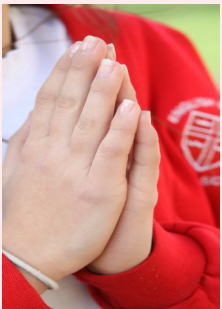




Our Mission Statement

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



English Martyrs Newsletter

24th July 2026



Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus said to the crowds that had gathered around him, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure which has been hidden in a field. When someone finds the treasure, he hides it again and then he goes off filled with joy: he sells everything that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who is looking for fine pearls. When he finds one pearl of really great value, he goes and sells everything that he has and buys that pearl." Adapted from Matt. 13:44—52

Happy Holidays!

As we come to the end of another school year, on behalf of myself and the staff I would like to thank all our families for the many kind cards, gifts and well-wishes we have received. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by all of us.

It has been a happy and successful year, and we are incredibly proud of everything our lovely children have achieved. Their hard work, enthusiasm and growth have been wonderful to see, and we are very grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from families throughout the year.

We would also like to wish all of our children who are moving on to new schools every happiness and success for the future. They leave us with many wonderful memories, and we know they will continue to shine in the next stage of their education.

Our teaching and support staff will now be enjoying a very well-deserved rest over the summer holidays and should not be checking their emails (staff, take note!!). The school office email will be checked periodically, and our safeguarding email will be monitored throughout the break. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact us at dsl@englishmartyrs.school and we will respond promptly.

I will also be using some of the summer break to catch up on a few long-overdue social media updates, so families can look out for some videos and photographs from our recent end-of-year events, including the leavers' celebrations.

We wish all our children and families a happy, restful and enjoyable summer holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

West Sussex Sporting Association (WSSA) Sporting Surveys

Looking ahead to the Autumn term, we have created survey forms to let you know about sporting events and competitions that are being organised by the WSSA next term. Please take a look and sign up to any that your child is interested in. They do not need to be an expert in the various sports that are listed, many of the opportunities are about giving the children change to try something new. The surveys will close on Thursday 3rd September. Thank you.

Year 1 & 2: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/iHmQdnSLkd>

Year 3 & 4: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/mmrndnmen2C>

Year 5 & 6: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/9wv3YCCCT9>



Staffing Update

I would like to let you know that sadly, Mrs Cleary will not be returning to English Martyrs when we start the new academic year in September. Since joining the school in 2018, Mrs Cleary has played a huge part in the sporting life of our school. Through lessons, clubs, competitions and events, she has inspired many children to develop a love of sport, to believe in themselves and to be proud of what they can achieve. Her enthusiasm and encouragement have had such a positive impact on countless pupils. Mrs Cleary leaves behind a lasting legacy through the opportunities she has helped to create and the wonderful memories she has given our children and our community. I know that many children and families will be disappointed by this news. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to thank Mrs Cleary for her contribution over the years and wish her all the very best for the future.

We are also saying goodbye to Mr Rondeau and Mrs Bishop at the end of this term. Mr Rondeau is progressing in his career and moving to a school closer to home; I know that we are all so grateful for his hard work over the last four years and his massive contribution to our school community. Mr Rondeau's favourite word is 'outstanding' - which is very fitting as he has been an outstanding colleague, teacher and friend during his time with us. We will miss him very much. We are also so proud of Mrs Bishop as, after many years of hard work, she has just been awarded a 2:1 in her education degree and is now taking the next step in her training to become a qualified teacher. She really has been a great example of determination and motivation, to us and to the children, and we wish her ever happiness in her future career as a primary school teacher.

As well as saying some goodbyes, I also want to say congratulations to Miss Kingston who is getting married this summer. She will be keeping her name and returning as Mrs Kingston in the Autumn term ... and we will also be being joined by a second Mrs Kingston who is becoming part of our team of teaching assistants. It could get confusing! We will also be welcoming Miss Molloy as our new Year 3 teacher, and are delighted that she will be working with the class that she did her student placement with so this will be great continuity for our children. And finally in the staffing update, I wanted to say congratulations and well done to Mr. Neve who has now officially completed his Early Careers Teaching (ECT) induction, which is a period of two further years of training after initially qualifying as a teacher. Well done on completing this milestone!

