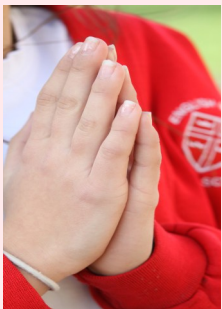




Our Mission Statement

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 19th September 2026

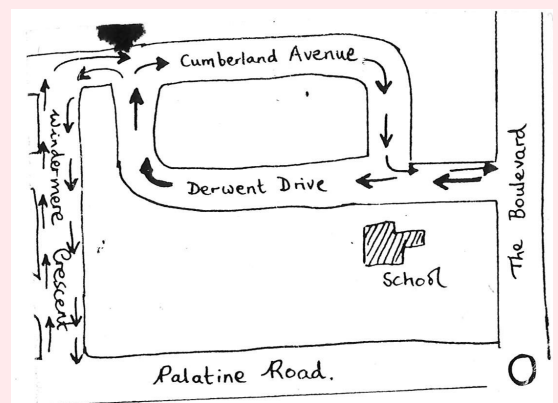
Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Then at various times throughout the day, even right up to the eleventh hour, the landowner hired and sent more workers into his vineyard. In the evening, he said to his manager, 'Call the workers and pay everyone one denarius each.' The ones who had worked all day grumbled at the landowner, complaining that he paid the men who came last the same amount as them. The landowner said, 'My friends, I am not being unjust to you. Did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first, last." Adapted from Matthew 20:1-16

School Car Park and Voluntary One Way System

We would like to remind you that the car park is for staff use only unless you have asked for special permission. After 8am would request that parents dropping children for the breakfast club do not use the car park due to the regular movement of vehicles in this area.

To help traffic flow easier at drop off and pick up, we ask everyone to follow the voluntary one way system as shown in the maps. If all cars are travelling in the same direction, we find everyone moves faster and there is less congestion. Thank you for your support in this matter.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Frances Amos

This week, we wanted to say an enormous thank you to Frances Amos who, after many years of service to the school as a Foundation Governor, has decided to retire from the role. Frances has given an incredible amount of time, care and support to our school, children, staff and parents. She has played an important part in school life, being the Chair and then Co-Chair of Governors, Safeguarding governor and SEND governor. Part of the governor role is to look after the wellbeing of the staff, and Frances has been an incredible support during some challenging times. She has played such an active role in the school, coming to assemblies and Masses, going on school trips and hearing the children read. She has always kept the children at the heart of everything she has done.

We are so grateful for her support over the years, and are pleased that although she is stepping back from her governor role, she will continue as a reading volunteer and still be very present in our school community. Thank you, Frances! - Humberto Gonzalez, Chair of Governors

Friends' Pre-loved uniform

Do you need any extra uniform? Our new Friends' have sorted out the uniform stock and there is loads available—please contact them on friends@englishmartyrs.school. The only thing they are short on is PE kit, so if you have any outgrown PE kit that you could donate, this would be much appreciated.

Jeans for Genes Day

Thank you for your generous donations on our Jeans for Genes day. We raised a fabulous total of £161.00 which will go towards supporting children and families affected by genetic conditions, funding specialist services, practical support, information, advice and projects that improve their quality of life.



Introducing our new house captains!

Last week, we heard speeches from eleven candidates hoping to become House Captains. I can honestly say, hand on heart, that every single one of them was brilliant. It was obvious how much effort had gone into preparing them. One candidate had spent four hours working on her speech, and it showed. The speeches were thoughtful, well delivered and the children's showed great understanding of our English Martyrs values—community, respect, belief and inspiration—and how these should be lived out in our school.



The problem was that nobody could choose between them! I certainly couldn't and I was so relieved to discover that everyone else felt the same way! As I went around the school talking to pupils and staff, it became clear that every candidate brought something different and special.

I heard that **Eva** simply had to be a House Captain because she is always so incredibly caring about everyone. **Oscar** has already made a huge impression despite only recently joining our school and staff commented about his great attitude. Younger children talked about how **Eden** had inspired them (although I was slightly less keen on the "no extra homework" part of her speech!). **Luke's** talents were mentioned, along with the fact that he never likes to make a fuss about them. **Tavimba** was praised for his loyalty and always being there for his friends. **Ava** was described as someone who listens to everyone and is great with younger children. **Abel** is so friendly that it feels as though he has always been part of our school community. **Nancy** was known for making people welcome and helping them feel that they belong—she is always someone who will take new children under her wing. **Makayla's** determination to get rid of 6-7 made her an instant choice for some of the children ... and all of the staff! **Erin** was praised for being such a positive and friendly presence around the school, and **Isobel** was recognised as a role model because of the confidence she has developed over recent years.

