

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CEP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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



Dear St Mary's Families

Out in our vegetable garden this week we were able to say thank you for the Harvest Gifts. We were pleased to welcome Tony Cox from the East Grinstead Foodbank to talk to us in our Harvest Service in school this week. The children raised the roof with such beautiful singing – thank you Katrina and Miss Banks for leading on this.

Our Church has its own Harvest Service on Sunday at 9.30am. All groceries will go to the East Grinstead Food Bank and financial gifts will go to the Diocesan Harvest Appeal in East and West Africa. This will help build an education system and stronger and safer communities. It would be lovely for everyone to come and be part of the Harvest Festival Celebration on Sunday.

It was with great excitement that we found the chickens have now started laying eggs – the children are learning so much about caring for these chickens, who we hatched in May.

A huge well done to our Cross Country team who travelled across to Beacon School on Wednesday; well done one and all – great participation and determination all round and a special mention for Ashleigh from Year 4 with a second place in the Year 3/4 run. Have a great weekend with your wonderful children.

Kind regards,

Mrs F Taylor
Head of School

Mr J Procter
Executive Headteacher

Power Learners of the Week & Attendance

POWER LEARNERS	W/E: 28 TH SEPT:	W/E: 1 ST OCT:	ATTENDANCE W/E 28 TH SEPT: W/E 5 TH OCT:		
MAPLE:	MAX	EMILY	MAPLE:	92.8%	93.4%
CHERRY:	MEGAN	BEAU	CHERRY:	87.2%	96.9%
WILLOW:	THOMAS	LUCY	WILLOW:	90%	93.8%
LILAC:	SZABI	HARRY	LILAC:	87.2%	97.0%
			TOTAL:	88.8%	95.6%



Pioneer Federation News Update

On Monday 24th September the first Full Governing Body Meeting was held at St Mary's, Hartfield:



Mandy Watson

It has been very exciting being a governor at our three amazing schools this year and I feel very privileged to be the Chair of Governors of the Pioneer Federation. I have spent more years than I would like to admit in schools, many of them as a teacher and Headteacher in Sussex. I have five grandchildren between 10 and 27 and am going to be a great-grandmother in March!

As you can imagine, I have a special interest in education across all phases and I am totally committed to helping all children succeed in school and in the future. Since 2016, I have worked as a Senior Schools Improvement Adviser for the Diocese of Chichester and was previously in a similar role in the London Borough of Greenwich for 13 years. I have been a school governor since 2006 and am a National Leader of Governance.

I look forward to a very successful and enjoyable year for our children and staff and hope I will have many opportunities to meet parents and friends at all of our schools.





Wildlife Explorers & Eco Club - Mr and Mrs Rowberry

15 explorers came along to the Club last week. We made book markers from last week's pressed flowers. It was very enjoyable. Once the markers were laminated, everyone was able to take their one away to use.

In between, we spent time sorting out log books and folders to get evidence for our Wild Challenge and Leader Awards.

Junior leaders are now working with their teams and the senior leaders are helping the whole group set up St Mary's application for the Eco-School Silver Award. The first job is to set up the school eco-board for news. Over the next months do look at it to see how St Mary's is caring for our environment.



This week wildlife explorers looked at flower bulbs. We cut one in half to draw it and label the parts. Then we put a bulb each in water in the dark to watch its roots grow and hope to each have our own Hyacinth for Christmas.

Mr Dolton's Sports Champions:

W/e: 21st September

Maple
Cherry
Willow
Lilac

Jacob
Amelia
X Country
Elouise

Great spatial awareness and excellent listening
Excellent pacing and determination during practice
Great determination and perseverance

W/e: 28th September

Maple
Cherry
Willow
Lilac

Logan
Harry W
Ashleigh
Scarlett

Excellent listening and involvement
Excellent speed, control and co-ordination during running
Outstanding speed, pacing and focus during Cross Country
For pushing boundaries and challenging herself





Katrina's Corner

It was great to be part of the school harvest festival on Wednesday afternoon where Tony Cox from East Grinstead Foodbank came and shared a little about his work. Thank you to all who brought tins and other goods! This coming Sunday is our church all-age Harvest Celebration- you are invited and welcome to come and join us, where again we will be collecting goods for the food bank and monetary gifts for the diocesan harvest appeal.

