

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CEP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**'Learning with love, strength and faith following the example of Jesus'**

Dear St Mary's Families

As the Christmas nativity songs start to go round in our heads, we are thoroughly in the Christmas spirit. There is a great atmosphere in school and we are delighted that the children are feeling so excited about the festivities.

One of the St Mary's traditions we are all enjoying is the 'Advent Star'. Each Collective Worship in December we turn over another star and an advent challenge is revealed. From holding a door open for someone to saying nice things to people as they pass by, we all love these little touches and watching the children's delight as they learn the joy of giving, as well as receiving is a great Christmas message.

Enjoy all the wonders of this magical time of year with your very special little people.

Mrs F Taylor
Head of School

Mr J Procter
Executive Headteacher



parents forum

On Thursday 29th November we had our second Parent Forum, focusing on Homework, but first our Class Reps took turns to feedback to Mrs Taylor and Ms Lewis. Comments raised by our parents were:

Clubs - we appreciate that for many parents and especially those working that the cancellation and in particular late cancellation of clubs can be difficult logistically. Sometimes this is unavoidable due to the circumstances, but we will aim to let parents know in advance of any staff meetings that may clash with clubs and for late cancellations arrange for another member of staff to fill in.

Reassurance of continuity from January some parents expressed their concern over the departure of Mrs Taylor, which both Mrs Taylor and Ms Lewis discussed with parents at the forum. A letter has since gone out to parents and carers of the school, giving an update of the new Senior Leadership Team from January. If any parents are concerned or have further questions, please do not hesitate to continue to talk to us. There is always a senior member of staff available at both ends of the day. Ms Lewis will be in school and available every Thursday afternoon before Christmas to talk to parents.

Working with different levels of ability in mixed year groups and understanding how to challenge more able children - as a school we provide more to cover those children who are ready-to be challenged and are showing to be working at a higher level. This is arranged in class and in group work outside of class. Please contact your class teacher if you would like to discuss this further.

Homework - at St Mary's we try to create a balance. Government guidelines puts the onus on schools to choose a framework themselves and we feel that for the following years, the amount of time spent on homework should be approximately:

Reception: half an hour per week

Year 1/2: one hour a week

Years 3/4: ninety minutes a week

Years 5/6: half hour each day

forum that homework should not be stressful and that if your child is proud of their efforts then that is sufficient for us.

The best thing a parent can do for their child is to read to them, as evidence shows that families that read have better outcomes.

Please do talk to your class teacher if homework at home is an issue.

Workshops - some parents at the forum expressed an interest in attending workshops to better understand how their children learn and the first of these will be held on:

29th January @ 2:30pm - **Maths Parents Forum**. A chance for parents to come along and have a go at using our calculation policy and look at how their children will be learning in class. Miss Banks will be there to guide and answer any questions.

On the 15th February @ 2:45pm - there will be an Open Afternoon. A chance for parents to come in early and have a look at the work their children have been doing that term.

We will be looking at other workshops for parents, but if you are particularly interested in supporting your child with things like grammar, then the BBC Bitesize Website is a really useful resource:

www.bbc.com/bitesize also

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/advice-for-parents

Our next Parent Forum will be on February 7th 2019 at 2.45pm with Mr James Procter and Ms Vicky Lewis. Please do contact your class rep with details of anything you would like raised. The main subject will be 'How to best support your children when they are struggling with something'.

Further parent forum dates:

March 14th 2019

May 2nd 2019

June 20th 2019

Mrs Taylor wanted to emphasise during the parent

Lilac at the Big Sing—26th November 2018

We did it! All thirty members of Lilac Class made it to the Big Sing, held at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells, and all had a brilliant time! After weeks of rehearsals and hundreds of lyrics to learn, they proved that hard work really does pay off and helped to create a spectacular show. It is so lovely for the children to take part in something on such a big scale and they all did a terrific job of representing St Marys. A massive thank you to all the parents who helped out with lifts to and from the show - we wouldn't have been able to do it without you. Another great memory for all! **Miss Banks**



Willow Class



On Wednesday 28th November, Willow class joined their counterparts from Chiddingly and East Hoathly to go on a trip up the i360 and then to the Brighton and Hove Museum of Art and Design.