So, after hearing all of this, there was only one solution and we now have eleven house captains, which is the most ever! Congratulations to all of them—we are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing what they achieve in their new roles this year.

Belonging Buddies



Does your child ever say that they don't have anyone to play with at play or lunchtime? Our Belonging Buddies (aka Mental Health Ambassadors) are there to help—they are on duty every day on the field by the digging area and can easily be spotted as they wear bright yellow bands. If your child comments about not knowing who to play with, please remind them that the Belonging Buddies would love to help. Thank you.

Updated School Policies

To keep our children safe in and response to Benedict's Law, we have created an Allergy Safety policy which is on the website. Please could you take the time to read this, to make sure that your child's lunch or snack does not contain nuts, and that you make us aware if your child has an allergy or food intolerance.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Update

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent playtime survey. We have spent time reading through the responses and they have been really helpful in shaping our next steps as we continue our OPAL journey.

The first thing that stood out was how positive children are about playtimes. Almost three-quarters of parents (72%) told us that their child's playtime is either good or brilliant, with "brilliant" being the highest response. Some of the comments included:

"Best thing about the day!"

"There is so much to do there."

"Because there's lots of space to play."

"The school have changed playtime into a more fun place to play."

That was great to read, particularly as these surveys were carried out before we introduced the rickshaws and wheeled play equipment, which have taken off even more than we expected. One of my favourite moments this week involved seeing Year 6 child who was using tyres around the playground as different shops. They then spent their playtime asking Key Stage 1 children where they wanted to go and driving them to visit the shops in a rickshaw taxi!



I stood and watched for a while (well, photographic evidence shows that I haven't just watched the rickshaws!) and it was just brilliant. Children of different ages were playing together, chatting and taking turns. The fun play I saw couldn't have happened this time last year before we started our OPAL journey. We are seeing much more imaginative play, mixing between age groups and children creating their own opportunities for play. I'm so glad that we decided to become an OPAL school!

One of the clearest messages from the parent survey was about the weather. Around 60% of families told us that weather is the biggest thing preventing their children from playing outdoors more often. It is really important that children have suitable clothing in school every day. We have already had occasions where rain has arrived despite a dry forecast and some children have not had waterproofs available. When the field is wet, children will only be able to use it if they have wellies in school. If your child does not currently have a pair in school, we would really appreciate it if these could be provided. **Please make sure waterproofs stay in school at all times.**

We were also pleased by how many parents offered to support our OPAL journey. One thing that would really help us at the moment would be donations of:

- Outgrown waterproofs
- Outgrown wellies
- Children's coat hangers (to help us dry waterproofs properly rather than having them sitting damp in a box until the next rainy day)

I would also like to thank especially Mrs Kingston and Mr McGuire, who have already put an enormous amount of time, energy and creativity into getting OPAL off the ground. There is still plenty of hard work ahead of us, but the difference we are already seeing for children makes it well worth it.

Finally, congratulations to the parent of Katniss, whose name came up on the 'Wheel of Names' and who has won our £20 Amazon voucher. Thank you again to everyone who took the time to share their views. We will continue to keep you updated.



Cakes & Code Words! (Macmillan Coffee Afternoon and Grandparents / Special Friends Day)

We are looking forward to welcoming grandparents, special friends and family members into school for our annual Grandparents' Day and Macmillan Coffee Afternoon this Wednesday. We appreciate that not every child has grandparents who are able to attend so we are very happy for children to invite a special friend instead. This could be an aunt, uncle, neighbour, family friend or any other important adult in their life.



Visitors are welcome to arrive from 2.30pm and spend time with their child in the classroom. We would ask that all visitors leave classrooms by 3.00pm so that staff can get children ready for the end of the day and make sure everyone is where they need to be. From 2.45 pm visitors are warmly invited to the hall for tea, coffee and cake as part of our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. Macmillan Cancer Support does fantastic work supporting people living with cancer and their families, and we are pleased to be able to support such a worthwhile cause.

We would be very grateful for donations of cakes from families in Early Years, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. **Please ensure that any cakes brought into school do not contain nuts**— we have children in school with serious nut allergies. If we have cakes left over at the end of the afternoon, we will hold pop-up cake sales after school so that we can raise more money for Macmillan. As usual, there will be no set prices for cakes but we will be asking for donations of what you can afford to give. We will try to organise to have a card reader, but please bring cash in case technology fails us!

