



Newsletter – Friday 2nd October 2026

St Mary's Primary School

Our Vision: We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family.

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

School Value – Compassion

Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of our School Community,

Welcome to this week's newsletter! I hope you enjoy taking a few moments to catch up on all the wonderful things that have been happening across our school.

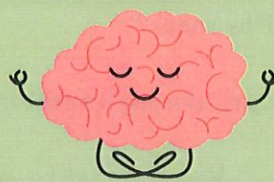
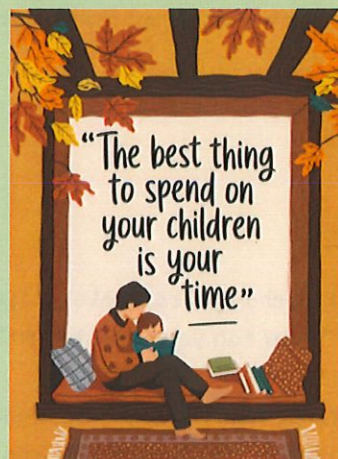
Just a few small reminders that would really help us in school:

School lunches: Please remember to book your child's lunches on ParentPay by **12pm on Friday for the following week**. Booking in advance really helps us to plan effectively and keep food waste to a minimum

Forest School: As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please remember to send your child fully prepared for their Forest School sessions. **Layers, waterproof clothing and wellies** are essential! The children access Forest School throughout the year, whatever the weather, so we really appreciate your support in ensuring they are warm, dry and comfortable while they enjoy learning outdoors.

Reporting absences: Our preferred method for reporting your child's absence is via **Studybugs**. This is an app that you can download and use to quickly let us know when your child is absent. It helps us to know sooner if a child is unaccounted for and makes the process quick and easy for families. The app can also send you automatic reminders to keep us updated. Thank you, as always, for your continued support with these little things – they make a big difference to the smooth running of our school.

Mindful Moments



Dojo Messages

- Berlesduna 10 year anniversary
- Family Learning Timetable 5-16 Oct
- Family Learning Timetable 19-30 Oct
- Changes to Forest School sessions
- Harvest Festival
- Mrs Walker - PiXL Conference
- Celebrating 10 years of Berlesduna Academy



A Note from Mrs Walker

We have had a wonderful day today celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Berlesduna Trust!

To mark this special occasion, we planted an apple tree, very kindly bought by Rev. Jacqui. It was a lovely way to celebrate this important milestone, and we are looking forward to watching the tree grow and flourish over the coming years. We hope that, in time, we will also be able to enjoy the beautiful apples it produces!

The children have also been busy creating a time capsule, capturing what life is like at St Mary's today. This will be a wonderful snapshot of our school community and will hopefully be enjoyed by future generations of children as they look back on school life in 2026.

Alongside this, the children have been working on a special piece of artwork for the Berlesduna Tapestry. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and enthusiasm as they contribute to this exciting project.

We were also delighted to welcome the Trust's new Attendance Lead to St Mary's this week. We look forward to working with him over the coming weeks and building a positive partnership as we continue to support excellent attendance across our school community.

It has been a lovely week of celebration, creativity and looking ahead to the future of our Trust. Here's to the next 10 years!

Please remember we are now taking part in our Snack-tober challenge to see if we can work together to build healthier snacking habits for the children. We would be very grateful for your support with this.

Please do note the change to FOREST SCHOOL sessions this coming week. Acorn Class, Friday AM session, Chestnut Class, Thursday AM session, Oak Class, Thursday PM session.

As always thank you so much for your help and support.

Welcome to Snack-tober!

Helping our children make happy, healthy snack choices

We're excited to launch Snack-tober! 🎉 — a fun opportunity for our children to explore new foods, discover healthier snacks and build confidence in making good choices.

Throughout October, we'll be encouraging children to explore healthier snacking.

Our aim is simple: to help our children develop the knowledge, skills, confidence and motivation to choose and enjoy healthier snacks — both at school and at home.

