



On Our Patch

Patcham Junior Newsletter

May 2026

**Acting Headteacher:
Mark Rodericks**

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Forthcoming Events:

- * School starts again on Tuesday 2nd June
- * Year 3 Trip to Bignor Villa - 11th June
- * Year 5 Trip to Wakehurst - 16th June
- * Year 4 Trips to Stanmer Park - 16th, 17th 19th June
- * Withdean Athletics - 18th June
- * High School Musical Performances
- * Sports Day - 8th July
- * Summer Concert - 14th July

MESSAGE FROM MR RODERICKS

It is with great excitement that I am writing my first newsletter as Acting Head Teacher. When Mr Sutherland told me it was “only 65 days”, the countdown of acting headship really stuck in my head. However, to be truthful, I have enjoyed every moment.

I want to say a particular thank you to Mrs Stingone, my Acting Deputy Head Teacher — she is simply brilliant. She has brought inspiration, passion, energy, and years of teaching experience to the role. I should also add that Rocket has not enjoyed moving to a larger office, so Mrs Stingone has kindly allowed him to stay put in hers.

So, what have we been up to this term? To be truthful, the first half of the summer term has been rather busy. With newfound power at our fingertips, both Mrs Stingone and I have been keen not to just keep things ticking over — we wanted to make changes around the school. We hope you’ve noticed them because we feel they have really had an impact.

We’ve also had many wonderful events and have been blessed with lovely weather, which means the last few weeks have absolutely whizzed by. I really can’t believe we are already approaching the half-term break.

As always, I hope you can all make the most of the extended half-term break, as it is sandwiched between two INSET days on Friday 22nd May and Monday 1st June. I hope you take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your family, especially as there is also a Bank Holiday Monday in the middle of it all too.

The school team will definitely be aiming to take a well-earned break, and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 2nd June for the second half of the summer term.

Have an enjoyable holiday,

Mr Rodericks



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Listen up, Wildcats! This summer, PJS will be performing High School Musical! The show tells the story of Troy and Gabriella who, despite being the superstars of the Jocks and the Brainiacs, long to defy expectations and audition for the school musical. Rehearsals are now in full swing and the children have been working extremely hard learning all their lines as well as the music and choreography. Mrs Bogaru, our director extraordinaire, could rival Ms Darbus for creative flair and, with the help of our amazing teacher/parent volunteers - not to mention our fabulous cast! - the show promises to be better than even Sharpay can imagine!

It's Hard to Believe that we only have five weeks until curtain up! Whether you consider yourself a Jock, Brainiac, Thesbian or Cheerleader, there's something for everyone in this Disney classic! So don't Stick to the Status Quo, try Breaking Free and book your tickets now via the uniform shop! We're Counting on You! We're All in This Together!

Showtimes: Wed 24th June, 6pm;
Thurs 25th June, 6pm; Friday
26th June; 1:15pm and 6pm

PATCHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL PRESENTS

Disney
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
JR

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24TH 6PM
THURSDAY JUNE 25TH 6PM
FRIDAY JUNE 26TH AT 1.15PM AND 6PM

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE

BOOK BY DAVID SIMPATICO AND SONGS BY MATTHEW GERRARD



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Dates for your diary here

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DIG DAY

What a glorious sunny Dig Day on 18th April!

We've unearthed steps, mosaics, sculptures and a thriving, passionate, joyful School Community, together with the PTA and the Outdoor Project!

Within a few hours we were able to completely transform the Millenium Trail! As you may know, we have great plans for the next future:

A Kitchen Garden, a green Play Area, a permanent weekly Forest School and Outdoor Classroom, an Eco Club, a School Orchard, a new Hex with wheel-chair-accessible second Outdoor Classroom...and maybe a Pond and a Tree House!



HINDLEAP WARREN YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Earlier in April, 76 of our Year 6's enjoyed the three-day residential trip to Hindleap situated near Forest Row on the edge of Ashdown Forest. We were blessed with beautiful weather and the children enjoyed a range of activities, including, the climbing wall, archery, zip wire and forest walk which was very muddy! We enjoyed excellent food and some of us were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of deer on the night walk and toasted marshmallows around the camp fire. All children were sound asleep by 9:30 on the second night which just shows how much enthusiasm they had put into the activities. A great time was had by all!

