for Good'. This theme encourages everyone to use their power to speak up and raise awareness against bullying, both online and in person. It also emphasised that individuals have

the power to make a positive difference through kindness, courage and by including others. The different classes all took part in a range of activities through the week, from Year 1 creating a kindness pledge that they have all signed and agreed to follow, up to Year 6 doing a 'walking in their shoes' activity to plan out how they would respond to inappropriate behaviour and how they would involve trusted adults. On Friday we came together as a school for the children to share with each other what they had learnt, and I was really proud to see how confidently the children talked about their understanding that through being consistently kind towards others, they can have a massive impact on those around them. Thank you to the teachers for all their hard work in planning these activities.



## Autumn Term Dates for your Diary

### November

Tuesday 18th Nov	National child measurement programme Year 6
Wednesday 19th Nov	Year 1 Teddy Bears picnic 2.45-3.15pm
Thursday 20th Nov	Reindeer Run fundraiser —Details tbc
Friday 21st Nov	Mufti day for unwanted gifts - details tbc
Tuesday 25th Nov	Year 2 trip to Goodwood Farm
Wednesday 26th Nov	Flu vaccinations
<b>Friday 28th Nov</b>	<b>Scooter Rally 3.15pm</b>

### December

Monday 1st Dec	EY trip to St Michaels Church
Wednesday 3rd Dec	Djembe drums concert Y4 p.m. (time TBC)
Thursday 4th Dec	Prospective parents meeting 9.15/5.30
Friday 5th Dec	Mufti day—Mince pies & hamper donations
Friday 5th Dec	KS1 Nativity dress rehearsal
Saturday 6th Dec	Christmas Fair 12-4pm
Monday 8th Dec	KS1 Nativity play 9.30am
Tuesday 9th Dec	KS1 Nativity play 9.30am
Wednesday 10th Dec	KS2 Advent service dress rehearsal 2 p.m.
Wednesday 10th Dec	Deanery Advent service at Arundel Cathedral 5.30pm
Thursday 11th Dec	KS2 Christmas singing at Arundel Cathedral (day-time)
Friday 12th Dec	KS2 Advent Service 2pm
<b>Saturday 13th Dec</b>	<b>Christmas magic show (David Croucher) for children starting school Sept. '26, 10.30 a.m.</b>
Monday 15th Dec	Rocksteady Concert 9.30am
Monday 15th Dec	KS2 Christmas Advent Service 2pm
Wednesday 17th Dec	Christmas Movie night 3.15-5.15pm
Wednesday 17th Dec	Christmas dinner— menu in flyer below
Wednesday 17th Dec	Christmas jumper day
Thursday 18th Dec	Advent Mass 2 p.m.
Friday 19th Dec	Last day of term

## First Holy Communion

If your child is in Year 3 and would like to make their First Holy Communion in June, both English Martyrs and St. Michael's Churches are now taking registration. Please collect a form directly from the church to register.



## Class Liturgies Dates

You are warmly invited to the following class liturgies at 2.45pm:

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January—Year 6
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February—Year 1
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February—Year 5
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February—Year 4
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March—Year 3
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March—Year 2

## Sickness 48 hour rule

If your child has vomited or has diarrhea, NHS guidelines state they should stay home from school for 48 hours after the last episode of symptoms to prevent the spread of infection. This is true even if your child is only sick the once. Please help us keep all children safe and stop the spread of bugs.

## Class Open Days

You are warmly invited to the following class open days from 2.45pm to view your child's work.

	November	February	June
Early Years	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 1	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 2	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 3	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>
Year 4	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 5	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>
Year 6	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>



## Christmas Lunch

The children's Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 17th December and is now available to book through Parentpay. Please make a booking by **4th December**. Menu is below for your reference.



## Friends Christmas Letter



Dear Parents & Carers

As we head towards Christmas celebrations and fundraising we have more information for you, particularly on the upcoming mufti days which serve as requests to help us have a brilliant **Christmas Fair** (which raises lots of money for our school). Please save or screenshot this letter for reference.

### Dates:

Mufti Day – **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> November**, in return for a Gift Station Donation – see below.

Christmas Pots – due back into school **by end of Wednesday 3rd December**. Please add child's name underneath or somewhere on it.

Mufti Day – **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**, in return for a food & drink hamper donation (all well within use by date please). See below for further detail.

Raffle Tickets – stubs & monies due back in by **Friday 5th** December latest. Main prize is £140 EFES Restaurant voucher!

Christmas Fair – **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 12-4pm** – please share the Friends' page Facebook event with friends and family.

There will also be performances from Curtain Call, Hilary Thomas Dance and our Key Stage 2 Choir during the afternoon.

