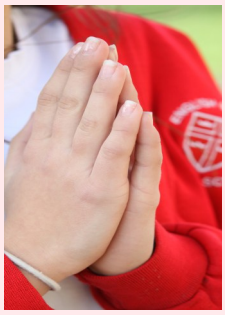
# English Martyrs Newsletter
# 25th September 2026

## 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



## Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What do you think about this? A man had two sons. He went to one and said, 'My son, go and work in my vineyard today.' 'I will not go,' his son replied – but later he changed his mind and went. The man said the same thing to his other son, and the son replied, 'Yes, I will' – but he did not go. Which of the two sons did the will of their father?" "The first," they said. Then Jesus said to them, "I tell you truly that those we consider outcasts are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God. Did not John the Baptist come to you, teaching what is right and true, and you did not believe him? Yet the outcasts believed him. And even then you did not change your minds and believe him." *Adapted from Matthew 21:28-32*

## Whole School Kapla Workshop

We are so excited about our Kapla Workshop on Monday and the amazing day of creativity, teamwork and problem-solving that lies ahead!

Together, the children will be helping to create a huge Kapla city, and I can't wait to see what they achieve. To make the most of every minute of building time, we'll be keeping the children busy right up until the end of the school day. However, I also really want parents to have the chance to see their hard work before it all comes crashing down!

The hall will therefore be open from 3.15pm for parents / carers to come in and have a very careful, tip-toeing look at our giant creation. If you have little ones with you please make sure that they know to look and not touch - we will all need to tread carefully!

Then, at 3.30pm, comes the moment we've all been waiting for... the grand demolition!



From the videos I've seen, the finale is truly spectacular, and we'd love an audience for it. We'll need plenty of volunteers to help with the demolition itself and, afterwards, to stay for a few extra minutes to help us pack away the blocks. Many hands really do make light work, and we'd be very grateful for any help you can offer.

## Year 3 Trip to Chichester Harbour



Year 3 had a fantastic day at Chichester Harbour, where we learned all about tides, coastal erosion and sea defences. The children enjoyed exploring the coastline and discovering how the sea shapes the land around us. One of the highlights of the day was crab hunting, where we were lucky enough to catch and even hold some crabs! We were incredibly proud of the children, who showed great enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour throughout the day. They remained positive and engaged, asking thoughtful questions and making the most of every learning opportunity. Well done, Year 3!



**Our Library Aquarium**

There has been a lot of excitement in school today as the children have been finding out that we are going to have an aquarium in our library!

Last Sunday's Gospel, the Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard, really stayed with me. In assembly, we talked about how everyone was valued, whether they arrived first or last, whether they were the biggest or the smallest. Everyone belonged, valued and had a part to play.

It got me thinking about our school community and how we can help children to feel that same sense of belonging. An aquarium seemed a lovely way of bringing that to life. Every fish will be different, but they will share the same home and be cared for equally. We are also hoping it will help to create a calm and welcoming space in our library, with all of us sharing the responsibility of looking after our fishy friends.

Next week, Mrs Jobbings and I will be taking a small group of children, some new to English Martyrs and some who have been here for longer, to choose our first fish. Watch this space!



A huge thank you to Maidenhead Aquatics on Littlehampton Road, who have generously given us a discount on our aquarium and have also offered English Martyrs families 5% off with an English Martyrs voucher. We will have the vouchers ready in the office from Monday.

Once our fish have settled in, we probably have a naming competition. I will be very disappointed if we don't receive at least one suggestion for Fishy McFish-Face!

## Is Your Child a Young Carer?

A Young Carer is a child whose life is affected by helping to care for a family member with a disability, long-term illness, mental health need or additional needs. This might be a parent, grandparent, brother or sister. Sometimes children help with practical tasks, but often they are simply taking on extra responsibilities, providing emotional support, or worrying about a loved one more than most children their age.

Being a Young Carer is something to be proud of, but it can also bring additional challenges. By registering with the West Sussex Young Carers Family Service, families may be able to access advice, activities, support groups and opportunities for children to meet other young carers. Many young carers say that one of the biggest benefits is knowing that they are not alone and that other people understand their experiences.

At English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, we really want to make sure that all of our families are getting all the support they are entitled to. If you think your child may be a Young Carer, please come and speak to Dr. Townsley or Mrs Jobbings. We would be very happy to talk things through and help you explore whether registration would be appropriate. You can also find out more and make a referral through the West Sussex Young Carers Family Service website (and put in the website address here)

**Please remember:** many Young Carers do not realise that they are Young Carers. If your child helps care for a sibling with additional needs, including a sibling with an EHCP, it is worth talking to us to see whether support may be available.

## Staffing update

I am really pleased to let you know that we have a new member of staff joining us next week. Mrs Swain (whose children attend the school) will be coming to work at English Martyrs to support some of our children on a one-to-one basis. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team.

## MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee Afternoon. We raised £288.63.

## Inset Day on Friday 2nd October

On Friday 2nd October, we have an Inset day and the school is closed to children. During the morning, the staff will be receiving training about OPAL, which we're all really looking forward to. We have just heard that parents are also invited to join. I know that for many of you childcare could well be an issue, but if you are able to organise a playdate so that you could come along, we would be delighted to have you with us. If you can come along, please call the office by Wednesday to let us know so that we have enough snacks for all! Please do come if you can.

