

Dear Parents and Carers

I hardly dare say it, but November is almost behind us and there are only 28 sleeps until Christmas – I am reliably informed of this by several already over excited pupils!

We have begun our preparations in school for the Christmas Events coming up and you will see that our fabulous PSA stalwart and general creative genius, Vic Parsons, has created the most amazing upcycled Christmas tree for the front of school.

However, we have been busy with learning and playing over the last few weeks. Here are some of the highlights:

The PSA held a magical event back in the first week of term; postponed due to illness the delay didn't dampen the spirits and much "muggle magic and mayhem" was had. Thanks to everyone who made this possible, these events bring us all together to share some fun, laughter and hot chocolate, all whilst raising essential funds for school.



Love – Honesty – Forgiveness – Respect
Do to others a you would have them do to you – Luke 6:31

St Michael's marked Remembrance Sunday by attending the Rye Parade and service at St Mary's Church. I was accompanied by Mrs Isted and Heads of House, Isobel and Flo. They laid a wreath at the memorial following the service on behalf of us all at St Michael's. It was good to see so familiar faces at the service, representing their extra curricular groups.



We then came together as a school to mark the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in a short service on the playground. Pupils sang a song of remembrance, listened respectfully to In Flanders Fields and the Last Post, and show great respect during the two minutes silenced, signalled by the maroon from the town.



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As a school we joined in the fun of Children in Need week by learning, or at least attempting to, the Strictly 25 Step Dance Challenge. The dancing was the subject of much hilarity, some groaning from older pupils and an awful lot of mistimed steps! However, we had fun in our twinkly outfits and raised a magnificent £249.



We talked in our Collective Worship about how young people are affected in different ways by difficulties, including illness (their own or close relatives), poverty, bereavement, family discord. Pupils were keen to express their desire to take part and make life easier for other children less fortunate than they.



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Next, a huge thank you to parents and staff who gave up their Saturday morning to help improve the school grounds. We recycled and upcycled items and timber into a couple of stages for playground performances, defined learning areas for Explorers' outdoor learning area, amongst other things. With school budgets as tough as they are in the current climate, every bit of help like this ensures we can improve the school to enhance pupils learning and play.



We will be holding further "Ground Force" days as the year goes on, if you can spare your time it would be very much appreciated.



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Now to some exciting learning in Explorers' Class. This term they have been looking at Celebrations. This week they have been preparing for a birthday party. They have written invitations, shopping lists and birthday cards. All this work culminated in a joyous birthday party today, they learned traditional party games, decorated cakes (and ate them!) and generally had an excellent day!



I'm sure I don't remember my school days being this much fun!



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Finally, there are some upcoming dates to note. I have updated the dates for your diary, with everything I currently have in the diary until the end of the year – there will, of course, be additions as the year goes on, but please take note of the key dates.

Next week we will be welcoming Preschool friends to a Christmas Craft Afternoon on Tuesday from 1.30pm – if you have preschoolers or know of any that might like to come along, please spread the word. We look forward to welcoming you all.

It's not long until the PSA Christmas Workshop, which is going to be an amazing event from the details I have heard. Next Friday, 5th December, will be a MUFTI day, if your child(ren) wish to wear home clothes for the day payment will be in the form of Christmas food and drink donations. Thank you.

Also attached, is an event being hosted at Rye Swimming Pool which you may be interested in.

As we enter the season of Advent we reflect on why we are celebrating this important Christian festival. Mother Teresa offered some wise words:

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?
Mark the season of Advent by
loving and serving the others with
God's own love and concern."



Regards

Fay Churchill



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Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Time
Preschool Christmas Craft Afternoon	Tuesday 2 nd December	1.30pm
Innovators Class trip to Shakespeare's Globe	Wednesday 3 rd December	All day
MUFTI day for PSA Christmas Fair	Friday 5 th December	All day
Nativity (Explorers and Enquirers)	Wednesday 10 th December	2pm
Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime @ Peasmarsh School	Thursday 11 th December	tbc
Christmas Jumper day and lunch	Wednesday 17 th December	All day
Explorers and Enquirers Carol Singing @ St Bartholomews	Wednesday 17 th December	pm
PSA Christmas Workshop	Thursday 18 th December	3pm
Carol Service in St Michael's Church, Playden	Friday 19 th December	1.30pm
Last Day of Term 2 – collect from church	Friday 19 th December	Pick up from 2.45pm
INSET day	Monday 5 th January	All day
First Day of Term 3	Tuesday 6 th January	All day
CLASS+ Coffee afternoon	Tuesday 13 th January	1.30–3pm
Celebration Afternoon	Thursday 15 th January	2pm
Last Day of Term 3	Friday 13 th February	All day
First Day of Term 4	Monday 23 rd February	All day
God and the Big Bang @ Peasmarsh	Thursday 5 th March	All day
Easter Service in St Michael's Church, Playden	Friday 27 th March	1.30pm
Last Day of Term 4 – collect from church	Friday 27 th March	Pick up from 2.45pm
First Day of Term 5	Monday 13 th April	All day
Celebration Afternoon	Wednesday 15 th April	2pm
Last Day of Term 5	Friday 22 nd May	All day
INSET Day	Monday 1 st June	All day
First Day of Term 6	Tuesday 2 nd June	All day



