



St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School

Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4AA

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter

Head of School: Miss Becca Hare

Email: office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk



Term 1 Week 4

Friday 1st October

School Value and weekly reflection

Each term, we focus on a Christian Value with weekly reflection in assembly and in class. We would like to develop this further by asking you to discuss the reflection of the week with your child(ren) at home. This term we are looking at Thankfulness.



Thankfulness

Week 4:

In the run up to our Harvest Festival, we have been thinking about the importance of giving at this time of year. Decorate one of the foodbank items or design a hamper for a foodbank of your own!

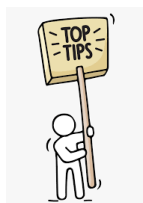
Sports Award

This week, our sports awards go to:
Lois: for great listening, reactions and participation during PE.
Joseph: for excellent participation, teamwork and feedback during PE.
Dexter: for a brilliant run in the Cross Country race and excellent teamwork during Bench ball.
Eva: for brilliant focus, effort and determination during Cross Country practice.
Well done to you all!



Top Tips

- **Letters and emails home:**
Specific
 - ◇ Cross Country Invitations
 - ◇ Pupil Ambassador Invitations
- **Outstanding Forms**



Please be aware that if we do not have a consent form for school photographs next week, your child's photograph will not be taken.

Attendance

Whole school: week: 97.6%
year: 97.6%

Maple: 100% Cherry: 96.9%
Willow: 99.1% Lilac: 96.2%

Less than 94.9% - Red 95 to 96.4% - Amber
96.5 to 99.9% - Green 100% - Gold

Well done Maple Class, an amazing 100%!



Reading Reward Scheme

Our Whole School Reading Reward Scheme will continue with your ongoing support required to tot up the minutes read at home and please add additional comments in the reading records if required.

Reading Records are checked each Thursday and minutes counted for the class total.

This week's results:

Maple: 1,234 minutes
Cherry: 397 minutes
Willow: 483 minutes
Lilac: 2,323 minutes

Well done, Lilac Class!



If you need the newsletter, or any other school letter, to be in a different format, please speak with Mrs Funnell in the school office.

If you need help or support with access to any information, please also contact Mrs Funnell.

St Mary's

Our lovely PTFA continue their work behind the scenes so don't forget to have the School on your **Amazon Smile** account, be signed up to **'Easy Fund Raising'**, add any **clothes** to our collection bin, or to pop us onto any re-orders for **Stikins** labels!

The PTFA is always open to **new volunteers** so if you have a bit of spare time and would be happy to join them, please get in touch.



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival this year will be held in church on **Wednesday 6th October at 9:30am** and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible.

Our collection this year will be donated to [Crawley Open House](#) so if you are able, please send your child(ren) in on the morning of 6th October with something from the list below.

- * Cleaning Products
- * Tins of food
- * Single Bedding
- * Long lasting food items



Dates for your Diary

October

- 5th: Tempest Photography
- 6th: Harvest Festival - 9:30am
- 7th: Lilac Class Forest School
- 7th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 8th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
- 9th: Open Morning for prospective parents
- 14th: Maple Class Forest School
- 11th: World Mental Health Day
- 15th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
- 19th: FGB Meeting 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 21st: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 21st: Lilac Bake Sale
- 21st: PTFA AGM 2:45pm
- 22nd: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
- 22nd: Lilac Bake Sale
- 22nd: Last Day of Term 1

November

- 1st: First Day of Term 2

Wildlife Explorers

The Wildlife Explorers found out about an amazing animal called Wally the Walrus this week. A walrus who should have stayed near the North Pole drifted to England, France and Wales before swimming back to colder seas. He swam thousands of miles and clambered onto several boats to have rest up on the way – much to the astonishment of the owners!



We also did some great science by investigating what invertebrate mini-beasts are beneath our feet.

To do this, we dug out squares of turf and counted all the earthworms and mini-beasts we could see. The results will help to find out if there is enough food for many of our wild birds. Some of the earthworms in the grass in front of our school were 20 centimetres long!