We're encouraging snacks that include:

-  MORE fruit and vegetables
-  MORE wholegrains, beans and pulses
-  LESS saturated fat, salt and sugar

Small changes can make a big difference, and we'd love families to join us in making healthy snacking fun!

 How can you help at home?

One of the best ways children learn is by seeing the adults around them making healthy choices too. Why not have a little Snack-tober challenge at home and encourage your child to try a new fruit, vegetable or healthy snack?

If you're sending a snack into school, please choose from our list of healthy options:

-  Vegetable sticks – carrot, cucumber, celery or peppers. Why not make a colourful rainbow of vegetables? Different colours provide different vitamins and minerals.
-  Cheese – a small piece of cheddar or a Babybel.
-  Fresh or dried fruit – such as pineapple, mango, kiwi, plain raisins, apricots, blueberries or banana slices. Fruit provides important vitamins and fibre.
-  Grain-based snacks – breadsticks, plain pretzels, banana bread, malt loaf, oat or rice cakes, and small pitta breads. These can provide carbohydrates to help keep children going between meals.

 Don't forget the water!

As part of our Healthy School vision, please send your child to school with water rather than juice in their water bottle where at all possible!

 A very important reminder: We are a NUT-FREE school because we have children with nut allergies. Please do not send nuts or snacks containing nuts into school.

There's no need for anything fancy — we just want to celebrate our children having a go at trying more healthy snacks! We're taking a common-sense approach to healthy snacking. We know that life gets busy, and we're not expecting perfection! Our main message is simply:

Think healthy. Try something new. Have fun! 🌈

As part of our Healthy School vision, we ask that snacks brought into school do not include chocolate, sweets or crisps.

Thank you, as always, for your fantastic support. By working together, we can help our children develop healthy habits, discover new foods and feel confident about making positive choices.



Reading for Pleasure

We would love to encourage all of our families to make time for reading for pleasure at home. Reading together, sharing a story, listening to an audiobook, talking about a favourite book or simply allowing your child to choose something they enjoy can make such a difference. When children see reading as something fun, relaxing and enjoyable, rather than something they only do for school, they are more likely to develop a lifelong love of books and reading. Even just 10 minutes a day can open up new worlds, spark imagination, build vocabulary and strengthen children's reading skills. So, snuggle up, share a story, talk about what you're reading and most importantly, make reading a happy part of family life! ❤️📖

Year Group Booklists: 50 Recommended Reads



Best Books for Each School Year Group

Each of our Year Group Recommended Reads lists contains 50 books specially picked out for reading for pleasure in each school year group, from Preschool to Year 9. The lists are designed to provide recommendations of age-appropriate and accessible books across a range of genres and styles.

When we put together each list, we look for a balance across different genres and styles. Some children naturally navigate towards non-fiction, while others find graphic novels or poetry the most enjoyable forms to pick up and read.

Each list contains a balance of age-appropriate fiction, picturebooks, non-fiction, poetry and graphic novels, with a handful of novelty or tactile books added in too. We've also aimed to collate lists that cater for different reading styles, interest levels, publication dates (you'll find some true golden oldies as well as brand new titles on each list) and also books that contain a diversity of characters and settings. This way, schools using our lists can offer children access to a wealth of quality reading choices to enjoy.





Acorn Class

This Week In Class

It has been another busy and exciting week in Acorn Class!

In History, we have been learning about our local area and exploring how it has changed over time. The children enjoyed looking at the past and comparing it with what our local area looks like today.

In Art, we have been exploring pathway spirals, experimenting with lines, movement and patterns.

We also had a wonderful time celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Trust! The children enjoyed getting creative and making birthday cards, bunting, party hats and paper chains to help decorate our celebrations. It was lovely to see everyone getting involved and helping to make the occasion so special.

In Maths, our Reception children have been matching, sorting and comparing, while our Year 1 and Year 2 children have been learning about parts and wholes, developing their understanding of how numbers can be made up of different parts.

Well done, Acorn Class, for another fantastic week of learning and celebrating together!