OPAL playgrounds

We have continued to make progress on our journey towards becoming an official Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) school. One of the most popular additions recently has been our dressing-up area. It has been wonderful to see knights racing around the field, children performing spontaneous talent shows in the forest and so much imaginative play taking place. One child recently told us:



"My school is the luckiest school because we get to go on anything we want to at break time. We even get to dress up and go in the forest with dressing up – it's the best!"

We are also delighted that Mr McGuire has completed the pirate ship, building on the hard work of Mr Schmidt (dad of Max and Mia). Before they left, our Year 6 pupils officially reopened it for a final play session on this much-loved feature of English Martyrs School. I am also incredibly excited to share that a funding bid submitted to the Thriving in Education team has been successful. We have been awarded £3,000 – the maximum grant available – to further develop our play provision. As many schools apply and only a small number are successful, this is fantastic news for our children.

Parent views are incredibly important to us as we plan the next stage of our OPAL journey. We would be grateful if as many families as possible could complete our playtime survey. Views of our Year 6 families, whose children have had the longest experience of play at our school, would be particularly welcomed. As a thank you, every completed survey entry will be entered into a 'Wheel of Names' prize draw, with one lucky parent winning a £20 Amazon gift card. Families with more than one child at the school are welcome to complete a survey for each child. The survey link is: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/VePqJsNRLv>

School Uniform Reminder

As part of our commitment to active play, we are making two small changes to our uniform expectations from September.



Wellies and Waterproofs

All children should bring a pair of wellington boots and a set of waterproofs to keep in school. This will allow us to make the most of our outdoor spaces in all seasons and weather conditions.

Footwear

Children will no longer be required to wear traditional school shoes. Instead, pupils should wear plain (or as plain as possible) black trainers as part of their everyday school uniform. Children may wear a different pair of trainers for PE if they wish, but there is absolutely

no expectation for families to purchase a second pair. Our aim is for school footwear to be practical, comfortable and affordable rather than becoming a fashion item.

Suitable trainers are:

- All black or predominantly black upper (the colour of the sole does not matter)
- Practical and comfortable for a full school day.
- Sensibly priced and readily available from supermarkets, shoe shops and school uniform suppliers.
- Fastened securely with laces, Velcro or similar.
- No logos or, if this is not possible, small and discrete logos.



Unsuitable trainers include:

- Brightly coloured trainers.
- Trainers with flashing lights.
- Fashion trainers with large logos or branding.
- Trainers with very thick or oversized soles.
- Trainers that are primary chosen for fashion rather than everyday school use.

Please carefully consider whether your child can independently tie their own shoelaces. If this is a skill they are still developing, the summer holidays can be a great opportunity to practise. Alternatively, you wish to choose Velcro-fastening trainers or black elastic “no-tie” laces (sometimes called stretch laces or lock laces).

Thank you for your support!

Fidgets in School - important Information for September

As we look ahead to the new school year, we would like to make parents aware of a change to our approach to fidgets and sensory resources in school.

Due to the very large number of fidgets currently being brought into school, and the difficulty in ensuring that all items have undergone the necessary health and safety checks, children should not bring any fidgets or sensory toys into schools unless express permission has been given by the school beforehand.

Please be aware that the school will provide approved fidgets and sensory resources where they are needed. This will help us ensure that all equipment is safe, appropriate and used effectively to support learning.

Mrs Jobbings will, of course, continue to assess individual needs and provide suitable fidgets and sensory resources for pupils who require them.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we work to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all children.

Smartphones in School



Following discussion with governors, we will be updating our expectations regarding pupil smartphones from September.

There is growing recognition of the potential impact that smartphone use can have on children during their primary years, including on wellbeing, concentration, sleep, social development and exposure to online content. Reflecting this, a number of local secondary schools are adopting smartphone-free approaches and we are keen to support our pupils in developing healthy habits around technology before they make the transition to secondary education.

From September, **pupils will not be permitted to bring a smartphone onto the school site.**

We recognise that some older children walk to and from school independently and that families may wish them to have a means of communication. Therefore, children who walk independently may bring a basic mobile phone capable of making calls and sending text messages only. These phones must be handed to the class teacher on arrival and collected again at the end of the school day.

We are also mindful that some children are increasingly "book-ending" their school day with smartphone use – accessing phones immediately before arriving at school and again as soon as they leave. By creating a smartphone-free environment, we hope to encourage children to begin and end their day focused on friendships, conversations and the world around them rather than on a screen.

