



# On Our Patch

Patcham Junior Newsletter



December 2025

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**Alister Sutherland**

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## Forthcoming Events:

- \* End of Autumn Term
- \* Spring Term begins:

Monday 5th January  
Have a wonderful Christmas break!



It's the most wonderful time of the year, so we're told—and it most certainly has been for all of us at Patcham Juniors.

We have well and truly welcomed in the festive season, kicking off the excitement with our magnificent Year 3s performing at All Saints Church followed by Christmas Concerts from Years 4, 5 and 6.

Last Thursday members of the choir had the opportunity to rehearse and then perform at Glyndebourne Opera House (our third annual visit).

Today has been all about our final assembly where we brought our first term to a close, discovered that we had several new Millionaire Readers and announced this term's winners of the termly 'Curiosity Champions' award! (see later for further details...)

As always, it's been a hard-working and successful Autumn term (it's always way too long, but we've made it) and the children have been brilliant at rising to the various challenges set for them, right across the curriculum.

However it is now time for a very well earned rest—have a wonderful, safe and enjoyable break.

We will see you all again on Monday 5th January.

## Christmas With Y3 @ All Saints

Year 3's magnificently kicked off our Christmas programme of concerts, performing their annual Nativity at All Saints Church, Patcham.

It's an absolutely joy to perform in such a beautiful setting and we are most grateful to Mark and the team at All Saints for hosting us for rehearsals and the shows themselves.

The Year 3s spoke and sang with verve to rapturous applause from the families in attendance. Well done Year 3!!



# Cross Curriculum Challenge Cup

In early November, a group of Year 5 and 6 girls had a fabulous opportunity to take part in a series of fun, interactive, football-themed challenges from a range of curriculum subjects such as **numeracy, literacy, and geography**. They competed in range of team challenges throughout the day to gain points for our school in the hope of winning the Cross Curriculum Challenge Cup. They were amazing and came 5<sup>th</sup> overall. It was a brilliant event held at the magnificent (!) home of Brighton and Hove Albion! Well done all who were involved.



## Cross Country Success

At a sun-drenched Waterhall in late November, 35 of our runners competed against more than 1000 children from across Brighton and Hove in this Year's Cross Country competition.

Outstanding running was seen from all of the PJS team, but a special mention to the Year 5 boys team that finished 2nd overall and featured three runners in the top 20! Well done Seb, Arlo and Ethan. Not to be outdone, Anna also in Year 5 came 18th overall in her race and all four named runners will represent the city later on in 2026!

Well done to everyone that took part!





5th January—First Day Back!

20th January—Year 6 Evacuee Day

**Dates for your diary here**

2nd & 3rd February—Year 5 Planetarium Trip

12th February—Year 6 Take Shelter

# Millionaire Readers Autumn Term

Reading, reading and more reading!!

We have a **HUGE** number of millionaires already this school year (remembering that word counts reset at the end of each school year...the swines...) and we even have **THREE** children that have read in excess of 2 million words since September! Congratulations to everyone on this list and to everyone that is working towards joining this impressive group of readers!

***PS—Keep up with the reading over Christmas....***

2,000,000+	1,000,000+
<b>Miko K—6KT</b>	<b>Violet L—6KT</b>
<b>Freya S—6KT</b>	<b>Azra B—6KT</b>
<b>Joshua L—4JW</b>	<b>Grace R—6KT</b>
	<b>Seb F—5JF</b>
<b>1,000,000+</b>	<b>Kiyan B—4JW</b>
<b>Sylvie W—6MS</b>	<b>Alby S-O—4JW</b>



# Curiosity Champions - Autumn Term

During a star-studded final assembly of the year, this term's 'Curiosity Champions' were revealed.

To become a Curiosity Champion an individual must be a leader in championing of the school's motto of 'Be Curious, Not Judgemental' as well as demonstrating relentlessly the 3Rs of being *Ready, Respectful and Responsible*.

This term's winners, chosen from a large number of nominations, can rightly now have their names added to the trophies.

Congratulations to Sienna, Tallulah, Orla and Rubin—our final Curiosity Champions for 2025!



## Glyndebourne 2025

Our latest visit to Glyndebourne on Thursday 11th December was another musical success with members of our burgeoning school choir taking to the stage with 5 other schools and the Glyndebourne musicians and singers.

For an hour, all in attendance were treated to a medley of classic and well known (and several hundred year old) Christmas arrangements as well as newly written pieces from across the world.

Glyndebourne is a spectacular setting in its own right, but the icing on this truly delicious Christmas cake of performance was the energy, volume and exceptional attitude of everyone of our children in attendance. Mrs Bogaru, Miss Dell, Miss Riddle and Mr Sutherland were so very proud of them all.

Thank you to all of you that were able to attend such an unforgettable experience.





# Let's talk about kids and smartphones

Come along to an open, non-judgemental conversation about the impacts of smartphones on childhood

## When

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>  
January 2026  
18:30-20:30  
Doors open 18:00  
for a prompt start.

## Where

Brighton Aldridge  
Community College,  
Lewes Road,  
Brighton,  
BN2 4PN



Reserve your seat by scanning the QR code or visiting [luma.com/xvsegegm](https://luma.com/xvsegegm).  
Tickets are free but spaces are limited.

Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement bringing families together to stand up for healthier, happier childhoods.

## Our guest speakers include:



### Mandy Marshall-Taylor - Panel Host

As a Naked Truth Project associate Mandy works to educate and raise awareness of the harmful effects of pornography on children and young people.



### Dr. Eleanor Mason

A West Sussex GP for 12 years, Eleanor brings unique insights into the impact of smartphones on children's mental health.



### DCI Luke Kyriakides-Yeldham & DI Cyntac Belfing

As senior members of the Online Child Abuse Team, they will discuss the dangers of indecent image sharing, sexting, sextortion and online grooming.



### Drew Dower - Head of School

Drew has led the way on becoming one of the first Smartphone free primary schools in the city. He will talk to us about the process and the response to the school's new policy.



### Jack Davies-Principal

BACA Principal Jack Davies will be joined by year 11 students who will share their experiences of smartphones and the online world.

WEBSITE: [WWW.SFCBRIGHTON.CO.UK](http://WWW.SFCBRIGHTON.CO.UK)  
SOCIALS: @SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD

# Sustainability Plan

"We have a NEW PAGE on our website! It's our [Sustainability Plan](#) page, as Patcham Juniors is part of Our City Our World Programme.

Please, have a look at it to check what our Climate Action Plan is, what we are aiming to do and what we've done so far. It will be regularly updated with all the steps Patcham Junior is taking over the time towards Zero net 2030.

[OCOW - Our City Our World - PJS Sustainability Plan | Patcham Junior School](#)

Please also check our board at the main gate for more information about how you can help us.



## Our City, Our World