**Father Christmas visits** with gift, taking place at the Fair will be available to pre-book via **RallyUp** with payments (£6) the link will be posted on the Friends Facebook page soon. We do encourage pre-booking.

Christmas Movie Night – **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

### Gift Donations (21<sup>st</sup>)

At the Christmas Fair we are having a gift station. A place where children can come and buy a gift under £8 for a sibling or parent. They will be able to choose, purchase and wrap their gift in a quiet area during the fair. For this to work, **we need gift/unwanted item donations** – things for all ages that are new or very nearly new. If you wouldn't use it as a gift yourself please don't send it in. Any **Christmas wrapping paper/tags** would also be much appreciated, you can leave this at the office for the Friends at any time.

### Christmas Pot Competition

Following its previous success, this year we will be putting on another Pot Tombola Competition for the children to compete in, which will then form one of our Christmas Fair stalls. Each child will come home with a plastic flower pot soon, to decorate in a festive & creative way and fill them with small, exciting treats/gifts for those who win it when they take part in the tombola! Below are some pictures from the past if you need some inspiration. We hope to have a prize for the **most creative pot** which will be judged by Dr Townsley the day before the fair and we can't wait to see all of the children's ideas!

### Hamper donations:

On 5<sup>th</sup> Dec please send in a food or drink item with packaging that corresponds to the colours below, items will be collected in classrooms and then made into amazing hampers that can be won the next day at the Fair. It could be tins, packets, drinks, wine, treats, we don't mind! The finished hampers are always very popular and you could win one!

**Early Years** – Please bring in mince pies, any box colour!

**Year 1** - Red

**Year 2** - Green

**Year 3** - Brown

**Year 4** - Orange/Yellow

**Year 5** - Purple/Blue

**Year 6** - Pink



### Raffle Tickets

Every child has been sent home with 10 raffle tickets to sell, please ask family and friends. If you need more, please ask at the school office and if you are unable to sell all 10 please return them to the office in good time. Thank you. We are also in need of **raffle prizes**, if your company or employer can donate a prize, please contact the Friends via Facebook Messenger or [friends@englishmartyrs.school](mailto:friends@englishmartyrs.school)

### Movie Night

Wednesday 17th December from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. Children who are participating will be directed to the school hall by their class teacher at the end of the school day, and we will open the school gate for you to collect your children on the playground once the movie has finished. The movie that currently looks to be the most popular on the facebook poll is a family favourite – **The Polar Express** (rated U). The cost of movie night is £5 per child. This will include popcorn and Christmas themed treats for the children to enjoy. The children will be asked to bring their water bottles into the hall with them for the duration of the movie.

Please book on MCAS by Monday 15th December. Please note that physical tickets will not be issued, but you are welcome to double check that your child's name is on the list.

**Did you know?** The Friends also fund a Christmas gift for each class, giving them a new resource or item for the classroom. Father Christmas is taking teacher requests at the moment!

We thank you for your generosity and support and can't wait to have fun with you at the Fair in just a few weeks' time where food & drink will also be on sale. If you are able to **help us on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>**, please email

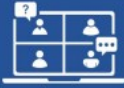
[friends@englishmartyrs.school](mailto:friends@englishmartyrs.school) – all help of any duration is very appreciated.

**The Friends**

**Chair: Rachael Dines**

# TRAINING

## AUTUMN TERM 2025



### WORKSHOPS

Making Sense of Masking	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am - 12.30pm
Wellbeing - Communication skills for parents and carers	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30 am - 12 pm
Understanding Autism in Girls	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am - 12.30pm
Making Sense of Anxiety in Children (Primary age)	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Adult Life - Supporting Adolescents	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Understanding Sensory Processing Differences	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am - 12.30pm

All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: [outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto: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](https://www.reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com)



[www.reachingfamilies.org.uk](https://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1150906  
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 826194

# Reaching Families

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



EMPOWER INFORM SUPPORT

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, 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

### Animations

Short animated films on a variety of subjects

### Facebook Group

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

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

Email: [admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:admin@reachingfamilies.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01903 366 360

Reg Charity No 1150906



[www.reachingfamilies.org.uk](https://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk)

# Umbrellas

## Parent Support Group Autumn Term 2025

Would you like to connect with other local parent carers?

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities in West Sussex, please join us at one of our local support groups or from the comfort of your own home.