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Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Time
Diocesan Leavers' Service (pupils & staff only)	Tuesday 19 th June	10.30am
Sports Day	Friday 19 th June	1.30pm
Peasmarsh Chamber Musci Festival Performance	Friday 26 th June	Tbc
Leavers Service in St Michael's Church, Playden	Tuesday 21 st July	1.30pm
Last Day of Term 6 – collect from church	Tuesday 21 st July	Pick up from 2.45pm



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PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CRAFT AFTERNOON

TUESDAY 2ND
DECEMBER

1.30 –
2.30 PM

All local pre-schoolers (Aged 2-5) are warmly invited to join us
with their parents for a festive Stay & Play Christmas Craft Session
- full of St Michael's sparkle!

Come and explore our Early Years environment, meet
our wonderful staff, and get into the Christmas spirit
with plenty of creative fun!

Call 01797 280277 or email
office@playdenschool.com to book
your free place

ALL
WELCOME!

Starting School in 2026?



We'd love to welcome you to our vibrant, inclusive environment to learn more about how your child could grow and belong in our nurturing Church School community.

- **Every child is known, valued & cared for**
- **Support tailored to every child's needs**
- **Rich opportunities beyond the classroom**
- **Guided by our values of love, honesty, forgiveness & respect**

OPEN DAYS

- Tue 30th September
- Thu 16th October
- Wed 12th November
- Tue 9th December
- Thu 8th January

All visits start at 9.30am
You can also contact us to
arrange a 1:1 tour

**BOOK
NOW**

01797 280277
office@playdenschool.com



“Pupils enjoy learning at this warm and friendly school. They feel happy and safe. One pupil, reflecting the views of many, said, “The best thing about the school is that we look after each other”.

Ofsted, 2025



PSA FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY 18TH
DECEMBER
3.15PM



Christmas

★ WORKSHOP ★

CREATE YOUR OWN DECORATION
DECORATE GINGERBREAD
MIX UP SOME REINDEER FOOD

plus Hot Dogs & Refreshments,
Cake Sale & Tombola,
Silly Santa Photo Booth
and more!

Please note children will need
to be accompanied by an adult.





SPLASHMAS PARTY

SANTA HAS ARRIVED AND IS
READY TO SPREAD
SPLASHMAS CHEER

5 PM - 7 PM

£5 ENTRY

FRIDAY
5TH
DECEMBER

School Uniform

At St. Michael's we take pride in our uniform and expect all children to wear the correct school uniform as follows:

General uniform:

- Burgundy jumper or cardigan (school badge preferred, but optional)
- Grey skirt, pinafore or culottes
- Grey trousers or shorts
- White polo shirt (school badge preferred, but optional)
- Black shoes with appropriate fastening. No trainers, sling-backs or boots.

Summer wear:

- Red gingham dress
- White polo shirt (school badge preferred, but optional) and grey skirt or shorts

PE kit:

- Coloured T-shirt according to the pupil's House assignment. May be blue, green, yellow or red (school badge preferred, but optional)
- Black shorts
- Black joggers
- Black plimsolls or sports trainers

PE Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Investigators	Investigators	Innovators
Innovators	Explorers & Enquirers	Investigators	Explorers & Enquirers	Innovators

Extra-Curricular Provision

Please note that access to After School Extra-Curricular Provision is only available by booking through Arbor.

Activity	Day	Provider	Time	Cost (if applicable)
Youth Club	Monday	School	3.30 – 4.30	£4
Drama Club	Tuesday	School	3.30 – 4.30	N/A
Sports Club	Wednesday	School	3.30-4.30	N/A
Rugby Tots	Thursday	Rugby Tots	3.30-4.30	N/A
Multi-sports	Friday	School	3.30 – 4.30	N/A

Contact emails:

head@playdenschool.com

office@playdenschool.com

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding please speak to:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Fay Churchill
- Vicky Isted



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Road Usage

This statement is for vehicle drivers who use the lane outside school.