Forest School: Cherry Class, Thursday 23rd September

The Impact of Forest School is the knowledge the children gain from the Forest School experience which can be seen through the skills developed, tools used, art and craft activities undertaken, their observations and knowledge of the fruit, plants and trees in relation to the seasons, and the skills involved in learning how to play Forest School games.

This week the plants we saw were blackberries. The children collected as many as they could find and had fun noticing the different types of berries, hawthorn and rose hips. Once they got to the woods, some children made paint with the berries and painted some lovely pictures! The whole class were great British Citizens, using litter pickers to collect any rubbish from the hedges and edges as they walked to the woods. Well done Cherry Class!



They played a game of 'Spirit of the Forest', where they first pretended to be small wild foxes, blackbirds and owls. They had to run from one side to the other without getting caught and turned into a tree! Some children were excellent at this!



Mrs Fry brought her lovely puppy Rupert to the woods this week. Cherry Class were really good at taking it in turns in holding his lead and playing with him on the walk to the woods.

Some children caught a glimpse of some deer crossing the track!



Once we were in the woods, the children were great at tapping sticks in time and following rhythm and movement patterns. Their creative sides emerged during their free exploration time, exploring the ropes and bridges, hammocks and swings.



Wellbeing Day

On Tuesday 28th September, Martin from Open View came to school and ran sessions with each class looking at different aspects of Wellbeing and how to care for ourselves and each other. There was much role play involved encouraging the children to be assertive and let others know if they are feeling sad or worried, with Martin feeding back on what excellent actors we have in school.



Every class showed great interest and compassion as they were led through a variety of situations which encouraged practical ways to maintain and improve our own Mental Health, then looked at ways in which we can all support friends.



The Classes were kept busy undertaking some physical activity to encourage physical wellbeing and the younger classes entertained through a mixture of puppetry.



Each session finished with an activity of mindfulness.

Martin was impressed with how the children spoke and worked with each other as well as the quality of ideas that the children shared.

It was a very helpful and productive day.



Stranger Awareness

On Friday 1st October two Police Officers came to visit the school.

They met with Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 separately and spoke with both about helping people in the community and keeping people safe. They also talked with the children about who to ask if you are lost or meet a stranger and who to talk to about it.

The children asked lots of questions which including finding out about the job of a Police Officer.