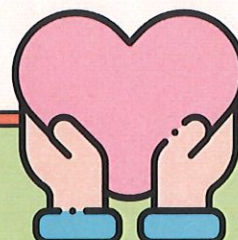
Love Your Learning

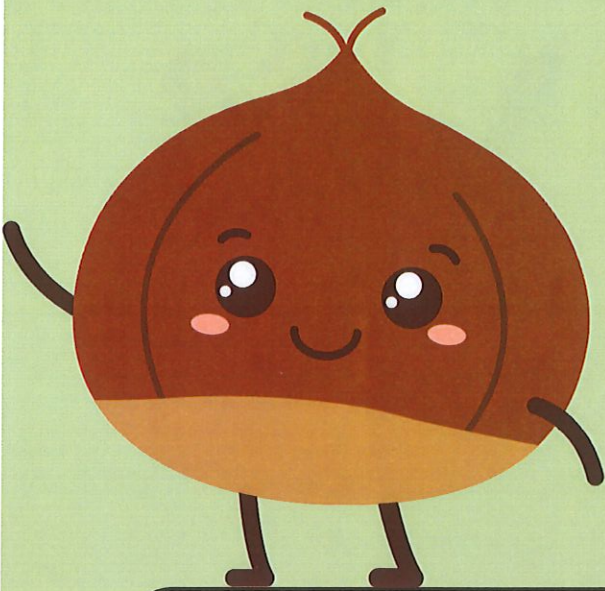
Loved your learning this week goes to Elena. Elena listened and followed instructions beautifully when helping to plant a tree with Miss Wilson and Mrs Gatenby. Well done Elena.



Caught You Caring

This week Luna was Caught Caring. Luna was being kind to another child when they were upset. Luna read the child a story and made them feel better. Well done Luna!





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

In English this week we have been busy continuing to write stories. In our reading lessons we have been learning about Skara Brae. In maths we are still learning about Place Value and have been comparing and ordering numbers this week. In science the children learned about Mary Anning who was a really important person in science with regards to fossils. In RE the children were learning about commitment and Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs. In PSHE the children were talking about friendship and what makes a good friend. They all worked together to create a lovely friendship chain.

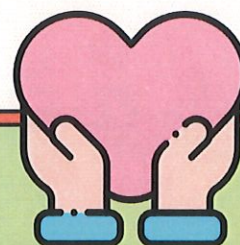
Love Your Learning

Loved your learning this week goes to Lily-Belle. Lily-Belle has impressed me with her hard work and enthusiasm for Berlesduna's 10th Birthday. She has completed all of the activities with happiness, enthusiasm and lots of colour. Well done Lily-Belle!



Caught You Caring

This week Phoebe was caught caring. Phoebe was being kind and offering her sheet when the last one had been taken and none were left. Well done Phoebe.





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class, we have focused on explanation of information in the text in our reading lessons and have learnt how to infer information from the clues given using the method, I see, I notice, I think and I infer. In maths, we been learning about multiples of numbers and learning rules to quickly identify if a larger number is a multiple of certain integers. In Spanish, we have learnt how to ask and answer the question, what day is it today? In history, we have begun our learning about Black History Month and learnt the chronology of HMT Empire Windrush. Our RE lesson was looking at Pascal's Wager and the inferred cost and benefit of believing in a god, if one does or doesn't exist. PSHE has focussed on being respectfully assertive and in art we have continued our 'dead space' pieces.

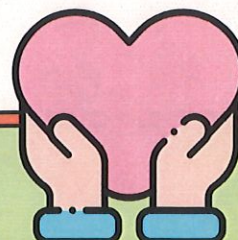
Love Your Learning

Oak's love your learning achiever this week is Tommy-George. Tommy-George has worked incredibly hard and shown a fantastic attitude to his learning. He has put a great deal of effort into his work and produced an excellent Windrush timeline, which was carefully completed and accurately sequenced. Well done, Tommy-George.



Caught You Caring

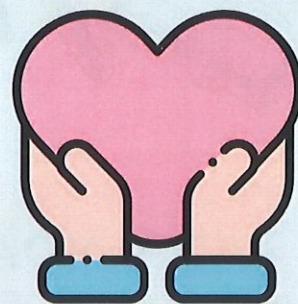
This week Henry was caught caring. Henry volunteered to keep another child company during lunch break on Wednesday. Well done Henry!





