



September 2025

# FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you

ALL ARE  
WELCOME



Alexandra Penfold BLOOMSBURY Suzanne Kaufman

Dear Families,  
It has been WONDERFUL to welcome our little fish back to school ready for the new academic year! The theme of our assemblies has been to celebrate new beginnings and to remind our little fish that our school is a welcoming, kind and inclusive place where ALL ARE WELCOME! This lovely picture book shared some important messages for us all about how

important it is to remember that:  
**No matter how you start your day,  
What you wear when you play,  
Or if you come from far away,  
All are welcome here.**

We have especially enjoyed welcoming our newest little fish to Fishbourne Primary and were delighted to hear that, as a result of their first taste of democracy, they had voted to be called Seahorses. This name will stay with them on their adventure through Fishbourne Primary and become an important part of their identities! We welcome both the children and their families to our school family and look forward to you all settling in and joining us for your Six Weeks In meeting which will be here before you know it!



The new academic year got off to a very special start with the launch of our brand new Staff CREW. CREW is a NEW part of our school routine for staff and children in Year 2 and 6 who are part of our pilot. We are introducing this school-wide during the course of this year because we recognise that there is a real need to support the well-being of both our children and staff. We believe that making time for CREW each day, will make a significant difference to our school family.

**Crew is a spirit, a way of being.**

**It's a safe place where we become one, yet grow as individuals.**

**To be "Crew" means to help each other, to be accountable for your own actions and take responsibility for everyone's wellbeing around you.**

**Crew means everybody pulling together, thinking together and supporting each other to do things bigger and better than we thought possible.**

**Crew is a place where character development, collaboration and positive relationships are intentional, assuring success for all our school family. It's a structure that fosters a sense of belonging and a place where we can be our best selves while lifting others to achieve more than we think possible.**

**Crew enables us to nurture effective learners, ethical people and contribute to making the world a better place to be.**



We were also very excited to welcome back Mrs Harvey (previously Miss Baldwin) who got married over the summer holidays. There is no better job than being a teacher for getting used to a new surname given the number of times we hear it each day... huge congratulations to Vicky, Joe and Evelyn!

Some important reminders for the beginning of a new school year:

**\*New school times:** 8.40am drop off and 3.15pm pick up. Thank you so much to everyone for arriving in school on time. We have been so impressed by how hard everyone is trying with this!

**\*Scooters and bikes on the school site:** Please ensure that scooters and bikes are pushed for the safety of all members of our school family, this includes in the car park.

**\*Dogs on the school site:** There should be no dogs on the school site. The only exception to this is Barney, our school dog, who has been trained and is insured. This is for everyone's safety.

**\*Play equipment:** Children should not be on play equipment either before or after the school day.

**\*Birthday treats:** Please remember that in January 2025 we brought in new guidance about birthday treats, requesting that families do not send it sweets/cakes/gifts to celebrate birthdays.

**\*KS2 morning snacks:** Please remember these should only be fruit or vegetables.

**\*Nut free school:** We are very aware that we have an increasing number of children with severe nut allergies. As a result we request that no nuts are sent into school in any form.

**\*Attendance:** Please remember that we now have a new attendance policy in school which is available on our school website. No holidays will be authorised during term times and fixed penalty notices will be issued. Please ensure you are aware of the policy prior to booking any trips.

Reminder!

Each CREW session involves circling up and checking in so that we hear everybody's voice, followed by the opportunity to share an appreciation, an apology or make a stand. This enables us to restore and enrich relationships and gives each of us the opportunity to encourage and challenge each other. During the week there will also be opportunities to re-connect and celebrate, to take part in a devotional and to use books as both windows into the lives of others and mirrors to help us reflect on our own lives.

You can read more about CREW on our school website:

<https://www.fishbourneprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Crew&pid=151>

We look forward to sharing with you the impact we see of this important time for us as a school family.

As part of our Staff CREW launch we set out to make the world a better place to be by raising funds for Hospice UK by working together to climb the equivalent height of Mount Everest. In some very challenging conditions, we smashed our targets and raised well over £1000 for the work of hospices across the country.

**JustGiving** Menu

**Fishbourne CE Primary - staff team fundraiser for Hospice UK**

Fishbourne Primary is raising money for Hospice UK

**£1,000** raised by 55 supporters



The summer holidays are a time for us to get cracking on lots of improvements to our lovely school. Having piloted the Lighthouse at Fishbourne Primary we have seen first-hand the impact it has on our little fish who have benefited enormously from the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom. We were fortunate and very grateful to secure a grant from Thriving In Education that enabled us to transform the space. This early intervention enables children to be 'ready to learn' when they enter their classroom and provides them with the preparation they need to be able to do so. The aim of the Lighthouse is to enable children to be able to learn alongside their classmates when they are ready and able to be successful.



