

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN CEP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

'Learning with love, strength and faith following the example of Jesus'

Dear St. Mary's families

**Learning through Love Strength and Faith, following the example of Jesus**

It was a magical sight this week watching 91 faces full of the awe and wonder of the natural world as a few snowflakes fell from the sky. Children's joy is a wonderful thing to be around and reminds us what a privilege it is to work with them. As we move into the advent season, we are reflecting on our Christian value this term; generosity. Our own 'star of generosity' has appeared in the hall full of generous ideas to try out over advent. We will turn over a star every day in our collective worship and look forward to giving and receiving small acts of generosity!



Arriving on the gate today your children looked amazing in their pyjamas and Christmas outfits. They were also delighted to see their teachers dressed in Christmas hats, pyjamas and jumpers- its put us all in the mood for Christmas, and with the fair tomorrow it couldn't be better timing! Thank you for your own generosity, supporting with your time, your donations and your good spirit - we look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas fair tomorrow from 12 -2pm as the school is transformed by our amazing PTFA volunteers - thank you all of you.



**Some words from our Head Boy and Head Girl of the week:**

**Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November - Molly and Will**

'On Monday's assembly we gave out little tokens to all the children' - Will

'They had to use the token to pray with and then when they got back to class they put it into a special basket. The tokens were like little shapes of confetti in gold and silver' - Molly

**Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> November - Eshan and Tia**

'This week we were all helping to make the willow structure. We have had a whole school marble treat, we all came into school in our pyjamas and Christmas jumpers and it has been really fun' - Tia



### Learner of the week

**Week ending 24/11/17**

LILAC - Ellen

WILLOW - Alex

CHERRY - Thomas

MAPLE - Isaac

**Week ending 01/12/17**

LILAC - Dulcie

WILLOW - Edward

CHERRY - Anna

MAPLE - Dhittie

### Attendance

**Week ending 24 /11/17**

LILAC - 96.8%

WILLOW - 93.6%

CHERRY - 98.0%

MAPLE - 92.5%

WHOLE SCHOOL - 95.5%

**Week ending 01/12/17**

LILAC - 99.2%

WILLOW - 96.4%

CHERRY - 94.4%

MAPLE - 97.5%

WHOLE SCHOOL - 96.8%

### Sports Star of the week

**Week ending 17/11/17**

LILAC - Dulcie

WILLOW - Francesca

CHERRY - Jacob

MAPLE - Leo

**Week ending 24/11/17**

LILAC - Elodie

WILLOW - Ashleigh

CHERRY - Braxton

MAPLE - Harry

## Volunteer Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> December

We have a wonderful group of people who regularly come into school and offer their time on a voluntary basis. Some to help in the classroom e.g. listening to children read or working with a small group, or running or helping at extra-curricular clubs.

Whatever it is - we wouldn't be St. Mary's without you!

We are looking for more volunteers so, if you have a bit of spare time, enjoy being with wonderful children and would be able to help please do!

We will be having a **volunteers meeting on Wednesday 13th December at 2.45** for current and new volunteers. Please come along to the school hall to find out a bit more about our procedures and how you can help.

Many thanks!

**Mrs F Taylor**



**Katrina Thomas**

It has been great to be in school seeing the preparations that have been taking place for the Christmas Fete and the nativity play- lots of wonderful crafts and beautiful singing!

For those of you with under 5s, next Thursday (7th) is our Teddy tots Christmas Party at 10am in St Mary's Church, followed by party food and cake at the Rectory. All are welcome- feel free to just turn up.

On the 10th it is our all-age informal Christmas Praise service at 9:30am. Pop on a Christmas jumper (not compulsory!) and come prepared to sing along to carols played by our live band.

For more information about these or any of our other events over the coming weeks, please visit our website [www.hartfieldchurch.org](http://www.hartfieldchurch.org)

Katrina Thomas  
Children and Family Worker  
St Mary's Hartfield  
07777 630249

**Word of the week.....**

***Post Truth -***

Describes a situation in which feelings out play facts

## Willow structure

Thanks to your generosity we have been able to fund, through the PTFA, a living willow structure on our playground area. We wrapped up in layers upon layers as the snow fell around us and we learnt about willow plants, dug deep and planted our own design into the ground. Many of the children came outside to do their bit, as did a number of parent volunteers, and by the end of the day we had created a tunnel and a domed area for sitting and reflecting on warmer days! Thank you to the Love Strength and Faith champions for their inspiration – children we couldn't do it without you, to the PTFA for raising the money, to John from Underwoodsmen Ltd who we thought might turn into a snowman at one point, who spent his day imparting his knowledge and helping children plant and dig. We look forward to watching it grow and to developing this area over the coming months so that it can be used as an area of quiet reflection.



## Marbles Treat & Christmas Jumper/Pyjamas Day



## Christingle

Next Friday, 8th December, the children will be making Christingles in school to bring home. Can all children please bring an orange to school on the day.