Caught you Caring

Teachers and staff are invited to submit the names of pupils they "catch caring" along with a brief description of the act of kindness they observed. These moments will then be shared and celebrated, helping to reinforce our school values and inspire others to follow their example.



Reece Murphy

Reece was caught caring volunteering to help with the Trust birthday celebrations.

Well done Reece!

Lily-Belle Thorne

Lily-Belle was caught caring when she offered her last bite of her snack to an adult. Well done Lily-Belle!

Lexie Mead

Lexie was caught caring when another child had hurt themselves. Lexie asked them if they would like her to sit with them until they felt better. Well done Lexie!

Lexie Mead

Lexie was caught caring when she noticed another child had hurt themselves she took herself off to get him his drink.

Well done Lexie!

George Smith

George was caught caring helping another child take off their wellie boots and put them back in the box after Forest School.

Well done George!





Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	88%
Year 1	92%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	88%

TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is: **92%**

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **91.43%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **47**



LATENESS



Collective Worship will be held at 9.05am each morning and attended by all staff, including the office staff. It is important that your child arrives on time for school. If they arrive after 9.05am then you will need to wait with your child until Collective Worship has finished at 9.20am as there will not be any staff to let them in. Collective Worship is a legal entitlement in a Church of England school and a time of reflection and respect.

STUDYBUGS

If your child is absent from school please:

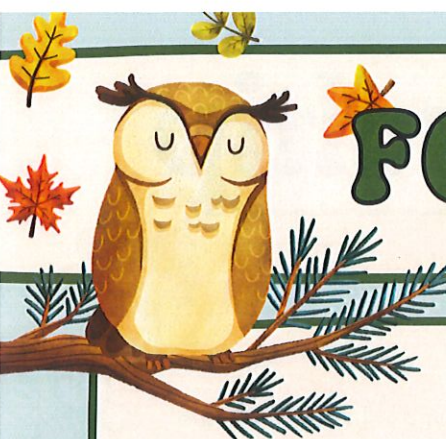
- Contact the school via Studybugs on the first day of absence before 9.00am . (This is our preferred method of communication for sickness absence)
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00am;
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible.

If you haven't already, please download the free studybugs app, or register on the studybugs website and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

The tool helps us to know sooner if your child is unaccounted for. It is quick and easy to register and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. Please use the following link to register:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office





FOREST SCHOOL

THIS WEEK



This week at Forest School, the children enjoyed creating their very own nature bracelets. They used card with double-sided tape wrapped around their wrists and then carefully collected leaves, flowers, grasses and other natural treasures to stick onto their bracelets. The children showed lots of creativity as they chose different colours, shapes and textures to make their bracelets unique and beautiful. They also spent time doing artwork in their Forest School journals, recording and celebrating some of the things they have enjoyed during their sessions.

There was plenty of opportunity for imaginative play and exploration too. The children worked together to build shelters using tarps, ropes and tent pegs, thinking carefully about how to make their structures secure. They also enjoyed spending time in the mud kitchen, creating all sorts of imaginative recipes and concoctions, as well as going on bug hunts around the Forest School area to see what small creatures they could discover.

As part of the Berlesduna 10-year celebration, the children also took part in some special planting activities. We planted lots of tulip and snowdrop bulbs around the Forest School area, which will hopefully bring lots of colour and interest when they appear in the spring. We also spent time tidying the allotment ready to plant a new apple tree, which was kindly purchased with money donated by Rev Jacqui. The children enjoyed being involved in caring for and developing our outdoor space and are looking forward to watching everything grow over the coming seasons.

A fantastic week of outdoor fun again St Mary's, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear enjoyed his weekend with Hazel from Acorn class last week and is now looking forward to going home with Luna C, also from Acorn class. Luna's love for the outdoors shines through in everything that she does at forest school. She gets involved in all the activities and has shown real creativity as well. Luna seems to be a popular little girl in her class and has made a lovely friendship with one little girl in particular. She is a kind and considerate friend to that little girl and it is lovely to see at such a young age. Well done Luna, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



Collective Worship

This week...

