

Headteacher Newsletter



Christmas Message 2025

Dear families,

As we approach Christmas, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your support throughout this year. It has truly been a fantastic year at Arunside, filled with so many wonderful opportunities and memorable moments.

A special thank you to our amazing PTA for their relentless efforts in fundraising and supporting our school community, and to Christ Hospital School for the beautiful carols that added so much joy to our celebrations. We are also deeply grateful to all parents for attending and supporting our Christmas events, carol concerts, and nativity plays. The children were absolutely fabulous—I could not be more proud!

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our exceptional staff team at Arunside. Their dedication, compassion, and commitment to both educating and caring for every child is truly inspiring. We are fortunate to have such an amazing team who consistently go above and beyond.

The time has also come to say goodbye to Mrs Hadden, an incredible colleague and friend who has changed lives in so many ways, through the children she has taught, the families she has helped and the staff she has inspired. I know you will wish to join me in wishing her the very best as she moves on to new adventures. Although we are very excited that she will continue to be a school governor and have a part to play in shaping the school for the future.

On behalf of everyone at Arunside, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and precious time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back in January for another exciting year ahead!

Donna Jagger
Headteacher

Headteacher Newsletter

Farewell Mrs Hadden



Dear everyone,

As I reach my final day at Arunside, I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you. After nearly nine wonderful years being here as a teacher and twelve since I was an Arunside parent, it's hard to put into words how much this community has meant to me. Working alongside such dedicated staff, supportive governors, and caring families has been a privilege, and I feel incredibly proud of all we've achieved together for the children.

When I joined as SENCO in 2017, there were big challenges ahead, but thanks to everyone's willingness to embrace change, Arunside has grown into an inclusive, forward-thinking school. That's something I'll always treasure.

I'm now stepping into a new chapter and I'm really excited for the opportunity change will bring, but leaving Arunside is bittersweet because of the strong bonds and shared successes we've had here.

Thank you for your trust, kindness, and partnership over the years. I feel very lucky to have been part of your children's journeys and this incredible school community. Arunside is in a fantastic position for the future, and I know it will continue to thrive. For this reason, I will be staying on as a Governor, so I am able to continue to follow its journey.

I hope the children enjoyed my little send off this afternoon...and thank you to my own two daughters Poppy and Lilly (ex-Arunside pupils) who helped me with it.

With warmest wishes and gratitude,

Anna Hadden

We will miss you



Headteacher Newsletter



Welcome Ms Conyers!

Hello, my name is Ms. Conyers and I'm looking forward to joining Oak class for 2 days a week from January.

Since moving from Surrey to West Sussex I've worked as a supply teacher in many schools and Arunside has always been a favourite, so I was delighted when this opportunity arose. I can't wait to get to know the children in Oak class where I know we'll continue to have fabulous learning and lots of fun along the way.

Before becoming a full time teacher I worked in theatre so drama is one of my passions...but I also like reading, gardening, playing board games, cooking and of course maths.

Wishing everyone in the Arunside community a Merry Christmas and looking forward to joining you in 2026.

Ms. Conyers



Headteacher Newsletter

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



Without volunteers Arunside would not be able to function as successfully as it does.
There are many ways you can donate your time to help the school.

New Parent Governor Laura Patan:



My name is Laura Patan, and I was recently elected as a Parent Governor. I applied for this role because I'm passionate about supporting the school community and helping every child reach their potential. With a professional background in finance leadership, I hope to bring skills in governance and strategic planning to benefit the school. Education has always been important to me, and I'm excited to work in partnership with parents and staff to create the best environment for our children to thrive.

School Readers

Please do get in touch if you have regular weekly availability from 9am -11am or 1pm-3pm to read with students.

School readers must undertake safeguarding training and pass a DBS check

To register interest in becoming a reader email:
comms@arunside.school



Headteacher Newsletter

We ♥ our
Volunteers



Arunside PTA

The PTA have been exceptionally busy this term. Kicking things off with their annual Fireworks display, since then they have successfully run second hand uniform sales, Christmas raffles, drawing competitions and delicious bake sales which have all raised money that will directly benefit the children. They are our unsung heroes!

Message from the PTA: *A huge thank you to everyone who baked or donated cakes for last Friday's bake sale — your time and generosity make events like this possible.*

Thank you as well to everyone who stopped by, bought treats, and showed their support, we hope enjoyed your sweet treats.



