

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CEP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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



Dear St Mary's families

Last week we paused on our usual routines to consider part of our life as a church school. We will be doing this each 'big' term and used the opportunity this time to launch the diocese 'Year of Prayer'. Children worked in houses to create wishes and prayers for the year ahead. Spending time with your very thoughtful and caring children doing this inspired us all to have a moment of reflection. The prayers have been made into world prayer flags, or placed into decorated jars and blank cds, which are now in our school reflection spaces.

Our community garden, in memory of Governor Mrs Marion Jackson, has been re-launched as a prayer garden with an area of remembrance and was officially opened this week by Mr Tim Jackson. Meanwhile, the area is almost mirrored in the newly named 'reflection den' - the willow structure that the children helped to plant just before Christmas.

Mrs F Taylor
Acting Head of School

Learners & Attendance of The Week

LEARNERS OF THE WEEK : ENDING: 18/01/18

26/01/18

MAPLE:	BEAU	MAPLE:	ISAAC
CHERRY:	AMBER	CHERRY:	GRACE
WILLOW:	HOPE	WILLOW:	MILLY
LILAC:	SEREN	LILAC:	BROOKE

ATTENDANCE: (W/E 18/01) :

MAPLE:	98.8%
CHERRY:	90.8%
WILLOW:	98.7%
LILAC:	98.5%

TOTAL: 93.9%

ATTENDANCE (W/E 26/01):

MAPLE:	90.7%
CHERRY:	95.0%
WILLOW:	94.4%
LILAC:	93.9%

TOTAL: 96.6%





Sports Awards – Mr D

Well done to the following children:

W/e 19th Jan

Maple:	Will
Cherry:	Amelia
Willow:	Harry
Lilac:	Oliver T

W/e 26th Jan:

Maple:	Jared
Cherry:	Archie
Willow:	Elouise
Lilac:	Lottie & Molly H



A sneak peak at an article coming out in the next issue of 'Faith in Sussex'.....



Lilac and Maple trip to Drusilla's Zoo.

On Tuesday, we set off in the drizzle to the zoo. This was the first School trip Maple class had been on, so the journey on the coach was very exciting!



We saw lots of different animals and learned many new facts about them...Did you know the collective noun for a porcupine is a 'prickle' of porcupines?!!

We met for lunch together and shared our lunchtime prayers with each other.

Lilac had lots of fun playing together on the adventure playground – even if we did get a bit wet!

Each class had a talk - Maple learned about Harry the rat and his adventures around the world. We then held and stroked a fat tailed gerbil, a cockroach and a lizard.

Lilac were lucky enough to be treated to two talks – one all about the rainforest where we got to touch a snake and see real piranha teeth! We then had another one all about life cycles, where some of us had the chance to dress up and look at frogs, rat tails, a lizard and a chinchilla! Luckily, Miss Banks was not at all squeamish with any of the animals...



Fortunately for Maple class, there was time for a quick play inside on the giant slide and a ride on the train before coming home. What a great day! Thank you to all our parent volunteers for their support and helping make the day a great success.

Mrs Sanders and Miss Banks



The sun shone again, although it was a really chilly day. We spotted an animal burrow on the way to the woods and some of the class had an interesting time discussing what might live there.

The class are learning about houses and homes as their topic this term, so they gathered any natural materials they could find along the way, to use to build houses in the woods. Once in the woods houses of all sizes were built.



There was a carefully constructed, tiny house with its own leaf topped table, complete with hazel nut bowls. A mossy garden was created for one house. Some children made a home for bugs out of an old stump, piling up twigs for them to crawl in and under.

Some children experimented with clay as mortar when building a home on the roots of the giant oak tree. Others worked to improve a den which had been constructed before, carefully balancing different length sticks.

Willow Class – Thursday 25th January

It was an extremely muddy journey, due to recent rain and we all looked very dirty by the time we had made it to the woods. Once there, some children were very interested in digging, noticing that no matter how deep they dug, the ground water continued to fill the holes!

The children took some birds with them on the journey to the woods, to see if they could spot any, as part of the RSPB's annual Big Garden Bird Watch. We saw lots of pigeons and crows, and not much else!

The children have been learning about orienteering in their PE lessons, so they had a go at creating some 3D maps of the woods. They had an N,S,E,W on their maps and shared their mnemonics for remembering them! As the children cleared leaves, they spotted lots of bluebell shoots beginning to emerge.

We used charcoal to create the river Medway winding along and an N,S,E,W orientation marker.

The children used a variety of resources and their own individual ideas to create some interesting models. One of the children used charcoal and clay to draw and sculpt the fire circle.





Wildlife Explorers Club - Mrs Rowberry

At our last meeting in December we set up an Eco-Committee because we want St Mary the Virgin School to be an Eco-School. This means we have to conserve, be sustainable and care for our school and church environment. We have our wildlife club, forest school activities and a gardening club - so we are already on the way there! We all wrote down ideas for a St Mary the Virgin Eco-Code and then put them together to make our code "GO GREEN".

