

Dear Families,

Wishing all our children, families, and staff a very Happy and Holy Easter.

After a busy and reflective Lenten season, we hope this Easter brings you peace, joy, and time to rest with loved ones.

May the light of the Risen Christ fill your homes and hearts.

Have a wonderful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 13th April.

Mrs Philpott

EASTER PRAYER

Thank you for the gift of new life

Lord God,

We bless your holy name for the love you've shown us

We bless the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Who was crucified for our sake

Today, as we celebrate his resurrection,

We are more than grateful to know such love

Thank you for the gift of new life through his resurrection

Thank you for the privilege to come close to you through your son

Fill our hearts with joy on this day and all the days of our lives

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

Attendance:

Regular attendance at school is vital for children's learning, confidence, and wellbeing.

Year R – 95.4%

Year 1 – 97.4%

Year 2 – 96.4%

Year 3 – 96.5%

Year 4 – 97.4% **

Year 5 – 96.4%

Year 6 – 96.1%

Whole School – 96.5%



Not 100%?

If your child is well enough to be in school but not quite 100% and requires paracetamol, we can provide this for them.



With any sickness or diarrhoea, please think of others and follow the 48 hour rule.

Families of Faith

† MARCH †

Prayer Corner



Dear St. Joseph,
You listened to God, even while you were asleep.
Please watch over our family, keep us safe, and help us to trust that God can do anything.
Help us to rest in His love and stay close to Jesus and Mary.
Amen.

Saints to Inspire



24 March - St Oscar Romero

Patron of El Salvador, Champion of Justice and Peace

To celebrate St Oscar Romero's feast day at home, follow these simple steps:

- 📺 Watch the video (QR code) to learn about his life and message.
- 🕯️ Light a candle and pray together for peace and justice; choose one act of kindness to do this month.
- 🗣️ Create a "banner of hope" with one of his quotes.
- 🍲 Share a traditional El Salvadorian dish, like Pupusas



Good News from the Gospel



Sunday 1st March - Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is our guiding light and teacher. Whisper a message to remind your family to listen carefully to him.

Sunday 8th March - John 4:5-42

Jesus is the living water. Talk about why we need water and look at photos of your child's Baptism, noticing how water was used.

Sunday 15th March - John 9:1-41

We are called to actively live our faith. Blindfold each other and point to objects in the room, then talk about how we don't always see who around us needs our help.

Sunday 22nd March - John 11:1-45

Jesus offers us eternal life if we are open to him. Talk about how we can show we are followers of Jesus.

Sunday 29th March - Matthew 26:14-27:66

God freely forgives us because God is mercy. Think about how you are going to celebrate Holy Week as a family.

Family Faith in Action



This month, try placing your worries into the gentle hands of Sleeping St. Joseph, perhaps with a picture or statue by your bedside, as a reminder to rest and trust in God's care.

On Mother's Day, present the jar to Mum and read the notes together as a family, thanking God for her love and guidance. This simple act helps us celebrate the gift of family and remember to pray with gratitude each day.



Mothering Sunday - 15th March

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you (Isaiah 66:13)

Feast Day of St Joseph - 19th March

The Bible describes St Joseph receiving messages from God through dreams in his sleep, with an angel appearing to him, to provide guidance.



SUMMER UNIFORM

From Monday 13th April, children may wear Summer Uniform.



Summer Uniform 1:

(Worn from start of the Summer term to end of September)

- St Joseph's branded Jumper/cardigan
- Royal blue polo shirt
- Grey Shorts or trousers
- Plain Grey or black Socks
- Black Shoes

Summer Uniform 2:

(Worn from start of the Summer term to end of September)

- St Joseph's branded jumper/cardigan
- Light Blue Checked Summer Dress
- Plain grey or white socks
- Black Shoes



Please see the school website for further details

[5F59E5B0AD8C7EFB89537526AD90CC51.pdf](#)

Brigade Discount Code:

10% off this weekend (27th - 30th March 26)

- Simply use the promocode: **BLOOM10** at checkout.

[Home - Brigade Clothing, LTD](#)

SCHOOL DINNERS

As we approach the Easter break, we kindly ask all families to settle any outstanding lunch balances. Keeping accounts up to date helps us manage the service smoothly and ensures everything is in place for the new term.

Thank you for your support



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



What a fun day we had on 5th March! The children (and staff) were full of excitement as they arrived in their wonderful costumes, clothing and props, proudly sharing their favourite characters and stories.



Throughout the day, classes explored the work of a range of authors and enjoyed a variety of creative, book-themed activities that brought stories to life.



