November 2026

FISHBOURNE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Only one you





Dear Families,

We have been enjoying the start of OPAL play at Fishbourne Primary and seeing our children playing so beautifully has been an absolute joy. This photo of two of our Year 6 girls captures just a little of the magic that we have seen unfolding over the last week and a half! It's been wonderful to see our forest school area in use, children playing with boxes in a multitude of creative ways and children having access to all areas of the school site!

Each week there will be a new play focus which will be introduced to children in our weekly play assembly and we will let families know the plan via a weekly Instagram update. In play assembly each week, we will also be awarding the Golden Welly to a child or group of children who have made a positive difference to play during the week—this might be as a result of bringing in a play item requested from our weekly Instagram update; being an inclusive play mate or setting a good example by being a super tidier! As we learn the routines for play and lunchtimes, the children will become even more invested in their play.

We recognise that the rain and mud will bring with it some challenges in the weeks to come but we are certain that we will be able to navigate these and continue to offer play opportunities throughout the winter for our little fish to enjoy! In the next couple of days we will be getting used to 'changing' school shoes and wellies for those children who want to access the field and muddy banks around school.

Please do ensure your children has a practical, waterproof jacket in school which can be worn outside regardless of the weather conditions. If your child has waterproof trousers at home, we highly recommend sending these into school too to keep them comfortable and protect their uniform. We are looking to buy some waterproof salopettes for use across school but these won't be available for general use immediately.

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.

A round up of our learning from across school…

CHICHESTER CINEMA

Year 6 will be hooked into their learning, A Million Years in the Making, with the arrival of animal skulls. We will explore these and question where they might come from finding clues to tell us why. Our learning will be science based and explore evolution and inheritance. This will include a trip to the New Park Cinema for an immersive experience. Our writing skills will be focused on using parenthesis to give our reader detail using a range of punctuation. Our end goal will be to create and publish an informative booklet, showcasing our knowledge. This will be shared with Year 5 at the end of our learning.



For the next two weeks, Year 4 are diving into their first science learning experience of the year: Sound. What causes sound? How do we make sound louder, quieter or higher-pitched? And, the age-old question: if a tree falls in the woods with no one around to hear it, does it still make a sound? To hook us into our learning, we will be conducting our first science experiment - creating string telephones - and using this to spark a discussion on how sound travels. Showcasing our learning from this unit, we will be writing an explanation text outlining: 'How we Hear Sound.' We will explain how sound is made, how sound travels and how our ears & brains interpret what we've heard!

FEEDING FUTURES

To start off this half term Year 2 are enjoying a Geography learning experience all about Kenya. We kicked it off on Monday by trying some African food. We liked some of these more than others! The salty plantain chips were almost like our crisps, the sun dried bananas were chewy and sweet and the Chin Chin would make a crunchy snack with a cup of sweet tea however we weren't all quite so sure about the fried crickets! After some research, we will be writing a persuasive leaflet encouraging people to go and explore the real Kenya, not just the tourist destinations! To help make the world a better place we will be holding a cake sale on Wednesday 25th November to raise money for the charity 'Feeding Futures' who help provide school dinners for children in Kenya who may not be able to enjoy them otherwise.



In Year 3, we have just embarked upon our art learning experience, Yayoi Kusama - Queen of Dots! The children were hooked into their learning, by all bringing in pumpkins! We then used powder paint on the school playground to revisit previous learning about colour theory… what fun! Our end goal will be to create our own piece of artwork inspired by Yayoi. Alongside it, we will write an ekphrasis: a vivid and descriptive piece of writing to describe it.



This half term, Year 1's are starting with a Science learning experience called 'Busy Bodies'. We were hooked into our learning by coming into the classroom to lots of different bones and it was our job to put the skeleton back together! Throughout these two weeks, we will be learning about our five senses through lots of exciting experiments. By the end of this learning experience, we will be able to label a skeleton, explain each of our senses and we will be deciding which sense we feel is the most important.



Positive Noticing Day is happening on Wednesday 18th November!

We encourage families to join in at home too. You can write positive notes for family members on luggage labels, post it notes or pieces of paper. We know that children who are positively noticed by their parents/carers are happier, healthier and more resilient and secure.

You may wish to use Positive Noticing Day as an opportunity to start daily positive noticing in your home. You can create and share positive labels as a family and save them - stick them on the fridge, the back of the door or put them in an old picture frame.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

'I noticed that you put your plate by the sink, that's really helped me this morning, you are very thoughtful, thank you'
'Doing your homework without me asking shows real independence. I love the determination you are showing'
'You are so good at sharing with your sister/brother. You are such a kind person.'
'I noticed that you were really kind to X at school today. That made me really proud of you'
'Thank you for putting your clothes in the washing basket. I notice that you are following the routine and remembering it perfectly. You are really trying and I appreciate it.'

We hope you enjoy the day, and we want to say that 'we notice you' and the effort you make to support your children, engage them in learning and enrich our school community! Thank you.



We would like to thank all those families who have come along to:
Meet the Teacher meetings
EYFS Six Week In meeting and Stay and Play Phonics in Y1
Learning Review meetings
These are all important opportunities to find out more about what your child is learning in school and how well they are progressing both relationally and academically. We have had a really good turn out to all the events above which has been encouraging and we have very much enjoyed sharing with you more information about your child.

Sadly, we have had two events in school that were very badly attended by families—
*the first of these was our Online Papaya Workshop. Many families had requested an online version and we came together as a partnership of schools to facilitate this. From six schools, we had sixteen participants—four of these were the head teachers of schools and only two Fishbourne families.
*the other was our Cuppa and Chat which had a focus on the new SRE guidance and changes to our PSHCE curriculum. This took place last Friday and nobody attended at all from our school. The powerpoint that Mrs Williams prepared for this is on our school website (About us—Curriculum—SRE) and we would encourage you to have a look at it, coming back to us if you have any questions about the policy and curriculum. Your views are important to us and really help us to shape the learning opportunities for your children.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE



What is the 'All Are Welcome Here' project?
Inspired by an exciting project that took place at Malvern Priory last year, we are creating an art installation called 'All are welcome here'. We are welcoming all children, families, and members of our community to personalise a peg doll which will be added to our nativity scene, providing a beautiful reminder that 'All are welcome here'. By Christmas, we hope that every member of the Fishbourne community will be represented at the nativity installation -a powerful representation of our wonderful village, united together.

We will be launching the All Are Welcome Here project on Tuesday 1st December with more information coming home to you then following our launch assembly. Do keep an eye out for more information!



CARS AROUND SCHOOL SITE:
Yesterday there was a near miss with a car reversing and very nearly hitting a child in Gilpin Close. PLEASE, PLEASE do use the Roman Palace Car Park to enable you to park safely and keep all of our children safe on their way to and from school. It is a very serious matter and we would really appreciate ALL families supporting us to keep ALL children safe.



Dates for the Autumn term:
Tue 17th Nov—Deadline for ordering your child's photograph
Tue 1st Dec—Launch of the 'All are welcome here' art installation

Thu 3rd Dec—Adults Christmas Wreath workshop raising funds for FOFS—payment via Arbor
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

A Reminder!
Roman Palace Car Parking
A huge thank you to all those families who have supported our partnership with the Roman Palace and bought a parking permit at a flat rate of £10 per term (£30 an academic year). If you bought a permit to cover the autumn term, please do remember that you will need to purchase a spring term permit via Arbor. Once purchased please bring your old permit to the school office.