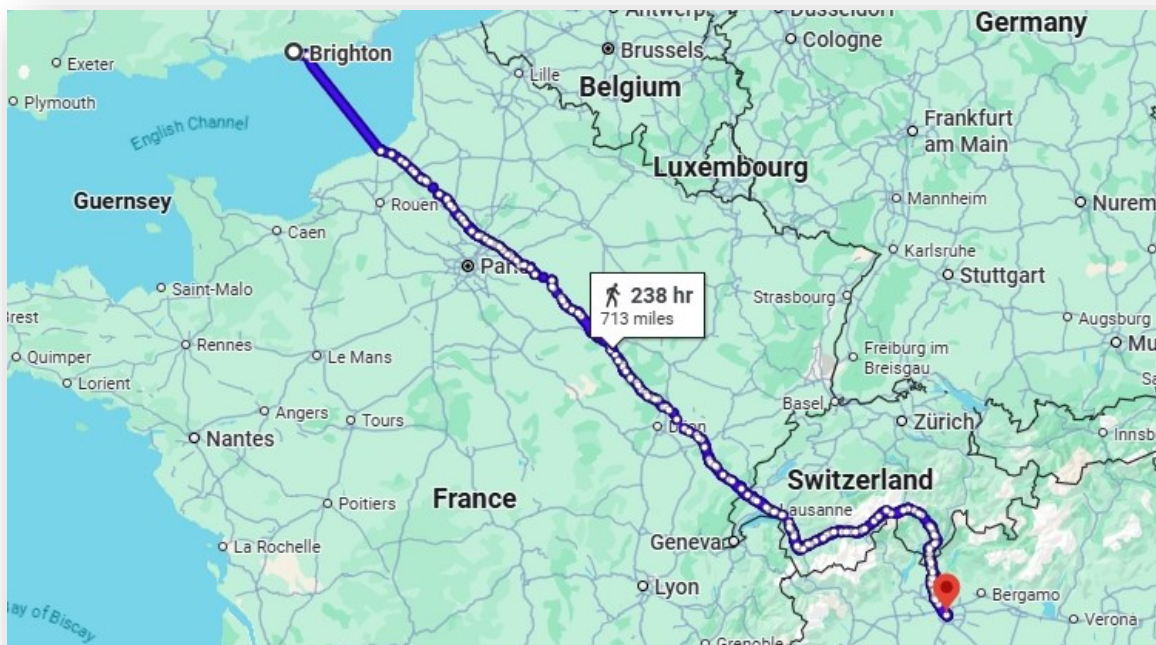


Children taking part in JOLF (junior golf) sessions have shown great enthusiasm and enjoyment while developing their skills. Through a mix of fun activities and structured practice, they've worked on key fundamentals improving their accuracy and confidence. The supportive environment has encouraged them to learn at their own pace, build friendships, and grow their love for a new skill. It's been rewarding to see their progress and excitement each week as they continue to develop both their JOLF ability and teamwork skills.

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Miles to Milan's Funds

After the big success of Mile to Milan, we'd like to let you know that the money we have raised (£1,400) has gone towards Breaktime equipment for all children (3 x badminton nets, 3 x bowling skittles, 3 x cornhole) and we will be talking to the School Council to get ideas from them on how to spend the rest.



A M B A S S A D O R



We've introduced in school the Ambassador Tokens. We've talked in class about what it means to be an Ambassador and each week we have a different focus: holding doors open, greeting people, keeping the corridors tidy...

Children have really taken this on board and what a difference it made already!

All staff carry Ambassador Tokens on them (a tiny pom-pom) and award them whenever they spot a child showing these positive behaviours. The children then put the pompoms on a class tube next to the Office. Pompoms are counted every Friday morning and the winning class earns an extra break on Friday afternoon.

So far, 4JW, 5CS, 5JF were Ambassador winners! Well done!!

T O K E N

During the term we will keep a running total of the class with the most ambassador tokens. The class with greatest number of tokens is going to get a class trip. There has been money donated by the friends of Patcham Junior School for this

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CAN YOU GUESS THE AMBASSADOR TREAT:

Clue 1: I am a sport played with a large ball.

Clue 2: Players hit the ball over a tall net using their hands and arms

Clue 3: Teams work together to stop the ball from touching the ground on their side. What am I?

(See final page for the answer...)

We have been ambassadors in lots of ways...

The netball team took part in a tournament on Monday after school. Sophia, Sophie, Stanley, Anna, Sylvie, Arlo, Nate and Lily represented the school brilliantly! We actually came 2nd overall!

Beat Hove Juniors 6-0
Lost to windmills 0-2
Beat Holy Trinity 2-0
Beat Balfour 4-2
Beat Albourne 7-1
Lost to Goldstone 2-6



We also raised
some money for
charity!

Year 6 SATs Week is officially over!

For many children, the thought of SATs can feel overwhelming in the build-up to the tests. Families who have been through Year 6 before will know just how much preparation goes into the weeks and months beforehand, and despite all our reassurance, the idea of a whole “week of tests” can still seem quite intimidating for the children.