- Parking directly opposite the school gate, adjacent to staff cars, either partially or wholly, creates a pinch point at the site where pupils need to access and exit the school. Any double parking is not permitted.
- Parking on the Yellow lines or in the bus stop is not permitted.
- Careful navigation, at an appropriate pace, is necessary to ensure the lane is a safe environment for all users.
- All who use the lane do so considerately and with the safety and wellbeing of pedestrians as our utmost priority.

An accident outside school or in the lane could, potentially, be fatal.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.



Call us on **01323 464655**

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday: 8:30am -5:00pm

Friday: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Introducing the Consultation Advice Line and Team Around The Family!

Family First is changing the way services are delivered to children and families in East Sussex.

This means families getting help earlier, before difficulties become baked in.

What is the Consultation Advice Line?

The Consultation Advice Line is for early help and professional guidance, offering support with concerns at an early stage before they escalate – providing advice, reassurance and help with assessments and planning when more support is needed.

How is this different from SPoA?

SPoA is for raising safeguarding referrals when you are worried about a child's welfare, believe they may be at risk of harm or think they are in immediate danger.

For safeguarding issues, please continue to use SPoA.

How the Consultation Advice Line supports professionals

We have already launched a Consultation Advice Line – 01323 464655 - giving all professionals in education, health, the voluntary and community sector, and the police access to expert guidance from our highly skilled Senior Keyworkers .

Families can get help on that number too.

If it becomes clear that a family needs more joined-up support, this is when a **Team Around the Family Coordinator** can get involved to link the right people together.

The good news is we're already starting to receive calls and actively supporting professionals in getting help to families earlier.

We're here to help you, help families

You might call to talk something through or get some reassurance that you're on the right track with the advice you're offering, but your conversation could also reveal that a family needs support from other professionals.



For instance, a child who is absent from school may come from a home where there are mental health issues, unemployment and serious financial challenges that are contributing to the stresses and strains leading to their non-attendance.

These multiple challenges could prompt a referral, via the Consultation Advice Line, to a **Team Around the Family (TAF) Coordinator**. TAF Coordinators work alongside you. They can help you make an assessment and create a plan which could include support from professionals in health, education, the voluntary sector and the police, as well as the extended family and friend network.

As the person who sees the child or family most regularly, you may be best placed to be the lead professional (Family First Adviser). This doesn't mean taking on more work, as you'll have the full support of the TAF Coordinator. They will bring the right professionals together and manage the wider support around the plan, giving you more time to be available for the family.

Meet the Team Around the Family

The Team Around the Family (TAF) offers a holistic approach, wholly focussed on how to make life better for children and their families. It's headed up by two highly experienced Senior TAF Coordinators: Lucy Dean, (West) on the left, and Samantha Mills (East). They lead a team of TAF Coordinators, and they are ready to support you.



Get in touch

Call the Consultation Advice Line on **01323 464655**.

Monday to Thursday: 8:30am – 5:00pm

Friday: 8:30am – 4:30pm

To request a Consultation Advice Referral Form please email:

CS.ConsultationAdviceLine@eastsussex.gov.uk or visit [Consultation Advice Line for Professionals | Family Hubs](#)

The advice line is also available to families, so please share this number with parents and carers.

A quick reminder why transforming services is vital ...

Family First has been designed to transform the way services which support children and families are delivered.



Family First
Relationships for change

Too many families in East Sussex face challenges alone, from financial hardship and mental health difficulties to isolation and a lack of wider family support. This makes it harder for parents to care for their children and for young people to feel safe, happy and able to thrive.

Families also struggle to know what services are available in the community or how to navigate them. This either leaves professionals overstretched as they take on extra work, or results in families missing out on the support they need altogether.

When all professionals work in a more joined-up way around the family, we can provide a better service for vulnerable children and free up capacity across services.

The current system is unsustainable

ESCC has one of the highest numbers of child protection plans in the region and a higher rate of children in care. More children and families are entering the statutory system because they have not received the right support early enough. This approach is costly and unsustainable.

The reality is change is not just necessary – it's vital.

The government has set out its Plan for Change.

Both the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill and the Department for Education's Families First Partnership Programme aim to improve support for children and families across England.

The plan demands that children live safely, and child poverty is addressed to give every young person the necessary foundations for the best start in life.

In East Sussex, with our Family First programme, we're tackling the need for earlier help first.

To find out more:

We will be sending out further briefings, but please take a look at:

- [Family First Programme | East Sussex County Council](#)
- [Consultation Advice Line for Professionals | Family Hubs](#)

Or for further queries, you can email us at:

CS.ConsultationAdviceLine@eastsussex.gov.uk