



Arunside Announcements Week Commencing 3rd February 2025

NSPCC Number Day - Friday 7th February - Arunside will be celebrating Number Day on **Friday 7th February**. NSPCC Number Day is an annual campaign encouraging children to get involved in number-based activities, designed to make learning maths enjoyable! We will be promoting the use of Times Tables Rockstars throughout the day in order to encourage the children to learn their multiplication and division facts in a fun way. As an **option**, the children are invited to come into school dressed up as a times tables **Rockstar!** Please encourage the children to use their imagination for what a Rockstar will wear, whilst perhaps linking the outfit to numbers, maybe through fabric pens, stickers or embroidery. All we ask is that their clothes will be warm enough for playtimes and appreciative of cultural sensitivities. Year 6 can wear their Rockstar outfits and bring their PE kits to change into like normal, whilst Y4 will have a Rockstar friendly PE session, doing activities that are appropriate for the outfits worn.

Parents evenings – The spring term Parents Evenings will take place on Monday 10th March (late session) and Tuesday 11th March (early session). Bookings will open shortly on the MCAS app. Please note that as our teachers will be running the parents evening, there will be no teacher-led after school clubs on Tuesday 11th March 2025.

Applications for Free school Meals (FSM) – West Sussex have asked that we remind those parents and carers whose children may be eligible for FSM, but who are not currently in receipt of these, that they should apply for FSM between now and the end of March 2025. This will ensure that claims and any future funding awarded is protected. Only applications processed before 1 April 2025, will maintain transitional protection. Please click here to [submit an application](#).

Free School Meal (FSM) Vouchers - Utilising funding from the governments' Household Support Fund to help support those most in need, and to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living, West Sussex County Council is pleased to confirm that families with Free School Meals (FSM) eligible children, will once again be entitled to a voucher for each FSM child during the upcoming February half term school holiday. These will be available from 10th February and recipients will be emailed in the usual way. For children who are not FSM eligible but who's families need urgent support with food in West Sussex, the Community Hub is operating.

School Lunches – In an effort to reduce the amount of food waste we accumulate at lunch times, we ask that if your child is having a hot lunch from Easy Lunch, please do chat with them about the menu options available each week and ensure that the choices made relate to something they will eat and enjoy. Our midday supervisors will then encourage the children to eat as much as possible on their plates as we are sure that not only will this help to reduce our daily food waste it will mean that parents are not paying for food that their child doesn't eat!

Year 5 - Forest School Trip to Mayes Park Farm – We thank parents for returning the permission slips so promptly for this trip; there are only a couple of returns remaining outstanding. Please note, different groups will travel to Mayes Park Farm on each of the four dates; 4th February, 11th February, 25th February and 4th March. As the forest school teachers will be supporting every group at Mayes Park Farm there will be no Forest school sessions at Arunside on these dates.

Staff Leaving - After 12-years of dedicated service, Mrs Rutherford is sadly leaving Arunside at February half-term. Ms Booth will take over as the full-time teacher in Willow class but we are sure that you would want to join us all in wishing Mrs Rutherford well as she moves to pastures new!

Key Dates for the Diary

- Friday 7th February - NSPCC Number Day children to come dressed as a times tables Rockstar
- Tuesday 11th February - Safer Internet Day
- Monday 17th to Friday 21st February – Half Term
- Monday 24th February – Inset Day
- Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th March – Y6 Mock SATs Week
- Thursday 6th March – World Book Day
- Monday 10th March - Parents Evenings (late session)
- Tuesday 11th March - Parents Evenings (early session).
- Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th March – Year 4 Residential Trip to Lodge Hill
- Tuesday 25th March - Y3 drumming performance to parents at 2.30pm.
- Friday 28th March – Rock Steady Concert – Parents invited

PTA Messages



Valentine's Day Bake Sale – We Need Your Help!

We need your help to make our Valentine's Day Bake Sale a success! Please consider donating homemade or shop-bought Valentine's treats (no nuts, please) by dropping them off at school in the morning on Friday, 14th February. The sale will start at school pickup, with all money raised going towards supporting our school. Payment accepted via cash, card, or QR code.



PTA World Book Day - Book donations - The PTA are reaching out to gather books for the PTA World Book Day fundraiser. We are particularly looking for books aimed at older readers (ages 8-12), but we would be grateful for any donations you are able to offer. Please ensure the books are in good condition, with no torn pages or drawings inside, as we want them to be enjoyed by others. Donations can be dropped off at the school office any time before Wednesday 5th March. Thank you for your support – it means a lot to us, and we appreciate the contributions!