We are already looking forward to our next themed event - **Maths Day on Thursday 16th April!**



CONGRATULATIONS



We are very proud of our amazing dance troupe who performed at the Wilde theatre as part of 'Lift Off'



Well done to this year 5 pupil who took part in the musical Newsies over the half term at South Hill Park. He performed in three shows - amazing!



Congratulations to this Year 1 pupil who achieved Level 2 at swimming club! Amazing!



Congratulations to our wonderful Badminton Players. Our A team won a bronze medal at the Bracknell Forest tournament and our B team finished in 4th place. We are so proud of you all.

YEAR 4 Trip to Butser's Ancient Farm

Year 4's Trip to Butser Ancient Farm: Wednesday 11th March 2026

A few weeks ago we went to Butser Ancient Farm. The reason we went was to learn about the Romans. We had lots of fun, and we were all extremely disappointed when we had to leave and go back to school. The guide, Katy, showed us different activities like archaeology, Roman jewellery making and we even went in an Iron Age hut, with a real fire, and real animal skins!

We built the base of a Roman flint wall with white and grey rocks and then, when the base was finished, we had to walk over it, while holding on to a teacher's hand! Our bases were strong! We went in the villa where there was a family room and a worship room! Unfortunately, we couldn't go upstairs because there was a narrow, rickety staircase. We all wish to go again soon!



My favourite thing was the iron age house.

I liked every bit of Butser Ancient Farm. My best part was when I dug up fossils like archaeologists digging dirt. We also made rings with metal and we could put rocks on it. Which was so fun to do. We also got to know how the stone age houses were built back then.



Dear diary,
We went to Butser Ancient Farm to learn about the Romans. We learned to make rings. We also learned that Romans had public toilets and baths. We made jewellery including rings and bracelets. We were digging like archaeologists. I hope I go again.
From Evan

How to make a Roman ring

- 1) Use the pliers to bend the wire so it's not sharp.
- 2) Use your fingers to create a spiral.
- 3) When it's a perfect short length, wrap it around your finger and then it's done.



**Year 4
visit to Butser**

YEAR 5'S Trip to Town and library



THANK YOU TO YEAR 3 – YOUR STONE AGE ASSEMBLY WAS AMAZING!





Diary Dates	Class	Event
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 4	SPAG workshop for parents
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 5	Easter Play @ 2pm
Friday 27 th March	Year 1-6	Swimming lessons finish END OF TERM
Friday 27 th March	Year 5 & 6	Easter Trail @ Kerith Centre
Monday 13 th April	All	Return to School
Thursday 16 th April	All	MATHS DAY – Dress in numbers
Friday 17 th April	All	Spring Disco @ 5pm-6.30pm
Friday 24 th April	Year 4	Class Assembly – Parents welcome
Friday 24 th April	ALL	Mufti Day
Thursday 1 st May	All	St JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY – MUFTI DAY!
Tuesday 5 th May	Year 2	Pizza Express Visit
Thursday 7 th May	Year 3 & 4	History Workshops in school
Friday 8 th May	All	Mufti Day – bring a bottle for the adult tombola
Sunday 10 th May	ALL	FAMILY DAY @ 2pm – 4.30pm on school field
Monday 11 th May	Year 6	KS2 Sats Week
Monday 18 th May	All	Class Photos
Friday 22 nd May	All	SPORTS DAY
Monday 1 st June	All	INSET DAY/ Teacher Training Day
Monday 8 th June	Year 1	Phonics Screening Week (Mon – Fri)
Tuesday 9 th June	Year 3	Parent workshop - Kaboom Maths
Monday 15 th June	Choir	Junior Music Festival - performance
Wednesday 17 th June	Year 5 Girls	9am Mother & Daughter Session (60 mins)
Thursday 2 nd July	All	Science Day
Monday 6 th July	Year 4,5 and 6	SHP Wilde Day
Wednesday 22 nd July	All	END OF TERM

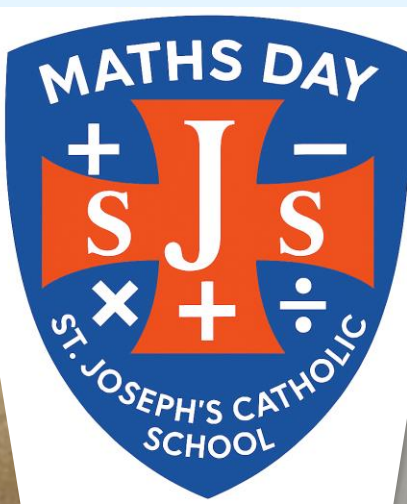
NEW GEMS WORKSHOP!

We have just released a new date for our Managing Anxiety workshop, hosted by The Autism Group.

