

Slindon CofE Primary School Newsletter



20th December 2024

Christmas!

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a final three weeks of school!

We have seen a vast number of Christmas activities, organised by our PTA and by the school itself. The festive array was started with our Christmas Fair, which kicked off our celebrations and let Chestnuts put their entrepreneurial skills to the test. Thank you to all who attended and raised much needed funds for our school.

Catkin Class entertained us with their wonderful rendition of 'We're going on a special baby hunt!' The singing and acting were superb and gave us an excellent twist on the traditional nativity.

On top of this we have had the pantomime, Christmas Church service, Christmas lunch and parties, Christmas film night and shopping day! After all of that, I think we will all need a good rest.

Finally, all that is left for me to say is that behalf of all of the staff and children at Slindon CofE Primary School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for your continued support.

All the best,
Laura Webb
Headteacher

Dates

06/01	Back to school
13/01	Year 5/6 Little Life Savers session
14/01	Start of cornet in Acorns
17/01	Swimming lessons begin for Year 1 to 5
20/01	Start of prayer week
20/01	Splash Assembly
22/01	Year 4 Play leaders
04/02	Travelling book fair
05/02	Netball tournament
07/02	Benchball Yr 5/6
12/02	Catkins and Acorns trip to the Novium.
24/02	Inset day
06/03	World Book Day
07/03	Start of British Science week
17/03	SPLASH assembly
19/03	Marine STEM workshop for yr 5/6
25/03	Sussex Cricket workshops
31/03	Parents evening
01/04	Parents evening
02/04	Easter Service

Our collective worship theme for next half term is generosity.

At this time of year we remember the generosity of the shepherds and the three Kings. Each bringing what they could to celebrate the arrival of Jesus.



What's happening in school?

Catkins Nativity

Friday 13th December was an extra special day at Slindon CofE Primary School, as it was Catkin's nativity; 'We're going on a special baby hunt!'

The children had been preparing for weeks, learning the words, actions, songs and organising their costumes. They had also taken part in an English unit of 'We're going on a bear hunt!' just to prepare for the end of term extravaganza.

The children had to perform in front of an audience three times; once for the children, then two shows for parents, carers and wider family. We were all impressed by how clear their voices were and how they all remembered each of the actions. The traditional story was given a wonderful twist and we all enjoyed watching the performances.



Before electric lights were invented, people decorated their Christmas trees with fruit, popcorn, and even candles!



Santa's sleigh is the fastest vehicle ever! On Christmas Eve, Santa has to travel around the world to deliver presents to all the children on the nice list. There about 2.5 billion children in the world – so Santa's sleigh has to move at a speed of around 1,800 miles per second, wow!





Pantomime

On Tuesday 9th December, Stage to School enthralled the children with a pantomime edition of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Children from each class were invited to take part in the production, with many of them showing off their dramatic flair and creating some memorable moments. All of the classes and staff had a wonderful afternoon watching the performance and it was wonderful to see the children having such a great time.

We are very thankful that this opportunity was given to us by the school PTA, who generously funded the experience for the children. Supporting our vision to give every child memorable life experiences.



Christmas Church Service

Thank you to everyone who came to our Church Service. It was lovely to see the Church filled with our school community.

The children did an excellent job, speaking so well at the front, singing with clarity and creating a tableau, which highlighted the important message of this season. Also, a big thankyou to everyone at St Mary's for their time and for hosting the school.



Safeguarding at Slindon

What is safeguarding?

Visitors coming on to school premises, including the playground, have a duty of care towards the welfare and safety of the children and adults in the school. This is called safeguarding.

Safeguarding means that:

- children are protected from maltreatment
- a child's health or development is protected
- children grow up with safe and effective care
- action is taken to ensure the best outcomes for all children

Safeguarding is the action we take to promote the welfare of children in our care to protect them from harm. **We take this responsibility very seriously** and we work in close partnership with parents and professionals to protect all of our children. The school will take any reasonable action to ensure the welfare and safety of its pupils is maintained.