We believe this approach will support children's wellbeing, help establish healthy technology habits, and prepare pupils for the expectations they are likely to encounter at secondary school. It will also avoid families purchasing a smartphone for their child to bring to school in Year 6, only to find that it is not permitted or is heavily restricted when their child moves on to Year 7.

A policy about this will be published in September. Thank you for your support.



What's happening over the holidays?

Following on from the busy summer last year, where we added in the Early Years construction and barrel area, reorganised resources and hessian-backed what felt like hundreds of boards, there are new projects underway for this summer holiday. We're only two days into the holidays, but already Mr McGuire has completely stripped out the Year 4/5 boys toilets, ready for them to be refurbished over the holidays. Work is also underway to improve our Year 3 garden area by lifting the canopy and extending the dead-hedge. Our Good Gym volunteers will also be coming in to do some painting for us, and Mrs Winter and I have found some boards that we missed last time so will be getting our staple-guns out again! We will also be working on updating the school website, so please keep an eye on the changes that will be doing on there. Finally, we are doing to be changing our phonics scheme to 'Little Wandle' from September, so will put up information on the website for parents to look at about this and will be getting our new phonics resources organised. It will be busy!



While we are working on improving our school for the children, we would really love you to keep on working with your children to keep their literacy and numeracy skills going over the break. The children have worked really hard this year, and absolutely deserve a good rest, but it will be so beneficial for them come September if they continue to read and be read to regularly. Also, for the children in Years 2—6, keeping practising TT Rockstars will help them enormously in securing or retaining their confidence with multiplication & division. About three minutes a day practice is meant to be ideal, so I shall be keeping a 'Rock Roll of Honour' through the holidays—every child who appears on there for practising for 20 minutes or more than week will be entered into a prize draw in September. The more weeks their name appears, the more entries they get—they've got to be in it to win it!!

Year 5 Residential at Blackland Farm

Year 5 had an amazing time on their residential trip to Blackland Farm. The experience was jam-packed with exciting activities and lots of fun. One of the highlights was camping outdoors with friends and enjoying the adventure together.

Throughout the trip, we took part in a range of activities including rock climbing and Forest School. During Forest School, we worked in teams to build our own shelters, demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication and creativity. We also enjoyed a variety of problem-solving puzzles and challenges that encouraged us to work together and think critically.

The day ended perfectly with delicious hot chocolate and fun campsite games, creating wonderful memories for everyone. It was a fabulous residential that helped us build confidence, strengthen friendships and develop new skills. What a fantastic experience for Year 5!



Term Dates for 2026—2027 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2026

September

- Tuesday 1st Inset day - school closed for children
- Wednesday 2nd School reopens to children for Autumn Term
- Tuesday 15th Year 2 Goodwood farm Trip
Year 4 Lodge Hill trip
- Thursday 24th Year 3 Chichester Harbour trip
- Friday 25th Year 5 trip to Science Observatory at Herstmonceux Castle
- Monday 28th Whole school Kapla workshop

October

- Friday 2nd Inset Day—school closed for children
- Wednesday 21st Year 6 trip to Bluebell Railway
- Monday 26th Half Term begins
- Friday 30th End of half Term

November

- Monday 2nd School reopens for Autumn 2
- Monday 16th—Thursday 19th Early Years Balance Bikes
- Monday 30th Early Years Trip to St Michael's Church

December

- Friday 18th End of Autumn Term 2

Spring Term 2027

January

- Monday 4th Inset day—School closed for children
- Tuesday 5th School Reopens to children for Spring term

February

- Monday 15th Half Term begins
- Friday 19th End of Half term
- Monday 22nd Children return to school

March

- Wednesday 24th School breaks up for Easter Holiday



Year 5 Deanery Sports Day at St Oscar Romero



Year 5 had a fantastic day at St Oscar Romero for the Deanery Sports Day. We began the morning with a creative art session, painting wooden crosses using acrylic paints and showing off our artistic talents. This was followed by an enjoyable cooking activity where we baked our own delicious biscuits.



In the afternoon, it was time for the sports competitions. We took part in a variety of events including racing, tug of war, end ball, football and speed jump. Everyone demonstrated great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon.

The day concluded with a celebration ceremony, where we were delighted to discover that we had finished in **2nd place overall**. We are incredibly proud of all the children for

representing the school so positively and making the most of this memorable day. Well done, Year 5!