Managing Anxiety	<i>Hosted by The Autism Group:</i> What to do when worries take over. Looking at what causes anxiety & some tried & tested strategies to tackle it.	Autism Support For parents & carers of primary & secondary school aged children.	Online: Wednesday 10th June 2026.	10am - 12pm
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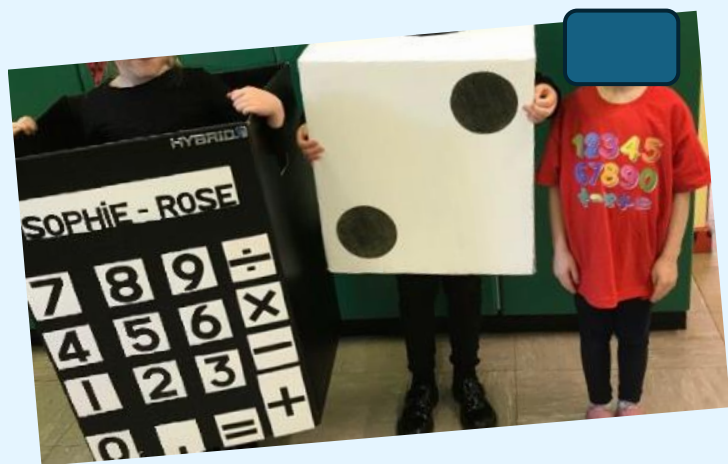
Booking link : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-anxiety-tickets-1541098209229?aff=oddtcreator>

If this is not what you are looking for, please look at our website for more information, please note most workshops/courses are either fully booked, waiting for a new date or have limited spaces available. <https://www.gems4health.com/workshops/>



On Thursday 16th April, we challenge every child to wear as many numbers and maths symbols as possible! This can be added to uniform, head wear or full costume. We will have a very mathematical day in school!

Check out these ideas and get creative!



£5

Spring Disco

St Joseph's PTA



Friday 17th April 5-6:30pm

Includes snack/drink/facepaint & Tattoo.
Hotdogs and snacks available to purchase

<https://pay.collectiv.com/spring-disco-68702>

Payment due Monday 13th April
see link for sibling discount and staying on fee for clubs
NO REFUNDS

St Joseph's pupils **ONLY** (footsteps not included)
Parents to please drop and go

ST JOSEPH'S PTA

UPCOMING EVENTS 2026



MAY 10 FATHER'S DAY
You have the opportunity to create a personalised gift for Mum or a loved one

APR 17 SPRING DISCO
Get your boogie on and join us for a spring Disco in the Hall!

MAY 22 SPORTS DAY REFRESHMENTS

MAY 10 FAMILY FUN DAY
Looking for a day full of laughter, fun, and lasting memories? Bring the whole family to Family Fun Day

JUN 19 FATHER'S DAY
children will have the opportunity to create a personalised gift for Dad or a loved one

HOT CHOC/ ICE-LOLLY SALE DATES TBA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT !

The hot chocolate sale raised £140.21



The Mother's Day event raised £126.72



Online

Parents & carers

EquippingLives4Good

ANXIETY

My child & me



Monday 18th May
7:30pm-9pm

This workshop is aimed at parents with children who are struggling with anxiety. The workshop will focus on understanding anxiety, exploring ways to support your child and reflections on your own emotional needs. This workshop will provide the opportunity to:



Details for the link will be sent once you have confirmed your place.

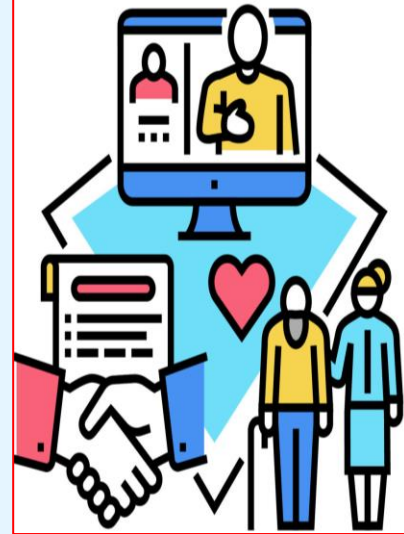
Please click here to book:



The Courthouse, Broadway,
Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 1AE

Charity no. 1162501

MEDICAL ADVICE



Meningococcal Disease: What Schools & Early Years Settings Need to Know

[Information for education settings in England regarding the meningococcal disease outbreak - GOV.UK](#)

Do Settings Need to Close?

No. Schools, colleges, early years settings and universities are **not** being advised to close or move to remote learning. UKHSA will contact you directly if any action is needed.

Attendance

Children and young people should continue attending as usual. If a public health professional advises an individual not to attend, they should follow that advice. Most mild illnesses (runny nose, sore throat, slight cough) **do not** require time off unless the child has a temperature.