In reality, however, the experience is often much calmer and more manageable than they expect — and sometimes even enjoyable in its own strange way! That does not take away from the fact that it is still an important week, and I could not be prouder of how our Year 6 children approached every challenge with maturity, resilience, and positivity.

While I have never been a fan of the high-pressure nature of SATs, or the league tables and comparisons that often fail to tell the full story of a school or its children, I do recognise the tremendous effort that goes into the process from everyone involved. This week, our Year 6 pupils showed determination, courage, and an excellent attitude throughout.

I would also like to say how incredibly proud we are of the rest of the school community. During the four test mornings, all of the other children were exceptionally respectful, thoughtful, and considerate in helping to maintain the calm and quiet environment needed for the assessments to take place smoothly.

Behind the scenes, an enormous amount of organisation goes into SATs week to ensure that every procedure is followed carefully and, most importantly, that every child is given the best possible opportunity to demonstrate their skills in reading, maths, spelling, and grammar. For some children, this includes additional time or support from adults who can help by reading questions where appropriate.

Thank you as well to all of our families for your support, encouragement, and help in getting the children ready each morning throughout the week.

One of the highlights of the week had to be the beautiful handmade “Worry Monsters” created by Mrs Simpson for every single child in Year 6. They were an instant hit and brought comfort, smiles, and reassurance at exactly the right time.

Now that the tests are behind us for another year, we can refocus on the many other talents, qualities, and characteristics that make our young people so special — things that no test paper could ever truly measure. We are looking forward to spending the rest of the summer term enjoying exciting, meaningful, and memorable learning experiences together.

Thank you again for all of your support.



Sponsored Read Fundraiser – Message from the Friends Of Patcham Junior School and Mrs Sutherland

Our final big fundraiser of the year will be our Sponsored Read. We are excited to get the children involved in celebrating reading while raising money for the school.

We know this time of year can feel very busy, so participation is flexible. Families can donate online or take part using sponsor forms.

Our love of reading continues to grow, and we are asking for your support to help keep that momentum going.

Accelerated Reader has become a hugely valued part of school life. By helping children choose books suited to their reading level, it builds confidence, strengthens comprehension, and encourages a genuine enjoyment of reading. We have seen children make fantastic progress in their reading, vocabulary, and writing, while also developing real pride in their achievements through quizzes, word counts, and reading milestones.

However, Accelerated Reader is a costly resource and, with increasing pressure on school budgets, we are asking for support towards the running costs of the programme this year.

We strongly believe that losing Accelerated Reader would have a significant impact on our children's literacy development, and we are determined to do all we can to continue providing this valuable resource.

Every contribution, no matter how small, will go directly towards renewing the licence and supporting our children's reading journeys.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and generosity.

Sponsor forms are available to print off, and the JustGiving page is now live until 12th June.

DATE	EVENT
21 ST MAY - 12 TH JUNE	SPONSORED READ
24 TH , 25 TH , 26 TH JUNE	PATCHAM JUNIOR PRODUCTION HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
WEDS 8 TH JULY	SPORTS DAY
TUES 14 TH JULY	SUMMER CONCERT
MON 20 TH JULY	YEAR SIX LEAVERS DISCO WE NEED A TEAM OF PARENTS TO ORGANISE AND LEAD THIS EVENT FOR IT TO GO AHEAD, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP



Support Our Children's Love of Reading

For our final sponsored event of the year, the school has asked for our support in raising funds to help continue providing Accelerated Reader — a highly valued resource that plays an important role in our children's learning and love of reading.

As many of you know, Accelerated Reader has become one of the most cherished and impactful resources in our school. It is much more than just a computer program; it is a vital tool that transforms how our children interact with books. By matching pupils with books that perfectly match their reading levels, it builds immense confidence, challenges their comprehension, and turns reading from a daily task into an exciting personal adventure.

Because we believe so strongly that our children cannot afford to lose this program, **we are reaching out to ask if you can help us with the running costs this year. Without this collective support, we face the very real risk of losing Accelerated Reader entirely.** Losing it would mean a major step backward for our pupils' literacy development, and we want to do everything in our power to prevent that. Every contribution, no matter how small, goes directly toward securing the license for another year and keeping our children on their wonderful reading journeys. Let's work together to ensure our children don't lose the resource they love so much. Thank you for your continued generosity, partnership, and dedication to our children's education.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO CONTRIBUTE

[Patcham Junior Sponsored Read - JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/patchamjuniorslovetoread)



CIRCUS IS COMING INTO TOWN!

... and the answer is...

Yellowwave Day Out
playing beach volley!

21st July 2026