## 'Operation Encompass'

As we begin a new school year, and especially for those families who are new to English Martyrs, I thought it would be helpful to explain what it means when we say that we are an 'Operation Encompass' school.

Operation Encompass is a national safeguarding partnership between schools and the police. In certain circumstances, the police may share information with a school's safeguarding team before the start of the school day if they believe a child has been affected by an incident outside of school. This means that, if a child arrives at school needing a little extra care, understanding or reassurance, we are aware and able to support them.

One of the most valuable things about Operation Encompass is that it can help to open up communication between home and school. We know that when families are going through a difficult time, making that first phone call or arranging a conversation might feel overwhelming. Whilst we are not able to contact families simply because we have received a notification, it does mean that if you choose to get in touch, you do not always have to start from the very beginning. We may already have some understanding, allowing us to focus on how we can best support your child.

Any information shared through Operation Encompass is treated sensitively and confidentially by our safeguarding team. Our role is not to interfere in family life, but to make sure that children feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

If there is ever something happening outside school that you think may be affecting your child, please do get in touch. You can call the school, pop in and speak to us, or email our safeguarding team at dsl@englishmartyrs.school. We will always listen, offer support where we can, and work alongside you.

## Dates for 2026—2027 Academic Year

**Autumn Term 2026**

**September**

Monday 28th — Whole school Kapla workshop. **Demolition at 3.30!**

**October**

**Thursday 1st** — **Welcome Mass 10.45am Everyone welcome to join**

Friday 2nd — Inset Day—school closed for children. **Parents welcome to join us for the morning.**

**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**

Thursday 17th — Advent Mass 2pm—all welcome

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 on Monday.**

**Thank you.**


CURTAIN CALL ACADEMY
★ PRESENTS ★
THE CASE OF THE MISSING SHOW!
★ THE MYSTERY: ★
Four musical theatre songs have gone missing! Can you solve the clues, learn the songs and help us put on the show?
AGES 4+
A FULL DAY OF SINGING, DANCING & ACTING!
Fun creative challenges for ages 4+. No experience required.
SOLVE CLUES: Help us find the missing musical.
LEARN SONGS: Rehearse new numbers.
PERFORM: Put on a final show for family & friends.
WEDNESDAY 28TH OCT Half Term
08:30 – TO – 16:30
GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BN12 4EA
ALL DAY £42
@curtaincallworthing
curtaincallacademy.co.uk
curtaincallacademy@outlook.com
SOLVE THE MYSTERY ★ LEARN THE SONGS ★ PERFORM!


Curtain Call Academy of Dance
SEABROOK HIGH
DISNEY DESCENDANTS VS DISNEY ZOMBIES
CURTAIN CALL ACADEMY
OCTOBER HALF TERM WORKSHOP!
SING, DANCE, ACT, PERFORM, SHINE... AND HAVE FUN!
26TH OCTOBER 2026
08.30–16.30
GORING UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, BN124EA
AGES 4+
SINGING
DANCING
ACTING
GAMES
DISCO PARTY
STAGE PERFORMANCE
LOADS OF FUN!
AM SESSION 08.30-12.30 - £22
PM SESSION 12.30-16.30 - £22
ALL DAY 08.30-16.30 - £42
curtaincallacademy@outlook.com
@curtaincallworthing
CHARLEY ANN MOYCE


CHOOSE A SCHOOL MEAL
SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL
THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER IS CENSUS DAY.
The number of children enjoying a school meal on Census Day can help determine the meal funding available to your school.
By booking a meal for your child, you'll be supporting your school while giving them the chance to enjoy our special Today's Harvest menu.
BOOK YOUR CHILD'S MEAL THROUGH THE FEED APP TODAY!
TODAY'S HARVEST
MAIN COURSES
• Chicken Goujons with Chips
• Halal Chicken Goujons with Chips
• Margherita Pizza Slice with Chips
• Jacket Potato with baked beans, tuna or cheese
SERVED WITH
• Sweetcorn from the Sunny Fields
• Country Baked Beans
DESSERTS
• Autumn Banana Bread with Custard
• Harvest Rainbow Fruit & Yoghurt
Plant-based and special-diet options are also available through the FEED app.


MINIS SECTION WANT YOU!
FUN • FRIENDLY • ACTIVE RUGBY!
ALL AGES WELCOME FROM YEAR R - 7!
A FUN, SAFE ENVIRONMENT!
EVERY SUNDAY FROM SEPTEMBER
JOIN US NOW!
A FUN, SAFE AND WELCOMING INTRODUCTION TO RUGBY FOR OUR YOUNGEST PLAYERS! EACH WEEK IS PACKED WITH FUN GAMES, EXCITING ACTIVITIES AND RUGBY SKILLS, HELPING CHILDREN BUILD CONFIDENCE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND ENJOY BEING ACTIVE.
WHETHER THEY'RE COMPLETELY NEW TO RUGBY OR ALREADY LOVE THE GAME, EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
LITTLEHAMPTON RUFC
ENJOYMENT | RESPECT | TEAMWORK
@littlehamptonrugby
Littlehampton RFC
info@littlehamptonrugby.co.uk
minis@littlehamptonrugby.co.uk
LITTLEHAMPTON RFC
KINGLEY GATE
LITTLEHAMPTON
BN17 7FA

smoothwall
by Qoria

## 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

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