Growing and Gardening

Recycling all we can

Environment care

Energy saving - with water and electricity

Nature - understanding wildlife and making our grounds nature friendly

Our 10th of January meeting of 2018 had an activity to observe all the living colours in our school grounds. We could collect small samples and stick them onto cards. Mrs Rowberry challenged us by giving each of our groups a colour from the rainbow and asking us to find samples of just that colour. At the end we found that we could put all our sample cards together and we saw that all the colours of our environment made a rainbow! It was really amazing.

On the 17th of January we cared for our environment by planting trees. We had a Hazel and a Blackthorn. These are good natural trees because we get nuts from one, and wild damsons called sloes from the other. These are good food for wildlife in winter.

Another group set up our Eco-Board so we can display our news and activities.





Message from Reverend Julie Sear

Due to the heating failure; BCP, Church Family Praise, Sunday Praise, Café Church and All Age Communion will take place in the Village Hall. Thank you.

East Sussex Libraries – survey on autism friendly services

East Sussex Library service is keen to run events that are either autism specific and/or autism friendly, such as:

- Autism specific/friendly Code Clubs
- Autism friendly sessions, supported by a specially trained member of staff to show families what the library has to offer.

They are asking anyone interested to spend 5 minutes completing this online survey to let them know your views:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/c21f3214/>

The iContact Team

Website: www.icontactautism.org

PTFA Jumble Sale & Disco

Thank you to anyone who attended and helped at Saturday's Jumble Sale. We raised over £300.00.

Following the great success of the PTFA pirate disco last year we are bringing in the Year of the dog, with a Chinese New Year disco.

Come as a dog, come in Chinese inspired clothing, come as a Chinese dragon, or anything in between. Just come!

We look forward to seeing you all there, and for those who are attending Mr D's club on that Friday, you will still have plenty of time after to dance, eat hot dogs and go wild.

This year, we even have a bar for the adults - which should make the whole experience a little more fluid for you all.

See you there!

The PTFA x



School Office Update

If your child is going home with another parent/carer, then please could you let the school office and relevant class teacher know as soon as possible.

If you are off to the shoe shop this half term for growing feet and having a clear out, then we would love some spare black gym plimsolls for our emergency PE Kits.

Is anyone missing a pair of blue reading glasses?

Staffing News

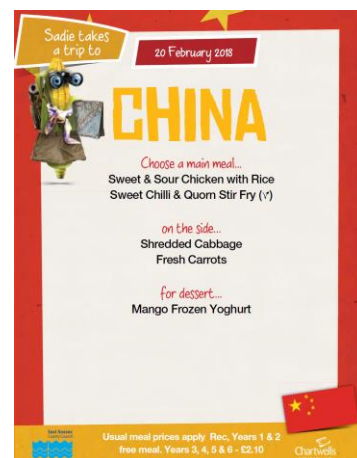


Today we welcomed our new Teaching Assistant for Lilac Class, Mrs Cheryl Trengove. A huge thank you to the fabulous Mr Wood for volunteering his time over the last few weeks.



Chartwells will be celebrating Pancake Day with Pancakes for pudding on Friday 9th February and are also introducing a special 'China' menu for Tuesday 20th February. If your child doesn't normally have a hot dinner, then perhaps they would like to try one?

Chartwell's will be introducing more themed lunches during the course of this year.





Come and Celebrate The Year of the Dog!!!

At: Hartfield Village Hall 2 High St, TN7 4AD

Friday 9th February from 3.45 to 5.30pm

*****Fancy dress*****

There will be:

Games

Dance competitions

Face painting

*Hat making *

Hot dogs - Sweets - Squash

and **a bar for the adults**

The Supervision of your child is your responsibility



Hartfield Village Hall

We look forward to seeing you there!

Tickets £3.50 per child/£2.00 pre-schooler on the door

A PTFA Event

DATES FOR DIARIES

DATE	TIME	EVENT
1/2/2018	13:00 – 15:00	Lilac Forest School
4/2/2018	09.30	No Service at St Mary's
5/2/2018	14.45 – 15.15	Parent Forum – Church School Developments
8/2/2018	13:00 – 15:00	Maple Forest School
11/02/2018	09.30	Church Family Praise at St Mary's – village hall
12/2/2018 – 16/2/2018		FEBRUARY HOLIDAY
18/2/2018	09.30	Holy Communion at St Mary's with Sunday Discoverers and Big Breakfast– village hall
25/2/2018	09.30	Café Church at St Mary's – village hall
TERM 4		
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
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
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	<i>End of term Easter service at St Mary's Church</i>
29/3/2018	13:00 – 15:00	Willow Forest School
30/3/2018 – 13/4/2018		EASTER HOLIDAY