We have also been incredibly lucky to be able to replace the soft furnishings in the library thanks to the hard work of our FOS team who have raised sufficient funds to be able to freshen up this lovely space.

The addition of bean bags has been super-popular, together with stools to provide enough seating for children to enjoy curling up with a good book!



During the holidays, we also completed a project to replace our IT equipment for the children to ensure it is Windows 11 compatible and this has included the purchase of 15 new computers for our computer room and a fleet of 15 laptops for use in classrooms.

You may remember from the letter I sent before the summer holidays how challenging school funding has become over recent years and, as a result, we are having to look creatively at ways of managing our budget without losing sight of the very high standards we aim to achieve. There are several ways that you can help us in school and we would really appreciate your support with:

**School trips:**

The letters we send you about school trips and swimming request a 'voluntary contribution' towards school trips. An increasing number of families do not make these contributions. As a result, we must supplement the cost of the trip from our school budget. We urge families please to pay for these visits as non-payment will result in us having to cancel these trips moving forward.

**Volunteering for school trips:**

We often put out requests for support from parents to volunteer on school trips which minimises the number of support staff we need to relinquish from the school. We have lots of parents who offer to support on a trip but who do not have a DBS check. As a result, we cannot take you up on your kind offer. It would be brilliant to have a large bank of parents who have a DBS just in case you are able to help!

We can do DBS checks for you:

- 1) Check you have the correct documentation (see: [https://onlinedbschecks.co.uk/blog/dbs-check-documents/?srsltid=AfmBOop2Tr78SUa7F3yXS3yRN7oz\\_9H43fgK6HfABbXZD3-vYWa\\_rOqb](https://onlinedbschecks.co.uk/blog/dbs-check-documents/?srsltid=AfmBOop2Tr78SUa7F3yXS3yRN7oz_9H43fgK6HfABbXZD3-vYWa_rOqb))
- 2) Book a time in with Kate Sheldon, our Business Manager, to come and complete the application together.
- 3) Arrive with the original documentation that we will verify.

**Amazon Wishlist:**

We would like to remind you that, should you ever be in a position to support us, we hold an Amazon Wishlist full of book titles that would enable us to provide the children with a fresh, inspiring range of books to choose from:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/I9W63Y5XN7CY/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/I9W63Y5XN7CY/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

**Applying for Pupil Premium:**

Did you know that the government gives additional funding to schools for those children entitled to free school meals (pupil premium)? We use this money to pay for additional resources and staff to enrich the children's learning and improve the quality of education which benefits all children.

You can check to see if you are eligible and apply for Free School Meals / Pupil Premium yourselves by following this link:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

We are no longer able to apply on your behalf but would be happy to support you if you need any help to make an application.

**For those currently in receipt of Pupil Premium funding:**

There will also be some changes to the way in which Pupil Premium funding is allocated in September. We currently support those children in receipt of Free School Meals by paying for 100% of their trips and residential visits. However, in September there will be a change to this, bringing our practice in line with other schools in the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership.

Moving forward, we will support families with children in receipt of Free School Meals by:

- paying for 50% of a school trip
  - paying for 50% of a residential visit
  - paying for a term of a before/after school club once a year
- We are making these changes to ensure that we have sufficient funding to support children to make strong academic progress and to ensure there is equity of opportunity across our partnership schools.

**Fundraising:**

Our Friends of Fishbourne School team and fete committee work tirelessly to raise important funds to enrich our children's learning here at Fishbourne and they do a brilliant job. This half term alone we have had the Colour Run and the Fete which were both well attended and raised lots of money for the important work we do. Please do continue to support these events and encourage those who volunteer their time to make amazing things happen!

**Roman Palace car park:**

You will be aware that this time last year, our use of this private land was under threat and we have worked hard with the team at Sussex Past to enable this to continue. However, as a school we cause significant wear and tear to the surfacing of the car park and therefore we request that you make an annual contribution for use of the car park. Suggested donations are £15-£30 a year, equating to £5-£10 a term. You can make a donation by using this QR code.



**WE ARE CURRENTLY ADVERTISING FOR...**

- A part time, temporary LSA to join our team!**
  - A clerk to governors to support the work of our governing body.**
- You can find out more about both these roles on our school website under the CONTACT US tab.

It's not just the staff team setting out to make the world a better place to be. We are super-proud of Lucy and Leo who, alongside, their cousins, are taking part in a mini-triathlon to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Following their dad, Dan's diagnosis, earlier in the year, Lucy and Leo, who are being supported by the MNDA, are raising money to support their incredible work. Please do support this incredible charity and our amazing Lucy and Leo: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/massey-cousins> We will be cheering you on!



At Fishbourne CE Primary, we nurture our children to be...