Rev Jacqui led a wonderful collective worship with the children, exploring the theme of faith through the story of the mustard seed.

She began by showing the children a tiny mustard seed and inviting them to think about how something so small could possibly grow into something much bigger. The children considered how, despite its tiny beginnings, a mustard seed can grow into a large plant or tree with big leaves, providing shade and shelter for others.

Rev Jacqui explained that this is a wonderful picture of what faith can be like. Sometimes our faith may feel very small. We might have questions, worries or doubts, and we may not always feel that our faith is very strong. However, just like the tiny mustard seed, faith can grow. With care, patience and time, something that begins very small can become strong and make a real difference.

She also reminded the children that mustard itself has a very strong flavour, despite coming from such a tiny seed. This provided another lovely way of thinking about faith: something does not have to be big to be powerful. A small act of kindness, a simple prayer, a word of encouragement or choosing to help someone can have a much greater impact than we might imagine.

The children were encouraged to think about the things that help our faith to grow. Just as a seed needs the right conditions to grow — water, light, nourishment and care — our faith also needs nurturing. Spending time praying, learning about God, listening to Bible stories, being kind to others and being part of a loving community can all help our faith to grow stronger.

Rev Jacqui then connected this to the way a growing tree can provide shade and shelter for others. As our faith grows, it should not only benefit us; it can also become something that supports and encourages the people around us. We can become like the tree — offering friendship, kindness, comfort and a safe place for others when they need it.

The Bible reminds us of this in Jesus' words about the mustard seed:

"Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree." — Matthew 13:32

The children were reminded that Jesus used the mustard seed to show that great things can come from very small beginnings. We do not need to have perfect or enormous faith. Even a little faith can grow when we nurture it and put it into practice.

The worship finished with the children reflecting on their own "little seeds" — the small things they could do each day to help their faith grow and to make a difference to someone else. They were encouraged to remember that every large tree begins with a tiny seed, and that sometimes the smallest beginnings can grow into something beautiful, strong and able to provide shelter for others.

Key message:

Our faith may sometimes feel as small as a mustard seed, but when we nurture it, it can grow strong and make a difference to the lives of others.



UPCOMING EVENTS

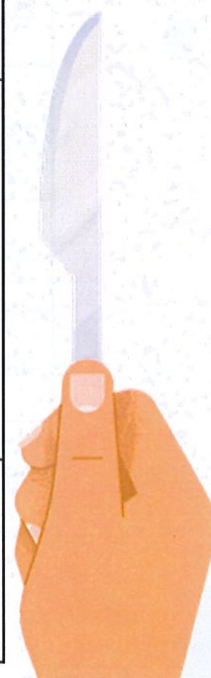
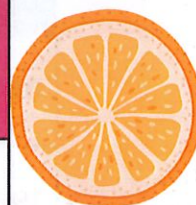
Date	Activity	Who
08.10.26	Trust Poetry Slam Celebration	Selected pupils
19-23.10.26	No after school clubs this week	Multiskills to run as usual
19.10.26	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm–6.00pm	No clubs
20.10.26	Open Day—09:30–11:00	Non SEND Prospective Parent Tour
20.10.26	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm–5.00pm	No clubs
21.10.26	Parent / Child Consultations 3.30pm–5.00pm	No clubs
23.10.26	Harvest Festival Yr 6 pupils to present care home with food hamper	All welcome 2pm -3pm
26-30.10.26	Half Term	Whole Shool
02.11.26	Trust Inset Day	Whole Shool
09.11.26	School Photos	Whole School

NEW TERM MENU

This is our new Autumn Term menu which begins on 3rd September and runs through to taking us right up to October half term. This is now published on ParentPay for bookings. We work a week in advance for bookings. The deadline for bookings is 12pm Friday for the following week.