Our staff and governors have been trained on safeguarding in line with the KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION document and have taken part in 'PREVENT'.

If you worried about a child's safety you can contact IFD (Integrated Front Door) directly on [01403 229900](tel:01403229900)

Who to contact in our school

If in doubt, talk to someone... Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Laura Webb, Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Deputies

Mrs Hazel Flower, School Business Manager

Mrs Karen Cooper, School Secretary

Safeguarding Governor

Mrs Katy Horner

Or you can email: dsl@slindonprimary.co.uk

REMEMBER, KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TOO!

School governor vacancy – Slindon CofE Primary School

Parent Governor vacancy

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment. As a governor you will be able to:

- Use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- Develop and utilise your skills in a board-level environment
- Make a valuable contribution to education and your community
- Support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff
- Bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision-making in the interests of the school community

Governors set the aims and objectives for the school or group of schools and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher. In action, this means:

- Managing budgets and deciding how money is spent
- Engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school community
- Sitting on panels and making decisions about things like pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary
- Addressing a range of education issues within the school including disadvantaged pupils, pupils with special needs, staff workload and teacher recruitment
- Looking at data and evidence to ask questions and have challenging conversations about the school
- Appointing and performance reviewing the head teacher and senior leaders, including making decisions about pay

For an informal conversation please contact Phil Johnson, Chair of Governors –
pjohnson@slindonprimary.co.uk

Skills

Anyone aged over 18 can be a governor and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help you learn about education.

Schools needs and benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing board including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change.

It is also important that you have time to commit to the role. School governors typically attend 6-12 meetings per year, as well as making school visits and having background reading and training.

Other specific questions for school to answer

You will also need to undertake a DBS check with the school and pass all relevant disqualification checks.

Standard School Year 2024/2025

Recommended school term and holiday dates for the academic year 2024/2025 for West Sussex

The School Year

	2024			
	September	October	November	December
Monday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Thursday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Friday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Saturday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Sunday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
	2025			
	January	February	March	April
Monday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Friday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Saturday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Sunday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
	May	June	July	August
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31

Bank and Public Holidays 2024/2025

Christmas Holiday	25th December 2024	May Day	5th May 2025
Boxing Day	26th December 2024	Spring Bank Holiday	26th May 2025
New Year Day Holiday	1st January 2025	Summer Bank Holiday	25th August 2025
Good Friday	18th April 2025		
Easter Monday	21st April 2025		

Useful Information

Term Lengths (days)

School holidays		September to October half term	40
		October to December	35
Bank holidays and national holidays		January to February half term	30
		February to April	30
Start of Term		April to May half term	23
		June to July	37
End of Term		Total	195 days

Please note that the first day of the autumn term in September 2025 will not be determined until the 2025/26 timetable has been consulted upon and approved.

Headlice

We have recently had cases of headlice in the school. Please ensure you are checking your child's hair regularly and treating any lice found. More information on how to treat headlice can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

American

★ **ALL STARS** ★



Thursday 16th January 2025



MAINS

Burger and Chips
Mac & Cheese

SIDES

Sweetcorn or Baked Beans
Seasonal Salad

DESSERT

Frosted Vanilla Celebration Cake

Order via [ParentPay](#) no later than Thursday 2nd January 2025



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LAVANT ADVENT WINDOW TRAIL 2024

Again, the village will be building another trail of Advent Windows throughout the month of December, to brighten up our wintry days!

Each day a different house will light up a new window for you to discover, as you walk around the streets and paths of the village. (Note: they are all obvious windows on the roadside) Each one will have both the day number and a seasonal theme for you to find e.g. bells.

Over the page is a pull-out sheet for you to use to record the windows which you find. The 24 windows will remain in place until 29th December so you have lots of time to find them all. You can then return your form to one of these doors for a chance to win a box of biscuits for your family or friends:

Jenny Quest at 34 Lavant Down Road, or Sara Pickford, Harpers, Lower Road, East Lavant.