Mrs L Sanders

Lilac Class – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

Lilac class were lucky to have sharp sunshine for their Forest School session. They thought about verbs throughout the session and spent the afternoon learning how to use tools safely. They used bow saws. Folding saws, pen knives and peelers to whittle, saw, cut and peel various thicknesses of wood. Some children used their tool skills to create elder necklaces, some whittled arrows and Mr Wood made a bow!



There was still time to climb some trees, play on the slack line and perfect the hand dug clay texture. Thanks to the volunteers who are supporting the children in the woods so well. Next time....more layers and maybe a fire to whittle around!







Maple Class - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017



It started snowing before we left, which meant momentary excitement and a good reason to dress up warm with hats, gloves and two pairs of socks. Maple Class were BRILLIANT at getting themselves ready for our wintry adventure.

We cut and collected some willow and ivy along the Forest Way, to take to school to make wreaths with at the Christmas Fair on Saturday.



We learned how to stay safe around a fire by sitting carefully on logs. Then we had a go at using flint and steels to make sparks to start the fire....it was really tricky, but we did it and had a toasty fire to warm ourselves and eat our snacks around.

Warming our hands!

What a fantastic time, well done Maple Class for such an enjoyable adventure on such a cold day!



There was also time to have a climb and a balance on the slack line!



## Teddy Bear Picnic - Maple



A part of our Learning Journey about Festivals and Celebrations, the children have been celebrating with their Teddies. They have read them stories, used the I pad to take photographs of them. Then the children wrote about their Teddies for a fact file. We talked about dressing up and having food at different celebrations, so the children created instructions of how to make sandwiches and then made some for a Teddy Bears picnic. "This honey is delicious!"- Daisy. "I like having a party with my Teddy"-Noah.



## Wildlife Explorers Club – Mrs Rowberry

Club members were asked to do some wild writing as part of their RSPB Challenge award. One question they were asked was "Why do you like the Wildlife Explorers Club?" Here are some of their responses.

### Francesca:

I enjoyed making badges and planting flowers in the old pirate ship. The scavenger hunt was fun and it was great making bird houses too..... in fact I enjoy everything.

### Eleanor:

I enjoyed making the bird houses especially.

### Tia:

I enjoyed receiving my Blue Peter green badge. On the nature scavenger hunt we found: spider webs ( which means spiders), animal footprints, flowers and fruits.

### Daisy:

I liked making badges because they tell people I am a member of the Wildlife Club.

### Elouise:

I loved making a better bug hotel because its for creatures that are small and when it's raining they can have a shelter.

### Seren:

I had to find some leaves from the playground and find different colours. I stapled them to card to make a collage. It was good fun.

### Brooke:

I got all the plants ready for people to plant. I helped them use spades and forks to dig holes to put them in.

### William:

I like going out to the Briars Lodge Field Centre because we can see lots of wildlife there.

### Edward:

I like looking at wildlife.

### Scarlett:

Like the other leaders I enjoy being trained up to help other club members.

## Pioneer Partnership Update:



### Partnership News –

Mrs Winchester from Pioneer spent the morning on Tuesday with Mrs Sanders from St Mary's.

Miss Hare from Pioneer spent the morning on Thursday with Miss Banks from St Mary's.

Teachers found this time useful to share ideas and resources.

**Mr J Procter**



### Gentle Reminders

Lilac Class – there are a few outstanding permission slips for the Spring residential trip – please would you return these as soon as possible. Thank you.

Don't forget to send in your Christmas lunch slips and money (if applicable) by Wednesday morning please.

**Mrs Tufo**



### News from the PTFA

Well the festive buzz of Christmas is definitely upon us! Come along and join in the fun on Saturday at the Christmas Fair, 12-2 in the school. The hall will be full of festive games. There will be the grand raffle as well as the ever popular bottle and chocolate tombola. Father Christmas will be coming, the Elves' workshop will be full of creativity and the festive food cafe will be serving delicious food and drink. The children will be running their own stalls, all competing to win the Christmas Champion award for raising the most money for school! It promises to be a fantastic time!

A quick update on other PTFA news: The comedy night earlier this term was a big success and we are pleased to share that the evening was not only a lot of fun but raised a fantastic £690. It has been really exciting to see the changes in the playground as a result of last year's fundraising. The pirate ship is proving very popular and the bake sale at the naming of the Jolly Mary raised a further £90! It was also great to be part of planting the willow structure this week and it sounds like everyone learnt a lot about willow at the same time.

Finally, if you're having a clear out over the Christmas holidays remember that we are having our annual Jumble sale on 27/01/18 and it's a great opportunity to declutter and raise money for school.

*From The PTFA*



## Art from our Wildlife Explorers



## Will It Snow?

As the cold weather is well and truly upon us, we thought it would be useful to outline the procedure in the unlikely event of an emergency school closure:

In the event of a closure during the school day due to damage to the building, no water, no heating or power, flooding etc, parents/carers will be contacted by telephone and email to come and collect their child/ren as soon as possible.