When they first arrived and saw how tall the i360 is, there were definitely a few nervous children!

Before their 'flight', they watched a really interesting video about how the i360 was built and the dedication of the engineers to make the project happen. All the adults were so proud that all the children went up the i360 and had great fun walking all the way around

it when it reached the top. Despite the weather being pretty miserable, there was still a fantastic view.

After their 'flight' had finished, we walked along the sea front and through the city until we reached the museum - which is in the grounds of the Pavilion. Inside the children split into their groups and had fun exploring all the different rooms. The museum had so many great hands-on activities and a favourite was The Snowman exhibition where they could dress up as a snowman!

After lunch, there was time for one last walk around the museum, a quick play in the grounds with Chiddingly and East Hoathly, it was time to get back on the coach.

All the children were so beautifully behaved and a real credit to their school. Thank you, Willow Class, for such a great day!

Miss Hare





Wildlife Explorers & Eco Club—Mr and Mrs Rowberry

In last week's meeting, explorers were challenged to recognise animal tracks. This is a very useful skill as muddy paths and snowfall will be coming our way and winter walks will give us all opportunities to look for tracks.

So explorers made foot prints by cutting out potatoes and seeing who could make trails using them.

At the start of December meeting, we made traditional Victorian orange and clove pomanders and the room was immediately full of delightful scents. It was great to use fruit and seeds for decorations which smell good!



Sports Awards – Mr Dolton

Well done to the following children:

W/e 23rd November

Maple: Riley for excellent progress and participation
Cherry: Joshua for much improved technique
Willow: Grace for excellent work during gym
Lilac: Elouise for great balance and poise

W/e 30th November

Tiago for brilliant climbing & gym work
Christingle Activity Day
Archie for excellent creativity in gym work
Brooke for excellent throwing and catching

This Week's Photo Album - St Mary's University of Life





Katrina's Corner

The church is looking very festive with the most beautiful Christmas tree, just in time for this Sunday's service and the School Christmas Choir, who will be singing for us this week. Please come along for 9.30am and join us for refreshments afterwards.

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

Please Name Me.....



We have a large number of lunch boxes, bottles and clothing that do not have any names on them. To help us help you, please can you make sure that everything that comes into school is clearly labelled. If you are thinking about ordering new labels, then don't forget that Stikins give back money to the PTFA for orders received.
www.stikins.co.uk

Car Parking



We appreciate that morning drop off can be quite stressful, but we are aware of a number of near misses in the car park recently. Please try to keep the gap between your car and the next to a reasonable length, so that other cars can use the space, if possible reverse into a space so that you are more aware going out of little people passing below your car height. Don't forget that the Anchor Inn has kindly agreed that parents can use their car park briefly to drop off/collect their children. Thank you.



Are there any parents free on Monday morning, 10th December, to help our caretaker transport and set up the stage in the church, ready for rehearsals and the nativity performance? Please could you meet Mr Gray in reception after drop off. Thank you.

PTFA News

Thanks to you we have raised £1,700 from the Christmas Fair with £478.00 of it being raised by the children alone in their classes.

Congratulations to Cherry for winning the competition for the class who raised the most money at this year's Christmas Fair and retaining their trophy with a whopping £103.50!

The PTFA will be providing refreshments at both nativity performances next week. Please would you bring some change with you for a donation.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase decorations made by the children and leftover from the fair at £2 each.

Don't forget that there will be a Cherry Bake Sale next Thursday and Friday 14th December after school.

If you are having a clear out ready for Christmas or the New Year, please hold off using the Rocking Horse box in the car park and keeping your items for the Jumble Sale coming in January.

Thank you. The PTFA x

Raise free funds for

Hartfield School PTA

every time you shop online this Christmas!