The trail begins at The Earl of March on Sunday December 1st. Families are welcome between 4 and 5pm where festive food will be available. The grand opening/lighting up time will be at 5pm.

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry, especially at Christmas, so we are hoping to raise money for the local Foodbank. Each house with an Advent window will have a collection box for donations. Thank you!

Map included to help you on your way!



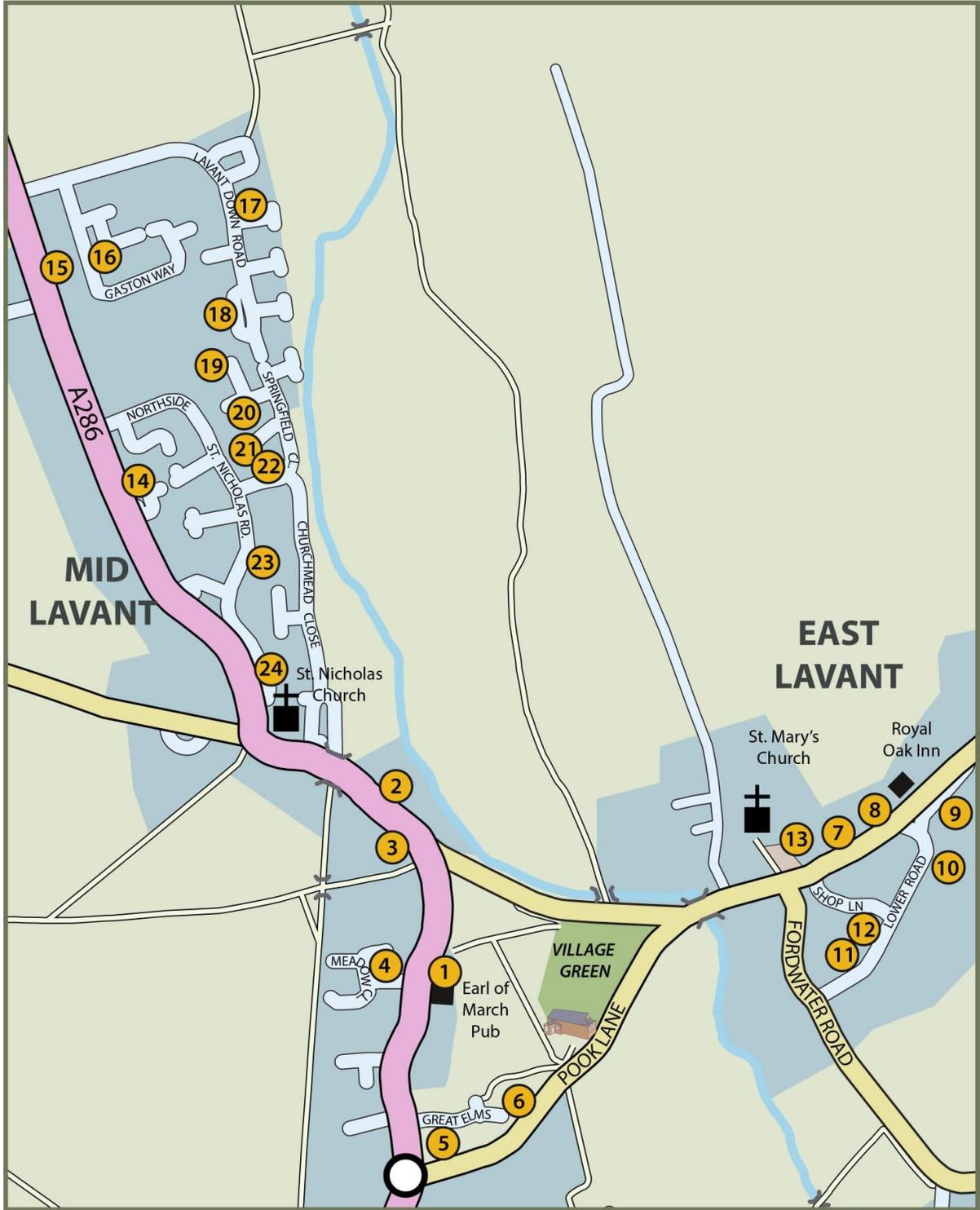
LAVANT ADVENT WINDOWS

Complete this form and return by 29th December to have a chance of winning.

