



September 2026

FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you



Dear Families,

Welcome back to the start of a brand new academic year! Thank you for ensuring you children have started the school year wearing correct school uniform and looking smart. Thank you for getting the children to school on time for the gates opening at 840am.

We have hit the ground running and have already had two classes out on residential visits to Fairthorne Manor and CYE. We deliberately schedule our residential for the beginning of the school year because we know the impact they have on relationship building. Shared experiences of this kind are very powerful; our children often tell us that their residential was the most memorable experience of their time with us. We have also had several school visits and visitors already to HOOK children into their learning experiences. We are so lucky to have a team of teachers who really believe in the power of irresistible learning and look for ways of bringing learning to life!



The best way to stay up to date with the adventures of school life is by following our school Instagram account where you will get a sense of everything we are up to! You can find us at @fishbourneceprimary and @barnacle2023

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Woolnough at the end of the autumn term. Mrs Woolnough has been part of our Fishbourne family for the last eight years, during which time she has taught in Year 5. She has taught many children during this time and we are thankful to her for the difference she has made to their lives and to our school community. We look forward to celebrating her later in the autumn term. In the meantime, we will be recruiting a new teacher for children in Cheetah class in the coming weeks and look forward to sharing with you news about who this will be once we know!



Each school day begins with **CREW** where we circle up and check in before spending time appreciating each other and the world around us, apologising if we need to and have the opportunity to make a stand. We have a curriculum that underpins CREW which uses beautiful picture books to explore different themes that enable

us to see the world through the lens of someone else and reflect on ourselves. CREW deliberately sets out to develop character attributes in both young people and staff. CREW teaches children and staff the habits of becoming ethical people and effective learners so that they can make meaningful contributions to a better world. CREW is a vehicle for character development and collaboration where 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. Every single member of the school community benefit from this program.

At Fishbourne CE Primary we nurture children to become effective learners and ethical people who grow in...

Curiosity	Ambition	Collaboration	Reflection	Integrity	Hope	Empathy
A strong desire and drive to explore and discover.	A drive to strive and achieve more than we thought possible.	The action of working with someone to achieve our best.	To actively think about our learning and experiences to deepen understanding.	The quality of being honest and being guided by strong morals. <i>'even when no one is watching!'</i>	A belief about a better future.	The ability to emotionally understand what other people feel, and imagine yourself in their place.

We call these our **Habits of Character** and these are embedded within our CREW curriculum, our school learning curriculum and part of our assembly time. In the months to come, you will see these Habits of Character popping up around the school site as we seek to embed them into the daily lives of our children.

Did you know that at Fishbourne Primary we only have three school rules? This is deliberate! We speak to our little fish about being ready, respectful and safe. We keep it simple so that the children can remember and we frame all behaviours around these three key rules! Some of our Fishbourne families have taken our school rules and used them at home too... it's amazing how effective they can be. We tell our children what we want to see rather than what we don't... 'how can you do that safely? Show me you're ready...! How can you say that respectfully?'

You can read more about our Behaviour for Learning and Life policy on our school website.

Ready



Respectful



Safe



see you there and warmly welcome you to join us!

We really value working in partnership with families at Fishbourne Primary and, as a result, we hold a termly Cuppa and Chat session as an informal opportunity to pop in and chat with one of our senior team. This half term, this takes place on Friday 6th November at 2.30pm in the staff room. This time, the theme of Cuppa and Chat will be on the updates to our RSHE curriculum and an opportunity to find out more about what we are doing in CREW. We would love to

Updates to our RSHE Curriculum:

From September 2026, all schools are legally required to update their RSHE curriculum. We have already done this and look forward to sharing more with you about this in September but for now, here is some information about the changes to expect:

Many changes to the RSHE curriculum revolve around what it's like to grow up as a child in 2026 and the new challenges and influences young people face as a result. While some of the topics are more sensitive, the guidance recommends taking a positive approach to learning: "Schools should focus on building positive attitudes and skills, promoting healthy norms about relationships, including sexual relationships where relevant, and about health, including mental health." For primary pupils, the updated guidance places a stronger focus on online safety and wellbeing, the use of accurate terminology for body parts (including genitalia), and the introduction of personal safety around water, roads, and railways. There's also greater emphasis on helping children understand change and loss, including bereavement, and on developing communication skills, assertiveness, and the confidence to express personal needs and boundaries.