Find us on **easyfundraising**

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hartfieldschoolpta/

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

Shop with over 3,400 online retailers including:

amazon.co.uk | Argos | ebay | John Lewis | H&M | Debenhams

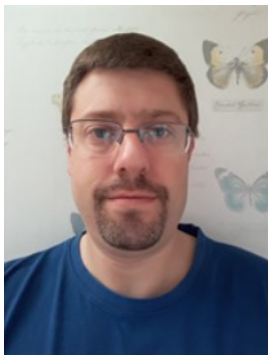
Booking.com | M&S | next | Sainsbury's | Boden | ASOS

£24 million raised | 1.2 million users | 100,000 causes



Pioneer Federation News Update

Governor Profile—Chris Forsey



We moved to Hailsham 7 years ago, having lived in Guildford for over 10 years after meeting my wife at Uni.

I originally studied civil engineering, and construction but unfortunately illness halted that idea, and I soon became involved in IT. I now have my own business delivering IT solutions and supporting other small businesses across Sussex and Surrey. I do however, still enjoy putting my practical learning and skills to use when I can, and with our 2 daughters at Chiddingfold, I have helped complete a number of projects for the school and become more involved in and seen the issues and challenges faced by the school. I enjoy the outdoors the most, from walking in the woods, to down on the beach, anything really to do with the countryside and fresh air.

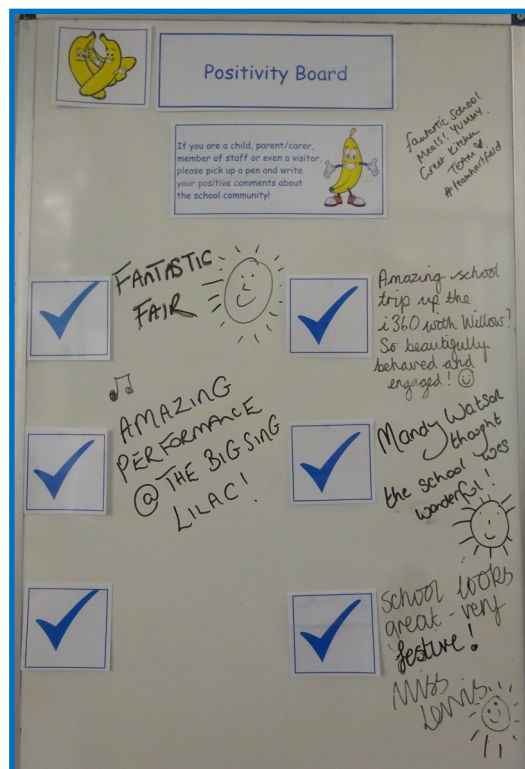
This is my first role as a governor and I am looking forward to working with the Pioneer staff across the 3 schools in what is going to be a very challenging role, and just as importantly, being able to provide input and feedback on behalf of the parents in the learning, teaching, and in the vision and ethos delivered across the federation schools to our children.

As a governor I have been asked to focus on Health and Safety as well as ICT across the 3 schools and will be working hard to help maintain the high standards already achieved and look at how technology is used across them and where this can be improved both in and out of the classroom.

Positivity Board

This board enables parents/ carers, staff, children and visitors to write positive comments, or thoughts, about their time in school or during events that they would like to share with others.

Please pop in any time to write down something that you would like to share. In the newsletter every week, there will be a picture to share and celebrate the positivity within our school and community. As always, thank you for your support!



Power Learners of the Week & Attendance

LEARNERS W/E: 30TH NOV:

MAPLE: HENRY

CHERRY: LUCAS

WILLOW: LEON

LILAC: SCARLETT

W/E 7TH DEC:

MAPLE: ZACHARY

CHERRY: ISLA

WILLOW: ALEX

LILAC: ELOUISE

ATTENDANCE:

MAPLE: 82.8%

CHERRY: 87.6%

WILLOW: 78.3%

LILAC: 86.2%

TOTAL: 84.1%

Diary Dates (subject to changes and additions)

7th December

Lighting of Christmas Tree in Village and
Community Carols at 6pm

9th December

Christmas Praise at St Mary's Church, 9.30am
with the school Christmas Choir—please come!