Helping your local
community



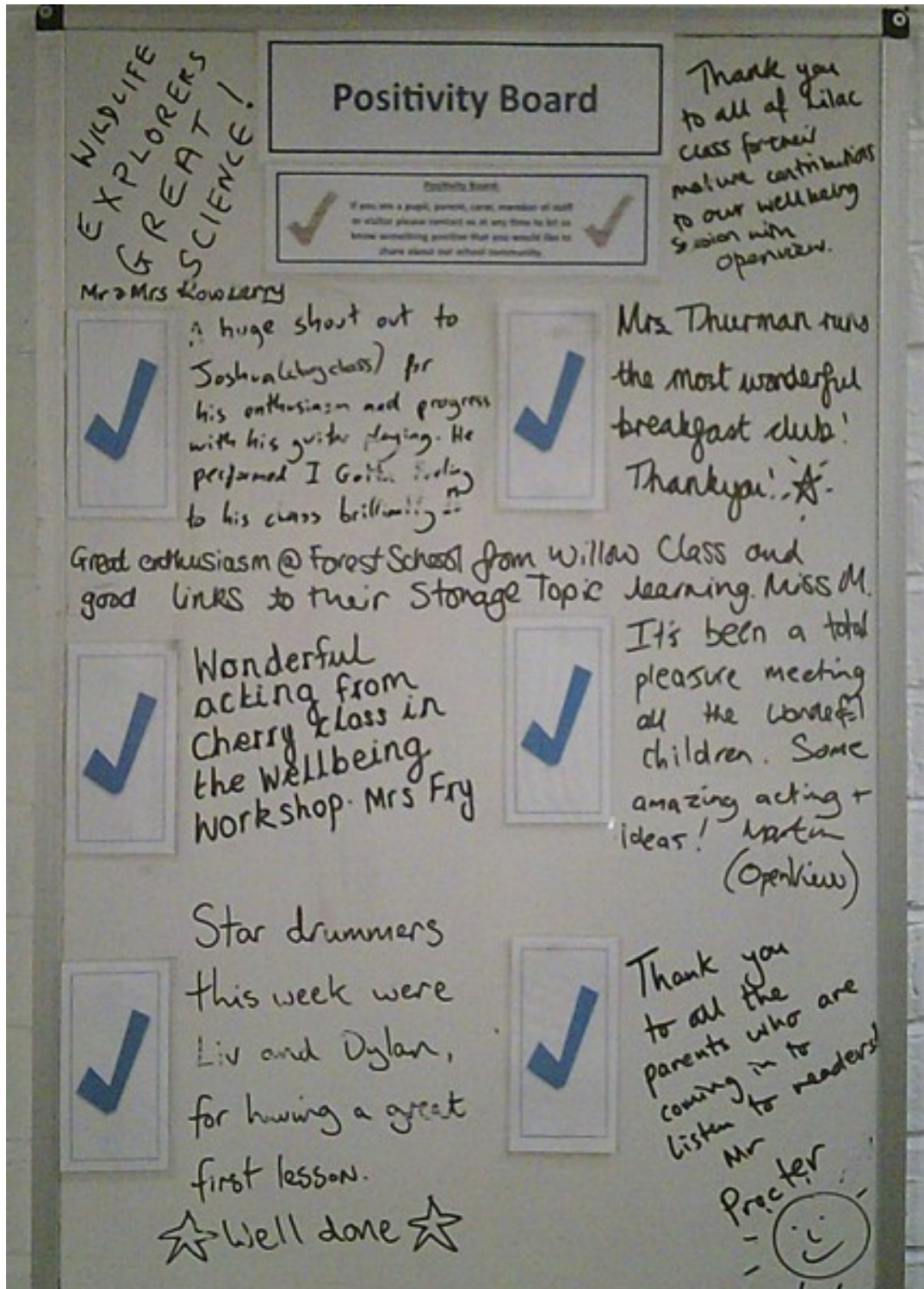
St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

Tel: 01892 770221 Email: office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk Website: www.pioneerfederation.co.uk

Positivity Board

This board enables us to write positive comments, or thoughts, from parents, carers, staff, children and visitors that they would like to share with others about the school, their classes, the children or events.

Please contact us at any time to let us know 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.



Information

The Pioneer Federation Governing Board

School governing boards have three core functions as set out by the Department of Education:

- “Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding Executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff, and
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.”

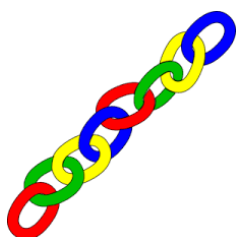


The Pioneer Governing Board has 13 governors and 3 associate members (invited onto the Board to help in specific areas), who will be working in a strategic role with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that the pupils across our 4 amazing schools have the best possible education.



We are very thankful for the Governors we have as they come with a wealth of experience and have an extensive range of expertise, including four previous Headteachers, a secondary school assistant Headteacher, Chairs of other governing boards and two members who work within the Diocese.

We have an elected Chair of Governors (Alan Brundle) and four vice chairs who will each form a special link with one school, visiting regularly and feeding back to the full governing board.



Each Governor is linked with one Pioneer Teacher Subject Lead, who they will work with to ensure a rich and broad curriculum is in place for all pupils at our schools.

Within the next Newsletters, there will be an introduction to each of your governors, including which school and subject they are linked with, and any other roles they are undertaking.

There has been one meeting so far this year and all of the new board members are looking forward to working with the school communities to help them be the best they can be for all our wonderful Pioneer pupils.



If you need to contact the governing board at any point, Alan’s email can be found on the main Pioneer [website](#).

School Website

Over the last few months, much work has been carried out on the school [website](#) with the new, updated version being officially launched on Monday 4th October.



Home Information Visit East Hoathly Visit Chiddingfold Visit St Mary's Visit Park Mead Working Groups



Achievement for All, Learning Together, Learning for Life

Thanks need to be extended to Kay Carpenter, Adam Roberts and Andrew Huggett for all of the hard work that has been put into the changes that have been made.

