



North Mundham Primary School

The Heron Newsletter



Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter

Autumn 2

25th September 2026

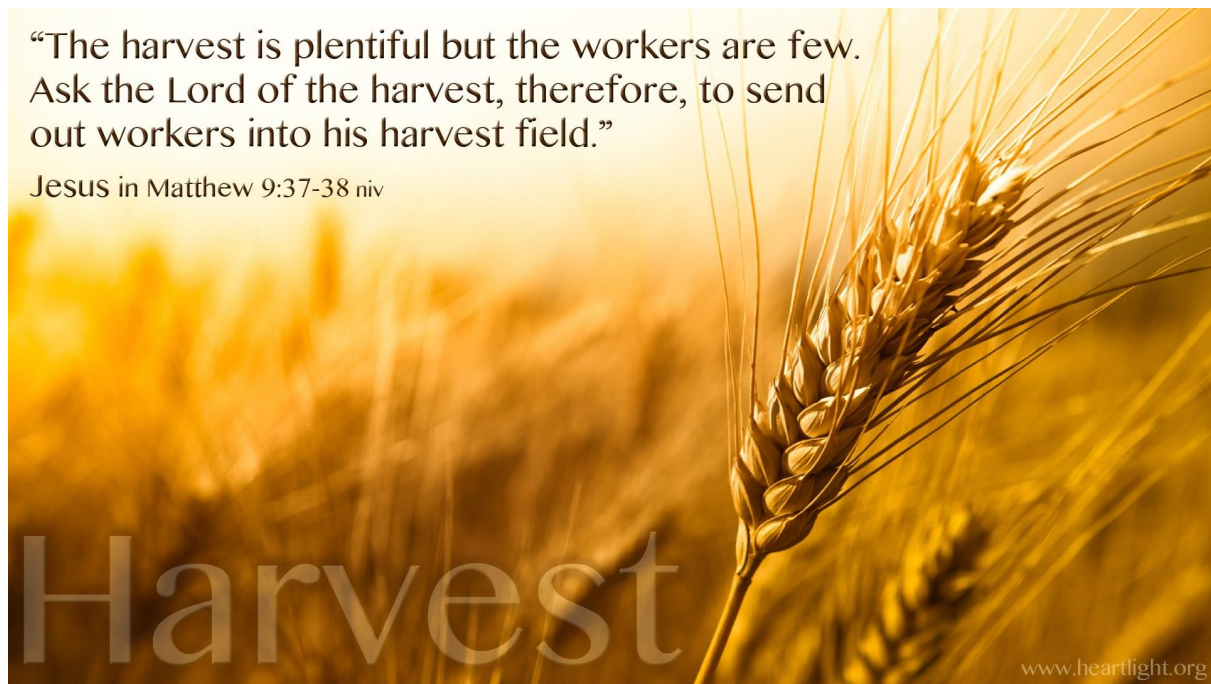
In this newsletter, find out about:

- **Mrs Gordon's message and school news**
- **OPAL News**
- **Reminders and Notices**
- **Online safety**
- **Upcoming events**

Message from Mrs Gordon

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send
out workers into his harvest field.”

Jesus in Matthew 9:37-38 niv



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week of sunshine we have had! This has enabled us to continue to make use of our grounds and learning outside. Today we held our Harvest assembly in which we thought about where our food comes from and how lucky we are. We thought about ways in which we are grateful and how we can give to others who are not as fortunate as us. (More details of our Shoebox campaign below).

We started our school run clubs this week and it was great to see so many children involved in the different activities. Staff spend a lot of extra time planning and running these clubs and we do ask that you ensure that your child commits to the club for the term.

Our younger pupils were treated to a wonderful afternoon of comedy and drama when a group of actors from Chichester Festival Theatre came to perform the story of That Pesky Rat. With puppets, scenery and wonderful acting, it was a fantastic show and great fun was had by all.

Thank-you to those parents who attended our PTA AGM yesterday. We heard from trustees about all the amazing activities the PTA have carried out and how the money has been spent. This year the PTA has paid for coaches for class trips, additional OPAL equipment, class treats and other additional items for the school. The PTA also has money ring-fenced (raised from previous events) to put towards enhancing our new playground that will be built once the old Year 3 and 4 classrooms have been removed.

The building project is coming on well and at a progress meeting this week, we heard about how they are now ready to start building the walls. They are on track and have certainly benefited from the good weather this week.

Today we had the first Fire drill of the year. Due to the building works we now have to muster in two separate areas- the children did an amazing job and evacuated the buildings very sensibly.

Wishing everyone a very pleasant weekend.

With best wishes,

Zoe Gordon, Headteacher

Tea and Toast





That Pesky Rat





New School Council







Online Safety



In our initial conversations with children this year about online safety, we are coming across a concerning amount of children who say that they have unlimited access to screens and online content.