Goodbye and good luck, Year 6

There was scarcely a dry eye in the hall during Tuesday morning's Leavers' Assembly as we said goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children.

They have been a fabulous year group whose primary school journey has been unlike any other. Their early years were disrupted by the Covid pandemic, meaning they missed out on many of the experiences that usually help children settle into school life. Despite this, they have approached the years since with determination, enthusiasm and a real sense of character.

Over their time at English Martyrs, we have seen them grow in confidence, resilience and independence. They have achieved much to be proud of and have each brought their own unique gifts, talents and personalities to our school community. Watching them mature into the young people they are today has been a privilege for us all, and I think that they have taught us as much as we have taught them.

As they move on to the next stage of their education, we wish them every success and happiness. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and know that they will continue to make us proud in the years ahead. Good luck, Year 6 and to our other children who are moving on to new schools – may you be confident in who you are, courageous in what you do and always remember that you will always have a place in our hearts and in the English Martyrs family.



Summer Activity Offers

Reduce Student Screen Time, Increase Physical Activity



Up to 50% OFF at Out of Bounds

We know how important it is to keep young people active, engaged, and away from screens - especially during the long summer holidays. That's why **Out of Bounds** is excited to offer a **special summer promotion** exclusively for schools.

Offer 1: 50% OFF our High Ropes & Zip Lines Adventure!

This is a **fantastic opportunity** for your students and their families to enjoy an exciting, outdoor activity that promotes **physical exercise, confidence-building, and fun**.

Here's what's included:

High Ropes & Zip Lines – a thrilling aerial adventure course

A safe, supervised environment that encourages teamwork, resilience, and outdoor play

50% discount on all bookings using the code at checkout: **SCRNFREEA**

Valid from **1st July to 1st September 2026**, subject to availability.

Unlimited use – families can use the code as many times as they like throughout the Summer!

Minimum age 8 years. Minimum height 130cm.

**Adults must supervise children aged 8-9 years. One adult (18+) can supervise 2 children aged 8-9 and must participate in the activity.*

Offer 2: 15% OFF Adventure Nets

A thrilling adventure designed for ages 5 and up!

Here's what's included:

Access to our **Adventure Nets**—perfect for active, high-energy play

A safe, supervised environment that encourages teamwork, resilience, and **15% discount** on all bookings using code: **SCRNFREEA**

Valid from **1st July to 1st September 2026**, subject to availability.

Unlimited use – families can use the code as many times as they like throughout the Summer!

Why we're doing this:

At Out of Bounds, we're passionate about helping young people stay active and healthy. With screen time on the rise, especially during school breaks, we want to give families engaging, accessible ways to get outdoors, move their bodies, and have fun together.

Book online at out-of-bounds.co.uk



LIGHTS UP
DANCE & THEATRE WORKSHOPS

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

GORING VENUE

 **TUESDAY 28TH JULY**
TAYLOR SWIFT
DANCE WORKSHOP
9AM - 1PM AGE 7 +

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST
SIX THE MUSICAL
9AM - 1PM AGE 5 +

NEW UPDATE  **SIX**
THE MUSICAL

 **TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST**
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
9AM - 1PM AGE 7 +

ONLY £22 PER WORKSHOP
TO BOOK EMAIL... LIGHTSUPDANCE@GMAIL.COM

PLACES ARE LIMITED

LIGHTS UP
DANCE & THEATRE WORKSHOPS

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

NEW **LIGHTS UP MINI WORKSHOPS**
FOR CHILDREN AGED 4 - 6
GORING VENUE

TUESDAY 28TH JULY
DANCE POP PARTY
1:30 - 3:30

 **TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST**
DISNEY DANCE PARTY
1:30 - 3:30

ONLY £11 PER WORKSHOP
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Worthing Playday
The National Day For Play

Coming to Broadwater Green

Worthing's annual CHILDRENS PLAYDAY EVENT

Bouncy castles, small rides, shaving foam pool, cardboard heaven, local business stallholders, food, drink and..... LOTS OF FUN!

For more information SCAN HERE



05 Wednesday August 2026 10am - 3pm

Sponsored by: **bacon and company**
Estate and letting agents



YEAR 2 AND ABOVE

After school skateboard club

Thursdays 3.15-4.15

Book in through QR code or email

Beginner friendly

Skateboards and helmets to borrow

September 10th, 17th, 24th
October 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd



£56 pp for the whole 7 weeks

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Children's Holiday Club

09:00 - 16:15
4 - 12 year olds
Early Bird and Late Leaver Options Available

West Sussex County Council Free HAF Places

Arts and Crafts, Sports, Games and more!

