Alfriston School

Fair, friendly, fulfilling and fun!

Newsletter - November 2026

Berwick Church Trip



Sapphire Class walked to Berwick Church to support their RE learning this term, exploring the question, "What is it like for someone to follow God?" The children were incredibly resilient, persevering through wet weather before arriving at the church.

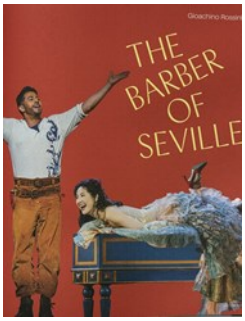
The day began with the children sharing their learning and asking and answering a range of insightful questions. They then took part in craft activities, creating rainbows to represent God's covenant and willow rings to symbolise God's never-ending love.

After lunch, the children enjoyed taking part in a mock wedding ceremony, learning about the special promises people make to one another. The day was filled with knowledge, joy and fun, and the children were a credit to both themselves and the school, demonstrating excellent attitudes to learning and exemplary behaviour throughout the visit.



Barber of Seville

Emerald Class enjoyed a wonderful trip to Glyndebourne Opera House to see The Barber of Seville. Despite the wet weather and the length of the performance, the children had a fantastic time and were thoroughly engaged throughout the day. We were incredibly proud of how they represented Alfriston, showing excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and maturity. It was a memorable experience that gave everyone the opportunity to enjoy world-class live opera in a beautiful setting.



Free School Meals

Changes to Free School Meals (FSM) came into effect in September 2026 following changes introduced by the Department for Education (DfE).

Who is eligible?

Children are eligible for Free School Meals if their parent or carer:

- Receives Universal Credit, or
- Receives support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Some families may also be eligible through other qualifying benefits or circumstances, including:

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

A child will only receive Free School Meals once an application has been submitted and eligibility has been confirmed.

New Free School Meal categories

Two FSM categories were introduced in September 2026:

Targeted Free School Meals

- For families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less.
- Schools receive additional funding for the child.

Expanded Free School Meals

- For families receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400.

You can find further information and apply for free school meals through East Sussex County Council - Free School Meals | East Sussex County Council

From September, all Universal Credit households qualify, regardless of income

Safeguarding Team



Lindsey Hudson
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

If you have any safeguarding concerns about a child, you can contact Lindsey Hudson, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Tanya Fitzgerald, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) through the school office. It is also possible for you to make a referral to the Single Point of Advice (SPOA) on 01323 464222.



Tanya Fitzgerald
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Uniform Policy

We are seeing an increasing number of short skirts, skorts and shorts in school. For consistency with our uniform expectations, these should be **close to knee length or longer**.

We kindly ask that children with hair longer than shoulder length keep it tied back for school, and that long fringes are clipped away from the face. Please also note that dyed hair is not permitted.

To help keep everyone safe, children should not wear jewellery to school, except for a watch and small plain stud earrings if they have pierced ears. If children have their ears pierced, children must be able to remove them themselves before PE or parents must tape the earring with micropore style tape before children arrive at school. Please note that no earrings can be worn when the children swim in the summer so please bear this in mind before having your child's ears pierced.

We also ask that children do not wear nail varnish, temporary tattoos, or make-up to school.

Dates for Your Diary (updates or new dates will be shown in bold)	
16th – 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week: Break the Silence
18th November	Open morning for prospective parents
18th November	Open evening for prospective parents
20th November	INSET Day
3rd December	Christmas decoration afternoon
4th December	FoAS Christmas Fair
9th December	Pearl & Ruby Class Nativity dress rehearsal to rest of the school (pm)
10th December	Pearl & Ruby Class Nativity performance to parents (pm)
16th December	Christmas lunch
16th December	Christmas class party afternoon
16th December	FoAS non-uniform day
18th December	Christmas Carol Service (14:00 to 15:00)
18th December	Last day of Term 2
21st Dec – 1st Jan	Christmas holiday
4th January 2025	Children return to school – Start of Term 3
20th January	Open classrooms (after school)
1st – 7th February	Children's Mental Health Week
9th February	Safer Internet Day
12th February	FoAS non-uniform day
12th February	Last day of Term 3
15th – 19th Feb	February holiday
22nd February	Children return to school – Start of Term 4
4th March	World Book Day
5th March	Mid-Year Reports sent to parents
9th March	Open classrooms (after school)
10th March	Parent consultations (15:45 to 18:15) Face to Face (including APDR meeting where relevant)
11th March	Class photos
16th March	Parent consultations (15:45 to 18:15) Telephone (including APDR meeting where relevant)
18th March	Parent consultations (15:45 to 18:15) Face to Face (including APDR meeting where relevant)
24th March	FoAS non-uniform day
25th March	Last day of Term 4