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Volunteers' meeting – 29th September 2021

Agenda item	Information shared
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ The school has a 'it could happen here' approach and recognise that safeguarding is the whole team's responsibility. ✘ Miss Hare is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the school with Mr Procter and Miss Surtees as the deputies (DDSL). ✘ All concerns must be reported verbally to them and then a written account provided with as much detail and use of child's own words quoted as possible. ✘ If a child discloses something to a volunteer that they feel is 'uncomfortable', in the first instance they will speak with the class teacher. This is likely to then be referred to Miss Hare or one of the DDSLs. ✘ When dealing with a disclosure, volunteers must not ask leading questions but can ask for more information with questions such as 'could you tell me a bit more about that?' When dealing with a disclosure, the child must never be promised that what they have said will be kept a secret, even if they ask you to.
GDPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Issues relating to Confidentiality and GDPR were shared and explained. ✘ Everyone in school is bound by these rules and must not share personal information about a child, parent or member of staff that is learnt within school. ✘ Personal information relates to everything about a person that you would not know by looking at them. It also applies to school work and media images. ✘ To share information equates to a Data Breach which is investigated by our Data Protection Officer.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ The 5 Reading Strategies were shared and explained. ✘ Miss Hare explained that when writing a comment about a child's reading, aim to be specific about strategies used, page numbers read and any vocabulary they learnt or discussed so the next adult reading with a child can pick this up the next time.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ The '5 Finger Tips for Good Writing' were shared and explained. ✘ Volunteers are encouraged to use this if working on a written task with a child to ensure the basics of writing are embedded.
6 Bs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ The 6 Bs were shared and explained. ✘ The importance of developing independent learners is key for all who work with children at St Mary's to help develop the skills they will need later in life.
Forest School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Those who have had experience of volunteering at forest school shared some top tips about going to forest school. ✘ The joy of watching the children exploring in nature and seeing different characteristics come out than the ones that are usually shown in the classroom. ✘ A 'step back and know when to step in' approach to risk taking which is encouraged in Forest School to help children develop appropriate attitude to risk taking. ✘ All agreed it was a fantastic and exciting part of school to be involved with and Miss Hare explained how lovely it is for staff to be able to have fun with the children in a different way and develop relationships with the children in their class.
How to become a volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Speak with Mrs Funnell in the office and fill in an application form. ✘ An Enhanced DBS is required along with two references and there will be some key policies and information that you will need to read and sign to say you are happy with.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers. We are a small school and without your help, we wouldn't be able to run forest school or school trips and hearing the children read is such an important part of their education. Any time anyone has to give is always so very much appreciated so please do get in touch if you feel you would like to join us.

Well Being Poster

With Harvest Festival next week, this week's wellbeing poster looks at 7 Random Acts of Kindness Ideas for Children taken from [Parents.com](https://www.parents.com) 2021.

Kindness is a superpower that children can choose everyday and instead of making it a 'rule', kindness can be encouraged by showing it as a superpower that makes a child and others feel good. Research shows that 'being kind boosts happiness and wellbeing' and that 'kindness leads to an increase in peer acceptance.'

The following Random Acts of Kindness may encourage your child to become more confident in their abilities to impact the world around them.

1. Share a Kind Note

This idea stresses the importance of positive words. Ask your child what kindness means to them and encourage them to use those words to write a pleasant note to someone special.

2. Demonstrate the Power of Encouragement

Take some colourful sticky notes and encourage your child to fill them with encouraging compliments like, 'you are awesome', 'you are a good friend,' 'you can do this,' for someone special. Add their name to the notes and hide them around the house for them to discover.

3. Pick Up Litter Together

Have a conversation about how everyone has the power to make the world more beautiful and with a mind to safety and hygiene, take some time litter picking. If there is no safe, hygienic way to achieve this, spend time encouraging 'no littering' to establish as a life long habit.