WINDOW NUMBER	THEME e.g bells
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

Name:

Tel Number:





TOMORROW'S ORCHESTRA PROGRAMME



Starting in JANUARY 2025!

TOMORROW'S ORCHESTRA PROGRAMME

FREE group lessons on orchestral instruments for children aged 7 - 11

BOGNOR REGIS
Thursday

CHICHESTER
Saturday

HORSHAM
Saturday

WORTHING
Saturday

- ✓ Free for term one
- ✓ Free instrument hire*
- ✓ Play in an orchestra

*A booking fee of £10 will apply to cover instrument delivery



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www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/top
01403 286330

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



December-
21st,
23rd,
30th
and 31st

Winter Holiday club



Ages 8 to 12 years old

Free for those accessing
benefits related free school
meals

Book in through the link
or
haf@westsussex.gov.uk

dalesouthcoastskateclub@outlook.com



-Skateboarding-

-T-shirt design-

-Games-

-Skateboard design-

-Art and crafts and more...



**Unit 8, 33 Chartwell rd,
Lancing, Bn15 8sp**





HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



2 - 3 JANUARY

BOGNOR REGIS - RAP & LYRIC WRITING

CRAWLEY - DJ & MUSIC PRODUCTION

LITTLEHAMPTON - ROCK & POP BAND

AGES 8 - 16YRS

SIGN UP HERE

WWW.WESTSUSSEXMUSIC.CO.UK/HOLIDAYACTIVITIES



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to book:
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Christmas holiday camps

Sessions run by experienced & qualified teachers,
coaches & School Games Organisers. Activities include:

**Football, Tag rugby, Golf, Athletics, Striking
& Fielding, Arts & Crafts and much more!**

Please note activities may vary daily

Bookings open **Monday 4th November** (limited places available)

Arena Sports Centre 09:00-15:00

School years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Academic year 24-25)

Dates **Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th December
& Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd January**

(individual day bookings available)

£19.75 or £74 for all 4 days! - Includes a hot meal!

All children accessing benefits related free school meals can access for
free via HAF, check with West Sussex County Council for more information.

HAF places please book via the WSCC website:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/haf



Booking deadline for all dates above:
Saturday 14th December

Please contact us for booking:

Tel 01243 870000 www.arenasportscentre.com

Email **bookings@arenasportscentre.com**



Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5JD





Walberton Players Youth Theatre
are looking for children aged 7-17yrs old
to come and join us and be part of our
next show **Shrek Jr.**

Rehearsals start on
Thursday 9th January 2025
18.30-20.30pm
At Walberton Village Hall.

Contact Claire for more information at:
Youth@walbertonplayers.org



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DECEMBER
2 + 3
JANUARY



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www.jc-sportsonline.com

PLEASE SEE THE STEPS BELOW ON HOW TO SECURE YOUR SPACE

DEC - JAN

- 23 30 2 3

	- 23	30	2	3
East Preston Junior School	✓	✓	✓	✓
The March CE Primary School	✓	✓	✓	✓
Berewood Primary School	✓	✗	✓	✓
Steep CE Primary School	✓	✗	✓	✓
Yapton Primary School	✓	✓	✓	✓
St Bartholomew's CE	✓	✗	✓	✓
Whiteley Primary School	✗	✗	✓	✓



XMAS HOLIDAY CAMP - MONDAY 23rd & 30th DECEMBER - JANUARY 2ND & 3RD

Camps run from 8.30am-4.30pm
Lunch will NOT be provided, please BRING a packed lunch and snack.

HAF SPACES

SCAN THE QR CODE IN YOUR CAMERA APP

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Daily price is £29.99, receive a 20% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT when you book at least TWO WEEKS in advance, using code EARLYBIRDXMAS20. Final booked date for early bird is 09/12/24