Katrina

Katrina Thomas
Children's, Youth and Families Minister
St Mary's Hartfield
07777 630249

Coffee Morning

On Thursday 18th October between 9.30am and 11.30 am there is a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Trinity Hall, Colemans Hatch. All are welcome to attend.



Open Day – 20th October

On Saturday 20th October we are holding an Open Day for any prospective parents, between 9.30am and 11am. If you know of anyone thinking about starting school in September 2019 please could you let them know.

PTFA Update:

Many thanks to all those parents and carers who attended the AGM on Tuesday afternoon. If there are any parents who would like to get involved in the PTFA Christmas Fair, please could you contact your class rep as soon as possible. Thank you.



We are aware there has been some discussion among parents around homework in the past couple of weeks. Here is an estimate of the amount of time your child should be spending on their homework (including reading) each week:

Reception: 30 minutes a week
Year 1 & 2: 1 hour a week
Year 3 & 4: 1.5 hours a week
Year 5 & 6: 30 minutes a day

Whilst this is a guide, we would not be expecting children to be taking longer than this to complete their homework. Homework is a very important part of your child's education. By encouraging and helping your child to do their homework you will be helping them to practice and extend the skills and knowledge learnt in school, whilst encouraging them to be an independent learner. There are many ways a parent can support their child with homework without having to know the answers themselves. If you are struggling to support your child with their homework, please can you talk to your child's teacher directly and we will aim to resolve any problems you may have

School Office Update



For your information we would like to clarify how the school office is staffed. Mrs Tufo is our School Secretary and works on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, plus Thursday morning. Mrs Parsons is our Bursar/Business Manager and works on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The front office is covered over the week as shown below:

	Mrs Tufo		Mrs Parsons	
Monday	8.30am	3.30pm		
Tuesday			8.30am	4.00pm
Wednesday	8.30am	4.00pm		
Thursday	8.30am	12.00pm		
Friday	8.30am	4.00pm		

Although we will always try to answer phone calls and monitor emails, please bear with us at busy times. If you need to contact the school urgently we would advise that you phone the school office. On Thursday afternoons the telephone will be answered by Mrs Parsons, Mrs Taylor or Mr Procter. Mrs Tufo and Mrs Parsons will occasionally change the days they work to cover for meetings, training etc.



This year we would like to try a new format to our Parent Forums, which are currently diaried to take place on:

November 22nd 2018
February 7th 2019
March 14th 2019
May 2nd 2019
June 20th 2019

Each Parent Forum will cover:

- Subjects to be discussed, following feedback from parents.
- An update from Mrs Taylor of anything coming up or something she would like to share with you.
- An opportunity to meet one of our school governors at each forum and for parents to ask any questions.
- Feedback from Class Reps with specific questions to be answered - the idea being that they will contact their class in advance of each meeting, to find out if there is anything you would like raised or discussed on your behalf.
- Whilst the forum is open for all parents to attend, we appreciate that the timings are not possible for everyone, which is why we are suggesting that a representative from each class attends. Notes from each parent forum will go into the following newsletter so that all parents are updated.
- The forums are not intended to be a platform for individual concerns, which should always be directed in the first instance to your teacher and then if necessary Mrs Taylor, Head of School. Parent Forums are separate to any Triple P Workshops organised by Mrs Leahy.

Our first Parent Forum took place last Thursday 20th September and the following topics were suggested by everyone:

- Homework

- Transitioning from one year group to another and help with this
- Reading and how to help at home
- Support with difficult challenges that children find hard
- Sibling rivalry
- Confidence building
- GDPR
- Internet safety

If there is anything else you would like to add or see, then please contact your class rep and we shall include it for you.

During our first forum on Thursday 27th September Mrs Taylor explained the new 'Learning Powers' that were introduced at the beginning of term, which are based around seven characters, to represent different types of learning, such as Curious Cat, who asks questions to help in his learning and Persevering Parrot, representing someone who keeps on going, keeps on trying.

These characters make the learning techniques real for the children, fun and for the younger ones in particular, they help them to relate to the 'Learning Power' itself. The characters, such as 'Clive the Concentrating Crocodile' are incorporated and used in lessons across the day and across all years.

Learning Powers will equip the children with the tools to leave school being able to learn and also the skills to use and apply going forward. Each character is being introduced in assembly on a Tuesday, with recognition amongst two children from each key stage, i.e. KS1 and KS2 during Friday assembly, replacing learner of the week.

Also discussed at the Parent Forum was **My Maths** and a highlight that some parents/children have been having difficulty with the programme. A Q & A session for parents with Miss Banks has now taken place this week.