12th December

School Nativity, 10am and 2pm
Refreshments provided by the PTFA

14th December

Bake Sale After School, Cherry

14th December

Live Nativity in the Village at 6pm

18th December

Christmas Dinner/Lunch at School

19th December

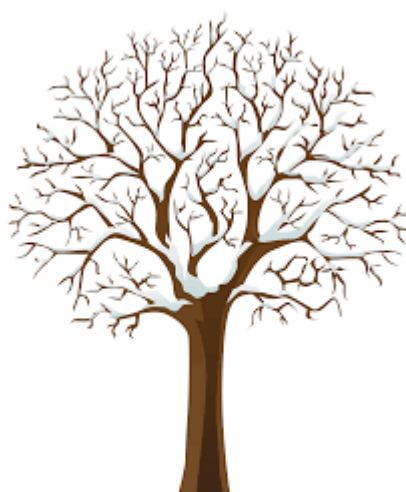
School Service in Church at 9.15am
Last Day of Term

24th December

Crib Service at St Mary's at 4pm

3rd and 4th January 2019 are Inset Days

Back to School 7th January



Dates for next term coming out
before the end of term.....

PTFA Events:

Jumble Sale

26th January 2019

11am to 12pm

Chinese New Year Disco

Friday 8th February 2019

After school and in the school hall



Bake Sale Dates:

Cherry - Thurs 13/Friday 14 December

Willow - Thurs 14 / Fri 15 February

Lilac - Thurs 4 / Fri 5 April

Maple - Thurs 11 / Fri 12 July

**SOCCER
SCHOOLS****Christmas 2018**

Location		Dates	Times	Venue	Cost
Brighton	OK	20-21 Dec	9am-3pm	Dorothy Stringer School, BN1 6PZ.	£39
Uckfield		20 Dec	9.45am-3pm	Uckfield College, TN22 3DJ.	£23
Worthing	OK	20-21 Dec	9am-3pm	Thomas A Becket Junior School, BN14 7PR.	£39

Courses for 4-5 year olds

Brighton		20-21 Dec	9am-12pm	Dorothy Stringer School, BN1 6PZ.	£20
Worthing		20-21 Dec	9am-12pm	Thomas A Becket Junior School, BN14 7PR.	£20

February half term 2019

Location		Dates	Times	Venue	Cost
Brighton	OK	18-20 Feb	9am-3pm	Dorothy Stringer School, BN1 6PZ.	£54
Eastbourne	OK	18-20 Feb	9am-3pm	Heron Park Primary Academy, BN22 9EE.	£54
Hassocks		20-21 Feb	9.45am-3pm	Hassocks Sports Centre, BN6 8LP.	£39
Steyning		20-21 Feb	9.45am-3pm	Steyning Primary School, BN44 3RQ.	£39
Uckfield		20-21 Feb	9.45am-3pm	Uckfield College, TN22 3DJ.	£39
Worthing	OK	18-20 Feb	9am-3pm	Thomas A Becket Junior School, BN14 7PR.	£54

Courses for 4-5 year olds

Brighton		18-20 Feb	9am-12pm	Dorothy Stringer School, BN1 6PZ.	£30
Eastbourne		18-20 Feb	9am-12pm	Heron Park Primary Academy, BN22 9EE.	£30
Worthing		18-20 Feb	9am-12pm	Thomas A Becket Junior School, BN14 7PR.	£30

Courses for girls only (ages 6-16)

Lancing		22 Feb	9.45am-3pm	American Express Elite Football Performance Centre, BN15 9FP.	£23
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Children aged 5 years can attend courses of either age category.

Single full-day bookings are available priced at £23 for 5-13 year olds.

Single half-day bookings are available priced at £10 for 4-5 year olds.

OK = Goalkeepers included. Goalkeepers will receive individual specialised training during the mornings, followed by integrated team sessions in the afternoons. Goalkeeper courses can be booked separately online.

Places must be booked online in advance. Full terms and conditions can be found on our website.

www.albioninthecommunity.org.uk