Please continue to ensure that you are aware of what your child is accessing online by installing parental controls, talking to your child and checking their devices.

[Internet matters](#) offers some help with this for parents who are struggling to navigate this complicated world!

Notices and Reminders



Open Afternoon Wed 30th September

If you have a child starting school in September 2027 or know someone who has, please come along to our Open Afternoon on Wednesday.

School Census Day

On Thursday 1st October the school has the first census of the year. This is when funding is secured for future years. Some of this funding is decided on by how many children have (free- Years R-2 or Free School Meals in Years 3-6) school meals that day. ISS (our caterer) have a special menu for that day- see below, so please order before the deadline.

Shoebox campaign

We will be taking part in the Rotary Shoebox campaign again this year. Boxes are available from the office. Children (and parents) will need to decide a gender and age of child that they will fill a box of gifts for. Then place the gifts in the box, decorate the box, add a £2 towards posting and bring it back to school. These are special Christmas boxes that are distributed to children in Ukraine, Hungary and Poland. Last year we received photographs of the children who received our boxes and it was such a wonderful connection for our children. See below for more information including what to include and what not to include.

Parental Consents

Please ensure that you have completed the parental consents on MCAS.

RnB Dance

There are dance classes run by RnB Dance for both KS1 and KS2 in our school hall on Wednesday mornings for 3, 4, 5 and 6 as well as Thursday afternoons for R, 1 and 2.

More info: <https://rnbdancecompany.classforkids.io/term/162>

Year 6 Secondary School Open mornings

Please let the office know if you are attending these visits with your child. These will be authorised but we need to know if they are going to be absent.

Year 6 Bikeability

This will be during the week of 9th November. Please complete online consent by 9th October.

Dates for the diary



Dates

30th September- Open Afternoon new parents (for YR Sept 2027) 1.30pm

6th October- Bookfest for Years 4, 5 and 6

7th October - Little City - Key Stage 1 and YR*

8th October Bookfest Years 1 and 2

7th October- Grub Club

16th October- Bright Bites dental workshops

16th October- Wear Red Day- to 'Show Racism the Red Card'*

21st October- Year 6 British Museum in London*

21st October- Grub Club

23rd October- INSET day

4th November- Year 1 campfire event.*

5th November- Open Morning 9.30 for new parents (Sept 2027)

6th November- Y6 class Assembly parents and carers welcome

10th November- World science day

11th November- Grub Club

12th November- Individual school photos

11-13th November- Y6 Bikeability*

9-12th November- Parents Evenings*

18th November- Into Film at Cineworld for Year R*

20th November- Children in Need

20th November- Year 3 trip to Butser Farm*

25th November- Grub Cub

26th November- Into Film at Cineworld for Years 1 and 2*

27th November- Into Film at Cineworld for Years 3 and 4*

27th November- Year 5 Assembly

1st December- Year 4 trip to the Sustainability Centre*

4th December- Christmas Fair*

Monday 7th December - IRock assembly- parents and carers welcome

7th December- Year 1/2 Dress Rehearsal 2 pm

8th December- Year 1/2 performance 1 2pm

9th December- Year 1/2 performance 2 2pm

9th December – YR Dress rehearsal

9th December- Grub Club

10th December- YR Performance – time to be confirmed

17th December- Christmas Church service 9.30am

18th December- Christmas singing on the playground 2.45pm

Term Dates 26-27

Autumn Term

Starts: Tuesday 1 September (INSET Day) 1st day for pupils is Wed 2nd September

Half term: Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October

Ends: Friday 18 December

Spring term 2027

Starts: Monday 4 January

Half term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February

Ends: Thursday 25 March

Summer term 2027

Starts: Monday 12 April

Half term: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June

Ends: Wednesday 21 July

INSET Days 26-27

Friday 23rd October,

Monday 4th January,

Monday 22nd February,

Friday 28th May

Please note that this is not a definitive list of dates and more will be added throughout the term.



The poster for the Active8 Minds Half-Term Holiday Club features a green and blue background with a red wavy bottom. It includes the Active8 Minds logo (a stylized figure in red and green) and the text 'Active8 Minds® Sport & childcare specialists'. The main title 'HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB' is in large red letters. Below this, it says 'TRY NEW SPORTS, ACTIVITIES & MAKE NEW FRIENDS'. A list of activities is shown with green checkmarks: 'VARIED SPORTS', 'ART AND CRAFTS', 'OV ARENA GAMES', and 'NERF BATTLES'. The hours '8:00AM - 5:00PM' and 'SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE!' are listed. There are three circular images: a child with a dartboard, a group of children in sports gear, and a large group of children cheering. Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are at the bottom right, along with a QR code. Contact information at the bottom left includes the phone number '07423 532123', email 'bookings@active8minds-westsussex.co.uk', and website 'www.active8minds-westsussex.co.uk'.