Please do continue to liaise with your class teacher if you have any concerns. Unless your class teacher has specifically set My Maths for homework, it is not necessary to log on, unless of course your child has a particular interest in doing so.

The next parent forum will take place on Thursday November 22nd, but at the time of 2.30pm. Timings of each forum will vary to allow as many class reps/parents to attend as possible.

Half Term Sessions

From 9.30am-3pm

Forest School

Holiday Club
Wednesday 24th and
Thursday 25th October

Sawpit Woods
Hartfield

For Reception to Yr 6
info and booking by email
sawpitwoods@gmail.com










Join Us

For



The Great War Walk



on
Saturday 20th October 2018

Walk between the war memorials at Cowden, Holtye, Hartfield and Colemans Hatch.

Adults - £5 Under 16's - £3
All proceeds to The Poppy Appeal
Walk the whole route, part of it, or be a supporter.

Refreshments at Hartfield Pavilion and Trinity Hall Colemans Hatch. Pin badge for every walker.
A community event for all ages and abilities.
Start: Cowden 11am, Holtye 11.45am approx, Hartfield 1.30pm approx - Finish: Colemans Hatch 3.30pm

Join the walk at any point.
Please try to ask family and friends to help with driving to and from your start point.

For further details contact: CowdenHartfield.Secretary@RBL.Community

Parenting Advice Line



What? Free advice line. Speak to a trained parenting practitioner about any issues or questions you have relating to parenting your child or teenager.

Call 01424 725800


When? 11am-1pm
Every Thursday

Email: info@openforparents.org.uk
Visit: www.openforparents.org.uk









English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

acres
Adult College For Rural East Sussex

Intensive Daytime Courses available in Uckfield from September 2018

Call 01825 761820 to arrange an enrolment meeting!

Speaking and Listening (from September)

Entry 1&2	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	9:30-12:30 for 24 weeks
Entry 3	Tuesdays and Thursdays	9:30-12:30 for 24 weeks
Level 1&2	Tuesdays and Thursdays	9:30-12:30 for 24 weeks

Reading (from September)

Entry 1&2	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	12:30-14:30 for 16 weeks
Entry 3	Tuesdays and Thursdays	12:30-14:30 for 16 weeks
Level 1&2	Tuesdays and Thursdays	12:30-14:30 for 16 weeks

Writing (from February)

Entry 1&2	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	12:30-14:30 for 16 weeks & 9:30-11:30 for 8 weeks
Entry 3	Tuesdays and Thursdays	12:30-14:30 for 16 weeks & 9:30-11:30 for 8 weeks
Level 1&2	Tuesdays and Thursdays	12:30-14:30 for 16 weeks & 9:30-11:30 for 8 weeks

www.acreslearning.org.uk 01825 761820

Dates for the coming term:

TERM 1		
DATE	TIME	EVENT
07/10/2018	09.30 – 11.00	<i>All age family service for Harvest Festival</i>
09/10/2018	09.00 drop off	Cherry School Trip to Forest Row Fire Station
11/10/2018	13:00 – 15:00	Willow Forest School
14/10/2018	9:30 – 11.00	<i>Family praise service at St Mary the Virgin, Hartfield</i>
16/10/2018	All Day	Lilac School Trip to Weald & Downland
18/10/2018	13:00 – 15:00	Cherry Forest School
19/10/2018	14.45	Open Afternoon For Parents
20/10/2018	9:30 - 11:00	Open Day for new reception children 2019/20
20/10/2018	11am	Community Walk, all welcome
21/10/2018	9:30	<i>Holy Communion with Sunday Discovers and BIG breakfast</i>
22/10/2018- 26/10/2018		AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY
28/10/2018	9:30	<i>Café Church with coffee and croissants</i>

Key Dates After Half Term:

13/11/2018	AM	Flu Vaccinations
13/11/2018	9:30 - 10:30	New Parent Tours
14/11/2018	9:30 - 10:30	New Parent Tours
21/11/2018	15:30 – 18:00	Parent Consultations
22/11/2018	15:30 – 18:00	Parent Consultations
22/11/2018	14.30 – 15.15	Parent Forum - Homework
27/11/2018	AM	Weight and Height Recordings by School Nurses for Reception and Year 6
1/12/2018	TBA	PTFA Christmas Fair
12/12/2018	10.00 and 14.00	Nativity