If school is closed due to snow or other adverse weather conditions, information will be available on the county council website and our own website.

The decision to close the school is not one that we will ever take lightly, but the safety of the children has to be our primary concern.

Looking forward to seeing many of you and your wonderful children at the school fair tomorrow.

Have a great weekend!

**Mrs Taylor & Mr Procter**





DATES FOR DIARIES		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
7/12/2017	13:00 - 15:00	Cherry Forest School
8/12/2017	13:00 - 15:00	Making Christingles in School
9/12/2017	16:00 - 17:30	Christingle making at St Mary's Church
10/12/2017	09:30 - 10:30	Christingle Service at St Mary's Church
12/12/2017	12.00 - 13.00	Whole School Christmas Lunch
13/12/2017	12:00 - 13:00	Village Christmas Lunch
14/12/2017	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School
15/12/2017	10:00 - 11:00	Whole school Nativity Play first performance
15/12/2017	14:00 - 15:00	Whole school Nativity Play second performance
15/12/2017	18:00 - 19:00	Village live nativity
17/12/2017	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
17/12/2017	18:30 - 19:30	Lessons and carols at St Mary's Church
18/12/2017	2.45 - 3.15	Parent Forum - Homework & Reading Policies
20/12/2017	09:15 - 10:30	End of term Christmas Service at St Mary's Church
21/12/2017 - 1/1/2018		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
TERM 3		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
2/1/2018		INSET DAY
4/1/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Lilac Forest School
11/1/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Maple Forest School
12/1/2018	09:00 - 15:00	Whole school Stunning Start, Ashdown Forest
14/1/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
21/1/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
25/1/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School
27/1/2018	11:00 - 12:00	PTFA Jumble Sale - tbc
1/2/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Lilac Forest School
5/2/2018	15:30 - 16:30	Parent workshop - phonics, reading, grammar
5/2/2018	09:00 - 09:30	Parent Forum - Church School Developments
8/2/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Maple Forest School
11/2/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
12/2/2018 - 16/2/2018		FEBRUARY HOLIDAY
TERM 4		
18/2/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
22/2/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Cherry Forest School
1/3/2018		World Book Day
1/3/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School
8/3/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Lilac Forest School
9/3/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Bring an adult to school and share our learning
11/3/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
14/3/2018	15:30 - 18:00	Parent Consultations
15/3/2018	15:30 - 18:00	Parent Consultations
15/3/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Maple Forest School
18/3/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
22/3/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Cherry Forest School
22/3/2018	14.45 - 15.15	Parent Forum - Growth Mindset Parent Consultation Format
29/3/2018	09:15 - 10:30	End of term Easter service at St Mary's Church
29/3/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School

30/3/2018 - 13/4/2018		EASTER HOLIDAY
8/4/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
15/4/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
TERM 5		
19/4/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Lilac Forest School
21/4/2018	14:00 - 15:00	Open Day for new reception children 2018/19
26/4/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Maple Forest School
26/4/2018	09:00 - 09:30	Parent Forum SATs info for Y2 & Y6 parents and Thrive Review
3/5/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Cherry Forest School
7/5/2018		MAY BANK HOLIDAY
10/5/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School
13/5/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
14/5/2018 - 18/5/2018		Bikeability training for Year 5
14/5/2018 - 18/5/2018		KS1 SATS (Year 1 & 2)
14/5/2018 - 18/5/2018		KS2 SATS
17/5/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Lilac Forest School
21/5/2018 - 24/5/2018		KS1 SATS
21/5/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
24/5/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Maple Forest School
25/5/2018	14:00 - 15:00	May Festival
28/5/2018 - 1/6/2018		MAY HOLIDAY
TERM 6		
4/6/2018		INSET DAY
7/6/2018		Whole school trip to Wakehurst Place
10/6/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
14/6/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School
15/6/2018	09:00 - 10:30	Bring an adult to school and share our learning
17/6/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
20/6/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Pop in and Play for new reception children
21/6/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Lilac Forest School
22/6/2018		Mufti Day (own clothes)
28/6/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Pop in and Play for new reception children
28/6/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Maple Forest School
29/6/2018		Whole school Sports Day and PTFA Summer Social
5/7/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Cherry Forest School
5/7/2018	13:00 - 14:00	Governor's Teddy Bear's Picnic
6/7/2018		Reports to go home
8/7/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Praise at St Mary's Church
9/7/2018		Transition day - children to meet new class teachers
9/7/2018	15:30 - 16:30	Parent drop-in to discuss reports
9/7/2018	14.45 - 15.15	Parent Forum Parentview/Review SDP and plans for 18/19
10/7/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Pop in and Play for new reception children
12/7/2018	13:00 - 15:00	Willow Forest School
15/7/2018	09:30 - 10:30	Family Communion at St Mary's Church
18/7/2018	13:30 - 14:30	St Mary's Got Talent Show
19/7/2018	09:15 - 10:30	End of Year service at St Mary's Church
END OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18		