



October 2026

FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you

Dear Families,

It's been an exciting and extremely busy half term at Fishbourne Primary... we are all ready for a half term to rest and restore ahead of the build up to Christmas which is always one of the most magical times of the year at school. During this half term, we have been showing lots of visitors round our school—prospective parents for EYFS in September 2027, families interested in transferring children to Fishbourne, candidates for Year 5 teacher and LSA's who could join our Pufferfish team. Showing visitors around school is always a good time to reflect on what is on offer to our little fish - our stunning school grounds with the EYFS learning garden; our enormous classrooms; the Lighthouse and Aquarium, our beautiful library - all that enrich children's learning beyond the classroom. Add in the school trips that we have already been on and residential visits, as well as visitors to school and our children have such a broad and rich curriculum offer. We feel really proud of our little school and believe our children are incredibly lucky to be part of the Fishbourne family.



This term, we have started our OPAL journey and this week we welcomed our Play Mentor, Jules, in to carry out an audit and help us map out the first phase of our OPAL play offer in school. The audit involved a survey of our school site, observations of children at playtime, discussions with children and staff about what's working well and how things could be better.

We value the principles of OPAL because of the way that they support us to implement changes to our provision - planned strategically and carefully to introduce the principles incrementally. On Thursday we will be putting together an implementation plan which will take us through the first phase of changes.

The first change will start immediately after half term when all children will be able to access all areas of the school site to enjoy lunch play. In order for this to be successful, ALL children will need to wear wellies to access the field, mud banks and wooded areas of the school site. We currently have hundreds of pairs of wellies in school and it is our plan to wash them all and write the size of the wellies using a permanent marker on the front of the boots so children can find and wear appropriately sized wellies every playtime. This will mean you will never need to buy another pair of wellies for use at school. **If you feel strongly that you would like your child to wear their OWN wellies, please collect them this week and return them to school after half term, on Monday 2nd November, with their name written clearly on the front of them.**



What is OPAL?

As an OPAL school, our vision is that every child in every school has an amazing hour of high-quality play every day – with no exceptions!

We are not just talking about playtimes being a bit easier or about children being a bit happier. We are talking about lasting cultural transformation. When you address a need that is so fundamental to children's physical and mental wellbeing as play, and you do it well, it is impossible to think of how school existed without it.

We are at the start of an eighteenth month journey that sets out to transform our school and give children opportunities that are new to them. We believe that play at Fishbourne Primary should be approached as if it were an important human right, essential to all aspects of development and a unique source of joy and fulfilment, because it is all of these things and no child should miss out.



This half term, our teaching team have been planning the first block of our CREW curriculum across school which will start immediately after the half term break. The first of these blocks will have a focus on climate and environment, with our CREWs asking questions like:

What do our coasts and oceans need us to pledge to them?

What does Nature need from us today?

How can we turn our trash into treasure?

Each year group will have a different key question to guide their learning in CREW and we have chosen a wide range of high quality books to support our reflections.

It was a real privilege last week to be invited to speak at a leadership conference for Hampshire schools about CREW and to be able to share the journey we have been on. We are passionate about the difference that CREW is making to our children and our staff. There will be another opportunity to learn more about CREW at our cuppa and chat on the 6th November (details overleaf).

We have been working hard with the children to introduce them to our new Habits of Character which we will officially launch in January 2027. Habits of Character enable our children to become effective learners, ethical people and to understand their role in making the world a better place to be. Ours are: **hope, ambition, curiosity, collaboration, reflection, empathy and integrity.**

What is CREW?

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. Our culture of Crew begins with adults who live out the school's vision and values, creating structures that intentionally sustain these attributes.

Happening TONIGHT (21st October)
Please do tune in... this workshop is for all families and a really helpful opportunity to reflect on your choices as a family.



Dates for the autumn term:

Wed 21st October and Thu 22nd October - Learning Review meetings
Learning Review Meetings—If you have not yet booked a meeting for this evening or tomorrow, please do. We expect all families to attend Learning Reviews because this is an important time of reflection about your child, how well they are settling in their new year group and learning more about how you can support them at home.

Wed 21st October—Papaya Workshop for parents online at 730pm
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

INSET Days for 2026-2027
Mon 4th January
Fri 5th February
Mon 22nd February
Fri 28th May

For families with children starting school in September 2027, we are holding a series of Open Sessions which can be booked through the school office:

Wednesday 21st October 2026 at 1.30pm
Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 9.15am
Friday 27th November 2026 at 10.30am

PAPAYA

THE TECH Talk

For Fishbourne CE Primary School with Nick Taylor.

ZOOM LINK:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85960813710?pwd=6w16dOFwbBloSjOfg8nv5gn5YtsSbf.1>

DATE AND TIME:
WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2026. 07:30PM - 09:00PM.

Helping Families Make Better Choices.

This empowering talk provides the information, inspiration and practical tools needed to help your family develop a healthy balance with technology.

Led by experts and grounded in the latest research, this evidence-based session explores the reasons behind the social media ban, offers strategies for delaying a child's first smartphone, and provides practical guidance for families already navigating smart devices and social media.

papayataalks.com

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Hard hitting but non-judgemental, Nick unpacks the complex issues surrounding addictive technology and helps you find solutions that work for your family.

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

Nick Taylor

Nick is an ex-children and youth worker, currently serving as a chaplain in a junior school. He lives in Chichester, is married to Dani, and has two teenage children.

Nick is passionate about fostering a culture where children's phone usage is limited, safe, and well-managed, encouraging both parents and children to take an active role in this process.

This is the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85960813710?pwd=6w16dOFwbBloSjOfg8nv5gn5YtsSbf.1>



All are welcome here!

If, like us, you watched Munya Chawawa's reflections about his time in Chichester, you may have felt, as we do, that we need to continue the core work we do to develop empathy and understanding in our children so that there is HOPE that our community will grow and strengthen in our understanding of what it means to be human. This week, a lovely new collection of books arrived in school to support the work of The Lighthouse and Aquarium. At the heart of these book choices is a very clear message that 'all are welcome here' with no exceptions. We deliberately appreciate all the incredible gifts and talents we have in our school, supporting our children to become ethical people who welcome others.

We have exciting plans for an Advent project which we will share with you after half term which will echo these messages, creating a ripple that goes through our wider

community. We look forward to everyone getting involved and seeing what we can achieve as a village when we work together.

We wish all families a happy, healthy half term when we get there and look forward to seeing you on Monday 2nd November!

Warmest wishes,

Fishbourne CE Primary

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!

A big thank you to the team at Fishbourne Community Centre and all their visitors who kindly donated their spare change for 'jar on the bar'. It was a lovely surprise to receive a very generous gift of nearly £30 donated to FOFS!



<https://www.fishbournecentre.org.uk/>