Every year we have visitors asking whether they can take their grandchild, or the child they are visiting, into the hall before the end of the school day to have cake together. We do have to say no to this. We can usually only just fit all of the adults into the hall and there would not be room for the children as well. To make things fair, we apply the same rule for everyone. There is also the matter of making sure that we know where all of the children are at the end of the day. Teachers need to be able to safely hand children over to the right adult, so children will remain with their classes until normal collection time. If you think that your child may struggle with this, we would appreciate you explaining this to them in advance. Visitors are very welcome to get a piece of cake for their grandchild. If they are collecting the child at the end of the day, they can get them from the playground and then come back into the hall together. By that point, the crowds have usually started to thin out a bit and there is a bit more room.

Anyone who has attended this event before will know that the queues to get everyone signed in can sometimes be enormous so this year we are asking families to complete a short form in advance. On the form, you will be asked:

- Who is attending
- Whether they will be collecting your child at the end of the day
- A simple code word
- Whether they have any food allergies that we need to be aware of.

When visitors arrive, we will ask them for the code word so that we can be confident that they are the person we are expecting on behalf of your child. **Please don't forget to tell the code word to the person who is visiting!**



Please complete the form by Tuesday evening so that we can print the responses on Wednesday morning.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/MGhvRrvJaJ>

Thank you in advance for your support, your cake donations and for helping us make the afternoon a success. We look forward to welcoming everyone into school and raising money for such an important cause.

Year 4 Lodge Hill Trip

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their recent visit to Lodge Hill, where they enjoyed a range of exciting outdoor activities that challenged them to work together, build confidence and have fun.



The children took part in the **low ropes course**, where they demonstrated excellent teamwork, balance and determination as they navigated the obstacles. They also enjoyed the thrill of **sno tubing**, racing down the slopes with big smiles and plenty of excitement.



Another highlight of the trip was **tunnelling**, where the children showed courage and perseverance as they made their way through the underground tunnels. Throughout the day, they supported one another, embraced new challenges and represented the school brilliantly.



We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and positive attitudes shown by all of Year 4. It was a memorable experience that provided lots of fun and opportunities for personal growth. Well done, Year 4!



Dates for 2026—2027 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2026

September

Wednesday 23rd MacMillan Coffee Afternoon and Grandparents Day from 2.30pm

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

Thursday 8th Individual Photos

Wednesday 14th Parents Evening

Friday 16th Early Years Six Week in Meeting for parents.

Saturday 17th Cross Country at The Gallops. Times to be confirmed.

Monday 19th Parents Evening

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

Reminder to all —please check MCAS to give permission for trips and pay any outstanding contributions. This includes the whole school Kapla Workshop which is now just over a week away.

Thank you.

You are warmly invited to join us for our

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 30th September 6pm-8pm

Judged "Outstanding" in all categories, Ofsted Inspection 2025

"This is a highly aspirational school where pupils thrive"

"Leaders are relentlessly ambitious for every pupil to achieve academic excellence through a rich learning experience"



We provide a nurturing environment of love, respect and discipline, where every individual is highly valued and our staff and resources are always committed to your children.



We expect our students to work hard, believe in themselves, dream big and pursue excellence in all that they do.



Open Morning Tours are also available via Eventbrite:

StRomerosTours2026.eventbrite.co.uk

October 2nd, 7th, 8th, 9th, & 14th
School Tours start at 9:15am



For more information please contact us on 01903 241368 or office@stromeros.co.uk • www.stromeros.co.uk • www.facebook.com/stoscarrromeros



OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMPS

MONDAY - THURSDAY

HOVE PARK 3G BN3 7BF

OCTOBER 26TH - OCTOBER 29TH

£20



9am Early Drop off-£3 | 10% Sibling Discount | £15 for RMA Academy Members



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End every term on a high note

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£66.48 per month (no payment in August). Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.

98%

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Insights from 3,727 parents

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Lisa

92%

of Rocksteady pupils report greater confidence and self-belief
Insights from 1,332 children

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OCTOBER

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP



SCAN TO FIND YOUR
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LAUNCHING OCTOBER 2026

- ✓ Action-packed activities every day – sports, games, crafts, challenges & more
- ✓ Mission Starlight this October – a new space-themed adventure every day
- ✓ Make, create & take it home – including our Solar System Planetarium
- ✓ Great-value holiday childcare – with offers & discounts available

MISSION CONTROL IS CALLING...



OCTOBER PROGRAMME

Give your child an October half term filled with activities, creativity, active play, new experiences and plenty of fun at Holiday HQ. With exciting activities throughout the day and a programme designed to keep children engaged, Holiday HQ offers October half term childcare that's about much more than simply filling the school holidays. Find your nearest October half term holiday club and join Mission Starlight.

DAILY ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:



Big adventures bringing each day's theme to life



Fun challenges to test skills, teamwork & confidence



Imagine it. Create it. Make it yours.

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Join us for our Open Evening 2026

Tues 29th Sept | 4:30-7pm

Talks at 5pm & 6pm

sta-worthing.com/open-events

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.