4. Find Someone to Thank

Kind words go a long way and there is never a bad time to express gratitude. Encourage your child to say thank you to a teacher, a shop assistant, someone who has displayed an act of kindness towards them. It can be fun to 'find' people to thank together.

5. Add Gratitude to Your Evening Routine

Discussing gratefulness can be an 'eye opening' experience for a child. If possible introduce a time each night to look at what has made them happy that day.

6. Play 'I Spy Kindness'

Kindness exists all around us, we just need to look for it. When out and about take the opportunity to point out acts of kindness visible in the world around you. The more acts of kindness your child witnesses, the more ideas they will have for spreading cheer of their own.

7. See Something, Do Something

Children pay more attention to those around them than sometimes thought. When an issue is raised, take the opportunity to answer questions and heighten awareness then do one small thing about it together as a family. i.e. donating clothes to a shelter or volunteering together.

Every act of kindness, no matter how small, makes a difference so help your child engage their kindness superpowers!



Change of Menu

Please note that the menus available on Thursday 7th October and Friday 8th October have swapped.

Census Day

KS1 Free
KS2 £2.15

7 October 2021

Did you know?

If your child is in Reception, Years 1 or 2, then the meal is free of charge

Census Day Menu

Choose a Main Meal...

Golden Fish Fingers & Chips

Soft Veggie Taco & Chips (v)

Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans
or Tuna Mayo

On the Side...

Peas

Baked Beans

For Dessert...

Crispy Snow Bar

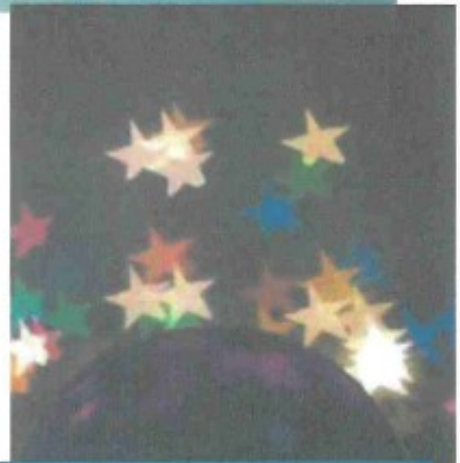
or Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt



Don't forget! If your child is in Reception, Years 1 or 2, then you can get their meal free of charge!


Chartwells
EAT LEARN LIVE

Opportunity



Sunday Discoverers
1st and 3rd Sunday's in St Mary's Church during the 9.30am service
Starfish - ages 3-5years
Sparklers - ages 6-8
Join us to explore, learn and pray.
Bible story with craft, songs and time to talk



Dates for the Autumn Term
September 19th Who is the greatest?
October 3rd with Harvest Festival
October 17th All in this together.
November 7th Living and giving
November 21st What it means to belong
December 5th Jesus is for all.
Contact: Kathy Green 01892 770208
or Rev Julie Sear 01892 770436

Opportunity

NUSRAT GHANI MP (Wealden)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th September 2021

Christmas Card Competition 2021

Dear Heads and Teachers,

After the very difficult year we have all had, I am keen to celebrate the positive and start festivities early by launching my Christmas Card Competition 2021.

My MP Christmas card competition has been in place since 2015 but I had to pause it during Covid but am pleased to relaunch it with your support and celebrate Wealden's schools and students.

The theme for the drawing or design is 'What Christmas means to me' and all primary school children in Wealden are invited to participate.

The drawings can use any medium (pencil, felt tip, crayon, paint etc.) and should be completed on A4, either portrait or landscape is fine. Their design must be their own original piece of work. Please make sure every submission has the child's full name, school, and class or year group on the back. Please post all entries to the competition to *Nusrat Ghani MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA* or email my office to arrange local collection. The closing date is Friday 23rd October.

The winning school will get a visit from me and a small prize for the student artist. We tend to get lovely media coverage of the school and it's a welcome thank you to the wonderful teachers.

I hope you will support this initiative by encouraging your pupils to complete an entry before the closing date – Friday 23rd October.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping with this seasonal activity. I hope it brings a little early Christmas cheer to your pupils!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'N Ghani'.

Nusrat Ghani
Member of Parliament for Wealden