Steyning Grammar School, Upper Beeding
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Ofsted Registered

Book through the HAF portal!

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Free to children
in receipt of
benefits related
free school meals

STAGE COACH

Summer WORKSHOP

27th - 31st July
Thomas a Becket Junior School



A Fairytale Adventure
Age: 4-6 year olds
Time: 9.30am-12.30pm



Stagecoach Rocks!
Age: 7 - 16 year olds
Time: 10am - 4pm

SIGN UP



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SUMMER WORKSHOPS WITH CURTAIN CALL ACADEMY!

A SUMMER FULL OF PERFORMING ARTS!

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOPS

- AM SESSION 08.30-12.30
Matilda The Musical and Shrek The Musical **£20**
- PM SESSION 12.30-16.30
Wicked The Musical & Beauty & The Beast The Musical **£20**
- ALL DAY 08.30-16.30 **£36**

MONDAY 10TH AUGUST

08.30-12.30
DISNEY'S DESCENDANTS **£20**

MONDAY 24TH AUGUST

08.30-12.30
SIX THE MUSICAL **£20**

WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST

08.30-12.30
THE GREATEST SHOWMAN **£20**

Goring United Reformed Church, BN124EA
Open to Ages 4+
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ALL WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- SINGING
- DANCING
- PERFORM ON STAGE
- DISCO PARTY
- FUN GAMES

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!



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ENGLISH MARTYRS MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB

SING • DANCE • ACT • PERFORM • SHINE ...and have fun!

- BOOST CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- LEARN FUN SONGS AND DANCES
- BE PART OF A SUPPORTIVE CLUB

OPEN TO ALL YEAR GROUPS

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

THURSDAYS 15:15-16:15

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Water Safety Workshop

Learn how to stay safe by the water with the RNLI at our Day Camp!

Thursday 6 August, 11am



To book, scan the QR code.



NBA Themed Basketball Day

Meet players from Worthing Thunder at our day camp!

Thursday 27 August, 10am - 11am



To book, scan the QR code.



ADVENTURE

DISCOVER

PLAY

CREATE

HOLIDAY HQ

A SUMMER FULL OF STORIES

STARTS HERE

NEW THEMES EACH WEEK!

Multi-Activity Summer Holiday Camp

Free Summer Holiday HAF Spaces
Secure your child's spot

A Summer Full of Stories Starts Here!

JAG Summer Camp is a multi-activity holiday experience designed for primary-aged children, packed with variety, energy and creativity. With new themes each week, every day brings something different from high-energy games and team challenges to hands-on making and creative activities.

EACH DAY IS DIFFERENT!

A mix of fun, creative and active experiences designed around choice and variety:

MAKE & TAKE

Craft your own unique creation and take it home. Zone activities, designed as a Holiday HQ souvenir to unlock creativity and imagination.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Get hands-on in our Craft Zone activities, designed as a Holiday HQ souvenir to unlock creativity and imagination.

THEMED ACTIVITIES

Dive into a new adventure every day with our exciting daily themed activities!

SKILL ZONE

Skill Zone is a daily session designed to build confidence, curiosity, and teamwork through themed challenges and purposeful play.

BOOK NOW!

We understand that flexibility and affordability matter. That's why we offer a range of options to help make summer work for you.

- ✓ 48-hour cancellation policy
- ✓ Flexible bookings

- ✓ Tax-Free Childcare accepted
- ✓ Childcare Vouchers accepted

- ✓ Weekly booking discounts
- ✓ 10% sibling discount

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1. Email to Parents

Dear Parent,

Find out how to keep your child safe online.

Don't forget that the Online Safety Hub is now live! You can access it for free here:

<https://virtualit.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>



The Online Safety Hub is a brand-new online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online as a parent.

It includes information on the latest hot topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety and lots more.

We're also offering you as a parent, a free Qustodio account facilitating parental controls on any individual device and free premium access for 30 days. Gain more visibility on what's going on in your child's online world. Block dangerous content, introduce screen-free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content, keep tabs on their location and more. Follow the link to create your free account

https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=OSHub&utm_campaign=virtualit

by Gloria



If you have any questions on any of the above, please get in touch.