Together we raised £148.74.



thank
★ you ★



Headteacher Newsletter



Parent Support

Since Half Term we have offered:

- Drop-in during Parent's Evenings with the pastoral team in the ICT suite
- Guidance from Rob Long encouraging a "Smartphone-Free Childhood" in the ICT suite during both Parents Evenings
- Emma from West Sussex Parent Carer forum was available to talk to families during Parents Evening, and will be returning in the Spring Term.
- Parent Wellbeing drop-in with Mrs Lee and Mrs Roberts for coffee, biscuits and a chat.

Next Term we will be offering:

- A new date for the Helping Your Child With Their Worries Workshop
- Workshops on Healthy Eating, Sleeping and Dental Hygiene from the Early Help team.



KS2 Time to Talk

Our PSHE Lead Miss Phillips will be resuming 'Time to Talk' sessions on Mondays from 12.30pm - 1.00pm in Rowan Classroom.

This serves as a great opportunity for the children to talk through their feelings and any concerns in a safe and supportive environment.

Headteacher Newsletter



Christmas Reading Challenge

Children in Early Years, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will bring home a Christmas reading challenge during the last week of term. Please encourage your child to complete the activities and keep them reading over the holidays. Children should return these to school during the first week back. The class who returns the most will be treated to a short film with snacks.



Forest School



Letters have gone out to those who have Forest School next term. This is a Friendly reminder - Oak class will need their Forest School kit on the **FIRST DAY BACK** after the Christmas holidays.

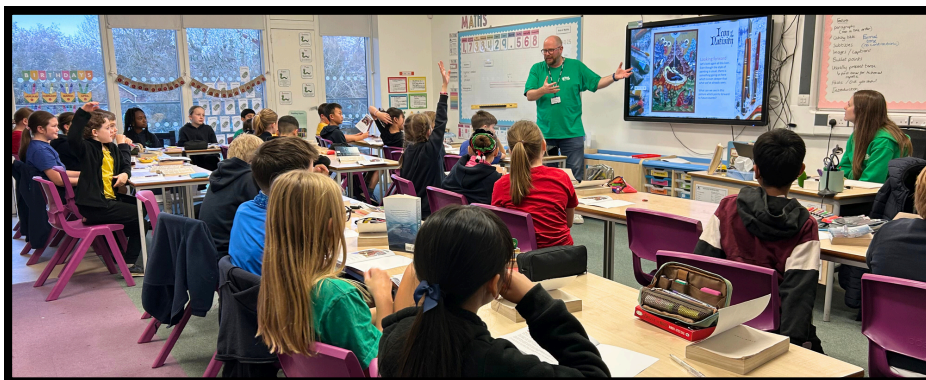


PE Timetable

Please note this has been updated since last week. Please use the copy included in this newsletter. It can also be accessed via the school website, using the following link: [Spring 1st Half PE Timetable](#)

Kingdom Faith Church

Last week members of Kingdom Faith Church came to speak with Year 6 as part of their RE topic.



The Easy Lunch Company

Bookings for school dinners open on **Friday 19th December 2025** and the deadline is **Tuesday 5th January 2026**. To book these visit www.theeasy lunchcompany.co.uk if you have any queries email emma@theeasy lunchcompany.co.uk

Headteacher Newsletter



Christmas Carol Concerts



I am sure many parents will agree that once again the students performed beautifully at both Carol Concerts this week.

The hard work and practice was definitely worth the effort, and Mrs Yuille provided wonderful accompaniment on the piano.

We have already booked St Mary's Church again next year because it is such a highlight in the school calendar!



Christmas Carol Collection

Money raised during both Christmas Carol Concerts for Horsham Salvation Army reached:

£341.39

PTA Drawing Competition

Students will have been sent home with sheets to enter the Hayley Georgiou Property drawing competition this week. Three lucky students will win stationery sets in the New Year and the school will receive a £250 donation from Hayley Georgiou Property!



Horsham Christmas Lights Trail 2025



Looking for a festive activity to enjoy with the family?

The Hayley Georgiou Property Christmas Lights Trail is now live - a community-led map of local homes lighting up Horsham this Christmas. Families can also add their own home to the trail

👉 View the map here: <https://bit.ly/4q6lVUm>

Headteacher Newsletter



Festive Wordsearch

Solve the wordsearch and find the hidden message within the leftover letters!

NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS
CAROLS
RUDOLPH
PRESENT
TINSEL
PUD

M	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	E	R	C
D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	H
O	R	A	Y	U	C	H	S	T	A	R	R
N	R	R	I	D	S	T	M	I	A	J	I
K	H	O	H	O	H	O	S	N	S	I	S
E	E	L	E	L	P	R	E	S	E	N	T
Y	Y	S	O	P	U	D	U	E	N	G	M
S	N	O	W	H	E	X	T	L	Y	L	A
C	R	A	C	K	E	R	E	A	R	E	S
H	O	T	U	R	K	E	Y	H	O	H	O

STAR
TURKEY
DONKEY
CRACKER
JINGLE
HOHOHO
SNOW





Key Dates for The Diary

Date	Details
Monday 5th January 2026	Inset Day
Mondy 23rd February 2026	Inset Day
Monday 23 rd - Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Year 4 Lodge Hill Trip
Monday 13th April 2026	Inset Day
Monday 1st June 2026	Inset Day
Monday 6 th July 2026 - Friday 10 th July 2026	Year 6 PGL Marchants Hill Trip

Arunside PE Timetable Spring 1



	EYFS		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		Year 6	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Monday								PE		PE		PE or Swim		
Tuesday				PE		PE					FS Oak	FS Oak		PE
Wednesday		PE				PE Clover			FS Sycamore	FS Sycamore				
Thursday						PE Dandelion	PE		FS Hazel	FS Hazel				PE
Friday			PE							PE		PE		

After School Clubs

Arunside Teacher-led clubs will be bookable via the MCAS app and will be running from Monday 19th January 2026 - Friday 27th March 2026 (excluding insets and holidays)

External Clubs will set their own dates and arrangements, please contact them directly.

Day of Week	Club	Times	Year Group	Places	Cost	Booking arrangements
Monday	Aspire Higher Ballet Eve Fagan Hall TBC - Confirm with Eve directly	3.30 - 4.30	Y2-6	20	£7.50 per week	Please book through: Enjoydanceclass@gmail.com Tel: 07497770074
Tuesday	Kidslingo French Mrs Davis - ICT Suite 13th January - 10th February/ 24th February - 24th March	3.20 - 4.15	Y1-6	16	£8.00 per week	Tel: 07785 323437 Email: charmaine.davis@kidslingo.co.uk Book Here
	Chelsea Football Club Field / Playground 6th January - 24th March	3.20- 4.20	Y1-4	28	£83.20 per term	Years 1 to 2: Book Here Years 3 to 4: Book Here Invitation Code: APSSPR26 soccerschools@chelseafc.com
Wednesday	Art Sparks Kerry Sampson STEM Room 7th January - 25th March	3.15 - 4.20	Y2-6	15	£9.50 per week	Please book through kimventer@gmail.com Tel: 07590210178
	Kidslingo Spanish Mrs Davis - ICT Suite 14th January - 11th February / 25th February - 25th March	3.20 - 4.15	Y1-6	16	£8.00 per week	Tel: 07785 323437 Email: charmaine.davis@kidslingo.co.uk To join waiting list Book Here
	Fortitude Academy Taekwon-do Hall	Discuss with club directly				Jamesbaldery@fortitudeinstructor.co.uk website
	Board Games Club Mrs Flower and Miss Thomson Sycamore Class 21st January - 25th March	3.20 - 4.15	Y3-6	20	£10	MCAS App Fully booked
Thursday	Code Club Mr Heath ICT Suite 22nd January - 26th March	3.20 - 4.15	Y5-6	10	£10	MCAS App
	Culture Club (learn about different cultures and languages) Mrs Jacks - Oak Classroom 22nd January - 26th March	3.20 - 4.15	Y5-6	15	£10	MCAS App
Friday	Southern Martial Arts Karate Hall 9th January - 20th March	5.00 - 6.00	Y1 - 6	30	£6.50 per session	Theresa on 07958 123777 theresa.southernmartialarts@gmail.com
	Sports Stars UK Dodgeball Hall 9th January - 27th March	3.20 - 4.20	Y3-6	20	£55.00 per term	Booking Link - https://www.sportsstarsuk.com/book-clubs/



Headteacher Newsletter



Have a wonderful Christmas Break!

*We look forward to welcoming your children back to school
on Tuesday 6th January 2026*