We will be chatting more about our RSHE curriculum at Cuppa and Chat on Friday 6th Nov at 230pm and hope you will be able to join us!



"OPAL is one of the most impactful transformations on children's lives that we've seen in the UK in the last 10 years – not just in schools, not just in education, but just as a way of making a positive difference in children's lives... I'm in awe, actually."



Tim Gill
Independent scholar and global advocate for children's play and mobility.

This academic year, we are in the process of introducing OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) to our daily offer. The OPAL programme enables schools to provide every child with rich opportunities to be creative, collaborative and active in their outdoor play, in environments that are safe enough for 'health and safety' but challenging enough for children's ongoing development. Play is the process through which children learn everything that they need to know that cannot be taught. Play wires the brain, builds capable bodies, and is the foundation of building relationships. Over the coming 18 months, we will be transforming our play offer over lunchtimes in our pledge to ensure that every child has an amazing hour of high-quality play every day, with no exceptions! We believe that all children at Fishbourne Primary will benefit enormously from the changes we are making to our playtimes and we look forward to sharing with you some of the changes to come in our newsletters.

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Let's Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech

This session, Let's Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech, offers parents and carers clear, research-backed insights and practical strategies for managing children's mental health and tech use. It covers the impact of

smartphones and social media, helping families set healthy boundaries and make informed choices. The session is non-judgmental, open for honest discussion, and for adults only. **ONLINE workshop on Wednesday 21st October at 730pm** Link to be circulated closer to the time!

ATTENDANCE: The government has launched a national campaign about the importance of school attendance. Our attendance last year was the lowest it has been in recent years with a total of **233** school days at Fishbourne Primary lost to family holidays. This has a huge impact on many elements of school life including children's progress and our reputation as a school locally and we really appeal to you not to book any holidays during term time.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

At Fishbourne CE Primary we are passionate about the uniqueness of each of the members of our school but we are also a unique, deep-thinking learning community! We are a values driven school and the Learning Map we have created has been designed by the adults in our school as a daily reminder of our drivers, our WHY! It's up on our staffroom wall - boldly reminding us that at Fishbourne we always start with the WHY- our core belief driving our decision making. We think deeply about our HOW, using our core belief to guide decisions on a day to day basis. Finally we decide WHAT action brings our belief to life.



Dates for the autumn term:

Thu 8th October—Harvest celebrations (please provide your child with a non perishable donation for the Foodbank)
Thu 8th October - Y1 phonics meeting for parents at 230pm



Mon 12th October—RETURN whole school learning experience
Wed 14th October - 6 Weeks in meeting for EYFS parents at 200pm
Wed 21st October and Thu 22nd October - Learning Review meetings (sign up will shortly be available via Arbor)
Wed 21st October—Papaya Workshop for parents online at 730pm
Wed 21st October - School photographer for individual pupil photos
Fri 23rd October—Non-uniform Day raising funds for FOFS
Mon 26th to Fri 30th October - Half Term
Tues 3rd Nov - Flu vaccine in school for children (email regarding registering your child to be sent shortly)
Fri 6th Nov—Cuppa and Chat 230pm
Fri 20th Nov—FOFS Film Night
Thu 3rd Dec—Christmas Wreath making raising funds for FOFS
Fri 11th Dec—Christmas Present shopping day for children
Wed 16th Dec—Christmas Service at church (for children only)
Thu 17th Dec—Christmas jumper day and Christmas Lunch
Fri 18th Dec—Carols Around the Tree at 2.30pm
Mon 21st Dec to Fri 1st Jan - Christmas Holidays
Tues 5th Jan - Back to School

INSET Days for 2026-2027

Mon 4th January

Fri 5th February

Mon 22nd February

Fri 28th May