Close Contacts

A close contact is someone who has had **prolonged, close exposure** to a confirmed case (e.g., living or sleeping in the same household).

Not usually considered close contact:

- Being in the same class or tutor group
- Friends or schoolmates
- Travelling in the same car or bus
- PE activities
- Sharing food, drinks, or water bottles
- Quick kisses
- Sharing mouthed toys

Close contacts can attend school as normal and will be offered antibiotics. Contacts of close contacts are **very low risk** and can also attend as normal.

Vaccination Information

MenB vaccine: Part of routine NHS schedule since July 2015 (most primary-aged children have received it).

MenACWY vaccine: Offered in Years 9 and 10.

MenB does **not** protect against A, C, W or Y.

MenACWY does **not** protect against B.

Masks and Restrictions

Masks are **not** recommended.

No restrictions on gatherings or events unless advised by UKHSA.

Boarding schools and children's homes do **not** need extra precautions.

Pregnant or Immunosuppressed Staff

They can continue attending as normal.

Sharing Water Bottles or Toys

Low risk for meningococcal disease.

Still not good practice due to other common infections.

If You Hear About a Local Case

Not all meningitis cases are linked to this outbreak.

UKHSA will advise if communication with parents is needed.

Further Information

NHS: www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis

Meningitis Research Foundation: 0808 800 3344

Meningitis Now: 0808 80 10 388

For concerns about a possible case, contact your **local UKHSA health protection team**.

DO YOU VISIT BRACKNELL LIBRARY?



2026 is the National Year of Reading so what better time to get acquainted with one, or all 9, of your [local Bracknell Forest libraries](#).



Looking for something different to do on rainy days, in your spare time, after school and during school holidays? **Head to your local library!**

Library membership is free!

Visit any branch with 2 x proof of ID (personal ID with signature and address ID required) to sign up for an [e+ card](#) or ask to have library membership added to your existing e+ card.

ID examples: passport, bank card, driver's licence

Digital Collection

Our [digital collection](#) includes:

- [BorrowBox](#) – Borrow 4000+ e-books and 2000+ e-audiobooks
- [PressReader](#) – Borrow digital newspapers and magazines from the day they are published.

Programs

Our [website](#) and Facebook page will keep you updated with the programs we offer:

- Regular children's programs (eg. Bounce & Rhyme, Storytime, eco-craft, Gamezone, Toddler Takeover, Lego Engineers)
- School holiday and one-off events
- Special events (eg. Summer Reading Challenge)
- Adult programs

Physical Collection

Our [physical collection](#) includes:

- Books (picture books, large print, graphic novels, manga, dyslexic font texts, non-fiction, textbooks, early readers)
- DVDs
- Audio Books
- Multilingual texts and language course resources
- Local history resources

We are the only borough offering community members special **Open+ Access** to their local library – This allows registered library users who sign up to the program to access libraries outside of regular staffed hours.

	Branch	Open+ hours
Ascot Heath Library	Harmans Water Library	Monday to Friday - 8am to 8pm Saturday - 8am to 6pm Sunday - 10am to 6pm
Binfield Library	Sandhurst Library	
Birch Hill Library	Whitegrove Library	
Great Hollands Library		

Look out for upcoming special events including Easter School Holiday activities and the Summer Reading Challenge beginning in July!

We hope to see you enjoying your local library one day soon.





GEMS

Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire



1 on 1 Support Sessions

An online or over the phone, 60 minute session offering support and advice.

Suitable for Parents and Carers whom:

- Has a child/young person who may have, waiting assessment or has been diagnosed with Autism or AuDHD (Autism & ADHD).
- Require strategies for a new presenting issue.
- Attended workshops/courses previously and need further advice.
- Want to talk confidentially or uncomfortable with group sessions.
- Are neurodivergent themselves or have access needs.

Available for families residing in, or have a registered GP in East Berkshire.

To book your place contact GEMS:



Gems.4Health@nhs.net



0800 999 1342

Sign Up Today!



Teen Writing Group

AT WOKINGHAM LIBRARY

JOIN IGNITING WRITING,
WOKINGHAM LIBRARY'S TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

FACE TO FACE SESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY
(EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS)

SESSION FOR YEAR 6-8 9.45AM TO 11.15AM
SESSION FOR YEAR 9-13 11.45AM TO 1.15PM

THE SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
YEAR 6 TO YEAR 13 STUDENTS

SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- FUN WRITING ACTIVITIES
- USEFUL WRITING TIPS
- GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON STORY IDEAS

ALL SESSIONS NEED TO BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE
TO SIGN UP FOR SESSIONS, VISIT THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.WOKINGHAM.GOV.UK/LIBRARIES](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

E-SAFETY

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

ONLINE

SECRET CODE

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /wuw.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.02.2025