Active8 Minds®
Sport & childcare specialists

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

**TRY NEW SPORTS, ACTIVITIES
& MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

- ✓ **VARIED SPORTS**
- ✓ **ART AND CRAFTS**
- ✓ **OV ARENA GAMES**
- ✓ **NERF BATTLES**

8:00AM - 5:00PM
**SIBLING DISCOUNT
AVAILABLE!**

07423 532123
bookings@active8minds-westsussex.co.uk
www.active8minds-westsussex.co.uk

Census Day Poster School Leaflet

LET'S MAKE CENSUS DAY COUNT!

Thursday 1 October is Census Day — and your school meal numbers matter.

The number of children enjoying a school meal on Census Day can help determine the meal funding available to your school.

Please help us encourage as many families as possible to book and enjoy our special Today's Harvest menu.

Supporting points:

- Share the parent poster through your usual communication channels
- Remind families to book through the FEED app
- Include Census Day in newsletters, emails and school updates
- Encourage pupils and families to take part
- Help create some extra excitement around lunchtime

TODAY'S HARVEST

MAIN COURSES	SERVED WITH
• Chicken Goujons with Chips	• Sweetcorn from the Sunny Fields
• Halal Chicken Goujons with Chips	• Country Baked Beans
• Margherita Pizza Slice with Chips	DESSERTS
• Jacket Potato with baked beans, tuna or cheese	• Autumn Banana Bread with Custard
	• Harvest Rainbow Fruit & Yoghurt

Plant-based and special-diet options are also available through the FEED app.

Children, Adults, Families, Health, Education

Education & Skills: Pupil Entitlement



Pupil Admissions Office Pupil Admissions Office

County Hall North Arun Civic Centre

Chart Way 1-29 Maltravers Road

Horsham Littlehampton

West Sussex West Sussex

RH12 1XH BN17 5LF

admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk

admissions.south@westsussex.gov.uk
Tel: 03330 142 903

22 September 2026

	For action	For info	Meeting
To: Headteachers of all schools in West Sussex with an intake into Reception in September 2027.	✓		

Dear Colleague,

Starting School – September 2027

The application process for children due to start school in September 2027 will open on 5 October 2026. As you are aware West Sussex County Council no longer sends individual letters to parents but advertises the application arrangements widely, including on social media. These arrangements have worked well and reduced the number of late applications.

Over the last few years, we have been working very closely with early year's staff to try and further reduce the number of late starting school applications. They have again agreed to distribute the starting school leaflets via early year's settings and childminders, and these will be sent out over the next week. We have attached an electronic copy of the leaflet for you to use in any communications you send and print if required.

During this week you will receive two A4 starting school posters delivered by the county courier, electronic copies of which are also attached for your information. Please feel free to

print any copies required and give to parents who request them or display in/outside of the school. We would ask you please to support prospective parents by displaying the posters in a prominent position and providing leaflets as appropriate.

As in recent years, parents are being encouraged to apply for their child's school place using the online system at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. Applications must be submitted by the **national closing date of Friday 15 January 2027** to be considered as on time. The online system will open on Monday 5 October 2026 at 9.00 am.

For parents who do not have access to the Internet at home, free access has been arranged at all libraries and Children and Family Centres within West Sussex. Please encourage families who do not have Internet access at home to visit their local library or Children and Family Centre where staff will be on hand to assist parents making their application. We are aware that some schools support parents to make applications and we are grateful for this support where offered.

Please therefore encourage all parents to complete an application before the closing date.

Parents resident in West Sussex must complete an official West Sussex County Council application in order to apply for a school place. Please therefore encourage all parents to complete an application before the closing date. If you have a nursery attached to your school, or preschools in your area, please work with them to ensure that all children due to start school in September 2027 make an application. It may also be useful to put a note in your autumn term newsletter in order to remind any families with siblings that they need to apply.

Parents resident outside West Sussex will need to apply through the relevant local authority for their home address. They cannot apply on the West Sussex website and should be directed to their own local authority for information on how to apply.

Paper forms will only be issued to parents who cannot apply online. Any parent who chooses to complete a paper form must return it to any local West Sussex school (or direct to us by recorded delivery) by Friday 15 January 2027. **Any application form that is received after this date will be considered as a late application** and will not be processed until after all applications that are received before the deadline. Instructions for the return of any forms to the Pupil Admissions Office are on the guidance notes accompanying this letter. Please forward any forms that you receive to us by scanning and e-mailing the form to your Admissions Officer.

What happens if a child does not make an application?

What happens if a child does not make an application?