	Meat-free Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Tomato and basil pasta V with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Pitta bread pizza with cheese V or ham with potato wedges and side salad or Cheese / ham baguette	Roast chicken or Quorn fillet V with roast potatoes, veg and gravy or Cheese / ham baguette	Cheesy ham and broccoli pasta or Cheesy broccoli pasta V Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Sausage Chips and Beans, or Quorn Sausages Chips and Beans V Cheese / ham / tuna baguette
	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Baked treat
Week 2	Cheese and tomato pasta V with garlic bread and side salad or Cheese / tuna baguette	Fish Fingers, Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn or Veggie Fingers V or ham with potato wedges and side salad or Cheese / ham baguette	Sausage roast or Quorn sausage roast V or Cheese / ham baguette	Meatball or no meat ball V pasta bake with salad or Cheese / ham baguette or Jacket potato with cheese / beans / tuna	Chicken nuggets or Quorn nuggets V with potato wedges and beans or Cheese / ham / tuna baguette
	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Fruit & yoghurt	Baked treat





Clubs

Autumn Term After School Clubs Sept - Dec 2026

We are delighted to confirm that we will be providing the Clubs below from September 2026.

Clubs will run up to W/C Monday 12th October.

Please note – No Clubs W/C Monday 19th
October due to parent / teacher conferences
with the exception of Multi Skills Club!

KS1 & KS2 Multi Skills Club – Monday 3.15pm – 4.00pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mr Thomas. Please book direct with Mr Thomas as per the flyer.

KS1 & KS2 Film Club – Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Carlier. Currently full, with a waiting list.

KS1 & KS2 Lego Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Richardson. Currently full, with a waiting list.

Year 6 Tutoring Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for Year 6 and will be run by Mr Austin. (This will be managed in groups throughout the year).

KS1 & KS2 Coding Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mr Gatenby. We have spaces available on this club.



Friends of St Mary's School - FOSMS



Welcome to the Autumn Term!

Autumn inspires reflection, change, and beauty, reminding us to embrace transformation and the richness of life.

Welcome Friends!

Our AGM is Coming Up!

Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place this Autumn, with the date to be confirmed very soon.

The AGM is a great opportunity to look back on what FOSMS has achieved over the past year, share plans and ideas for the year ahead, and elect our committee for 2026/27.

Last year was a hugely positive one for FOSMS, with **over £18,000 of investment** secured for St Mary's through fundraising, grants and wider support for the school community. We're excited to keep building on that momentum in the year ahead.

This year, the following committee roles will be available:

Chair • Vice Chair • Treasurer • Vice Treasurer • Secretary

You do not need previous PTA experience to get involved – just an interest in supporting the school and being part of a friendly team.

If you might be interested in one of the roles, would like to know more about what is involved, or would simply like an informal chat, please do get in touch. We would be very happy to hear from you.

[✉ contact@fosms.co.uk](mailto:contact@fosms.co.uk)

Coins in a Jar

Coins in a Jar is back! Will Acorn Class be the victors for a third year running??

Any spare change you have please do give it to your child to bring in and pop in their class bottle. As always the winning class have their funds matched up to £100!

Can you help?

As always, we can only run our fun events and raise money for our school with help from volunteers. If you feel you could spare a few hours or share some new ideas over the course of the school year to lend a hand, we would love to hear from you!

contact@fosms.co.uk



BERLESDUNA
ACADEMY TRUST

BERLESDUNA VACANCIES

MARCH 2026



<https://www.berlesduna.co.uk/information/vacancies/>

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We expect all staff and volunteers to share our commitment. All successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance and satisfactory references. We are an equal opportunities employer.

Fairhouse Primary School

Learning Support Assistant / SEN Support (Fixed term contract)
Applications close 9th October 2026. Interviews 15th October 2026.

Merrylands Primary School and Nursery

Class Teacher (Fixed Term Contract) x 2. Applications close 27th September 2026. Interviews 5th October 2026.

Whitmore Primary School and Nursery

Midday Assistant. Applications close 28th September 2026.
Interviews 5th October 2026.

Class Teacher (part-time). Applications close 5th October 2026.
Interviews week commencing 11th October 2026.