EMPOWER INFORM SUPPORT

### Shoreham Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am  
Adur East Family Hub (Shoreham)  
9th Sep / 7th Oct / 4th Nov / 2nd Dec

### Littlehampton Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am  
Creative Heart Community Hub (upstairs)  
10th Sep / 8th Oct / 5th Nov / 3rd Dec

### Worthing Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am  
Durrington Community Centre  
16th Sep / 14th Oct / 11th Nov / 9th Dec

### Horsham Umbrellas

Wednesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am  
Horsham Family Hub  
17th Sep / 15th Oct / 19th Nov / 17th Dec

### Chichester Umbrellas

Thursdays, 10 am - 11.30 am  
Donnington Parish Hall  
25th Sep / 23rd Oct / 20th Nov / 11th Dec

### Burgess Hill Umbrellas

Tuesdays, 10 am - 11.30 am  
The Cherry Tree Centre  
23rd Sep / 21st Oct / 25th Nov / 16th Dec

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

Email: [outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk)



[www.reachingfamilies.org.uk](https://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk)

### Umbrellas Online

#### Thursdays via Zoom

11th Sep	7.30 pm - 9 pm
9th Oct	7.30 pm - 9 pm
6th Nov	7.30 pm - 9 pm
4th Dec	7.30 pm - 9 pm



## You Are Not Alone - Free Parent Online Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers.**

**First Tuesday of every month**  
7pm - 8.30pm  
Platform: Zoom



Erik Wagter - host of the drop-in

### What these sessions are all about

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

### Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone



### What parents say:

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel, and I really do feel less alone and more validated. My hope is back'*

### Who runs the sessions?

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism. Sometimes my wife Sally will join in as well.

If you would like to join please send an email to [sallywagter@gmail.com](mailto:sallywagter@gmail.com) and we will send you the Zoom link.

Autism Family Support Service  
[www.autismfamilysupportservice.com](https://www.autismfamilysupportservice.com)

# Christmas Lunch

Serving on Wednesday 17th December

**MAINS**  
Roast Turkey  
Or  
Quorn Roast

**SIDES**  
Roast Potatoes, Stuffing,  
Mini Sausage, Gravy,  
Broccoli & Carrots

**DESSERTS**  
Festive Chocolate Brownie

Order on ParentPay.com no later than  
**Thursday 4th December.**  
Book in advance to avoid disappointment



[www.ParentPay.com](http://www.ParentPay.com)

**Chartwells**  
<https://www.chartwells.co.uk/west-sussex/>

starring CBeebies  
**Puja Panchkoty**  
as Cinderella

# Cinderella

the pantomime

4th Dec to 4th Jan  
Pavilion Theatre  
Worthing

WTM  
Worthing Theatre Music and the Arts

in association with  
PHA

Headline Sponsor  
bennett griffin + sources

Follow our socials  
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**GORING METHODIST CHURCH,  
BURY DRIVE, BN12 4XB**

**NOVEMBER 22ND • 11AM-2PM**

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

&

## SANTA'S GROTTO

**BOOKS, CAKES, GAMES**      **CASH EVENT**      **GIFTS, LUNCHES, DRINKS**

**ADULTS £1- KIDS FREE**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

### Player Development Programme Under 6/7 Trials

Chelsea FC Soccer Schools are pleased to offer Under 6 – Under 7 players (school years 1 & 2) the opportunity to attend a Free Trial session at one of our Sussex Player Development Centres. If successful, players will be invited to join our regular training and become a part of our Player Development Programme, providing safe, fun and engaging weekly training for players to develop their footballing potential.

**Steyning PDC**  
Trial Date and Timings: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 5.15 – 6.30pm  
Venue: Steyning Town FC, BN44 3RQ  
Course code: PDPT-STCFC-X-42

**Cuckfield PDC**  
Trial Date and Timings: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 5.30-6.45pm  
Venue: Warden Park Academy, RH17 5DP  
Course code: PDPT-WPA-X-31

**Horsham PDC**  
Trial Date and Timings: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 5.15 – 6.30pm  
Venue: Horsham Football Club, RH13 0AX  
Course Code: PDPT-HFC-X-93

**Crawley PDC**  
Trial Date and Timings: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 5.15 – 6.30pm  
Venue: The K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, RH11 9BQ  
Course code: PDPT-K2LC-X-105

**Littlehampton PDC**  
Trial Date and Timings: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 5.30 – 6.45pm  
Venue: The Littlehampton Academy, BN17 6FE  
Course Code: PDPT-TLA-X-70

To register your child's attendance please visit our website at [www.chelseasoccerschools.co.uk](http://www.chelseasoccerschools.co.uk) or use the above QR code and search for your preferred venue using the trial course codes.

Can't attend these dates or wish to enquire about other age groups/venues? Please contact [Presley.geal@chelseafc.com](mailto:Presley.geal@chelseafc.com)

Chelsea Football Club Limited  
Cobham Training Ground  
60 Stoke Road  
Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham  
Surrey KT11 3PT      T: 01932 586150  
chelseafc.com      Reg No: 01965149  
Reg Office: Stamford Bridge