The national closing date is **15 January 2027** and all parents should make an application by this date. Applications not made by the closing date cannot be considered until after all other applications have been considered. This may mean it is not possible to offer a child a place at a local school. We would therefore be grateful if you could actively encourage all parents who visit you to apply online by the closing date.

If you know of families who may have problems making an application, please work with them well in advance of the 15 January 2027. SEND Information and Advice Service is able to offer support to any parent who may have difficulties with the school application process and details regarding this service are available on our website and in our Information for Parents Booklet. We have also attached an electronic copy of the SEND-IAS poster which you may wish to print and display.

In advance, please accept my thanks for your assistance and co-operation. If you have any further queries regarding the process please contact the Admissions Officer for your school.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Bideleux

Pupil Admissions Manager (South)



Caroline Lawrence

Pupil Admissions Manager (North)

Attached with this letter are the following:

1. Starting school leaflet
2. A4 starting school poster
3. A4 SEND-IAS poster
4. Guidance note for school admin staff with starting school administrative responsibilities
5. Checklist for parents

Guidance notes for school staff with responsibility for Starting School administration.

Information for the children due to start school in September 2027.

Online Applications - All parents are encouraged to apply online at

www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions for their child's school place and applications must be submitted by the national closing date of Friday 15 January 2027. The online system will open at 9am on Monday 5 October 2026.

For parents who do not have access to the Internet at home, free access has been arranged at all libraries and Children and Family Centres within West Sussex. If you know of a parent who may not have the Internet at home, please encourage them to visit their local library or Children and Families Centre where staff will be available to assist parents making their application. NB An email address is required to apply online.

Parents resident in West Sussex must complete an official West Sussex County Council application in order to apply for a school place. Please therefore encourage all parents to complete an application before the closing date. It may also be useful to put a note in your autumn term newsletter in order to remind any families that they need to apply.

Please therefore encourage all parents to complete an application before the closing date.

Parents resident outside West Sussex will need to apply direct to the relevant local authority for their home address. They cannot apply on the West Sussex website and should be directed to their own local authority for information on how to apply.

Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The SENAT Team should already have been in contact with parents of any children who have EHCPs, regarding their preferences for 2027. These children cannot apply for school using the online system.

Paper forms will only be issued to parents on request. Any parent who chooses to complete a paper form must return it to any local school by close of business on, or direct to the Admissions Office by recorded delivery by, Friday 15 January 2027. Any application form that is received after this date will not be processed until after all applications that are received before the national closing date. Please forward any forms that you receive to us on a weekly basis via e-mail. It is the responsibility of any parent who chooses to apply on a paper form to return their form by the above deadlines.

What do I do if I receive a paper form?

When you receive the form please date stamp it on that day and check that all parts of the form have been completed, including the e-mail address. Please scan the form and e-mail to the relevant pupil admissions team, as currently admissions staff are still mainly working from home.

Doing this means we can still consider the form as on time and the applicant will not be penalised. Any forms received on the last day of the school week should be scanned to the

Admissions Office as described. Any forms received on Friday 15 January 2027 must be handed in to the office during your normal office hours.

What happens if a parent does not make an application?

The national closing date is **Friday 15 January 2027** and all parents **must** make an application by this date to be considered on time. Applications made after the closing date can only be submitted using a paper form. Any application received after the deadline receives lower priority than all on time applications. This could result in a child being offered a school that is a long distance from their home. We would ask you to work with parents who may not understand the implications of not submitting an application before the deadline by encouraging them to complete their application, either online or by paper.

Wizarding School Activity Day

30th October 2026

10 am to 3pm

Suitable for ages 6-11

£30 per child all materials included.

Are you a fan of Harry Potter? Do you love crafting and all things Halloween?

This club is for you!

Have fun making a wizards wand, glitter potion, monster book and other spooky crafts. Lots of fun games and dressing up.

All fully supervised by DBS checked staff.

For further information and to book a place please contact Marie Harding at imagineerscrafts@gmail.com

The Regis School, Main Hall
Westloats lane
Bognor Regis
Next to the Arena



A woman with glasses and a wide-brimmed hat holds a 'Wanted' poster. The poster features a photo of a smiling woman and the text: 'HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WIZARD?', 'AZKABAN PRISON', 'WY3910', and 'APPROACH WITH EXTREME CAUTION! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE MAGIC AGAINST THE MAN'. Below the photo, it says 'Any information leading to the arrest of this man shall be duly rewarded' and 'Ministry of Magic'.



A book with a green, furry cover and a red, sharp-toothed mouth on the front.



A small, brown, textured puppet with large, expressive eyes, wearing a white robe and sitting on a blue circular base.

Contact Us



If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us:

head@northmundham.w-sussex.sch.uk

office@northmundham.w-sussex.sch.uk

01243 785502

[website](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthMundhamSchool>

Give us your views: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>