



# St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School

Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4AA

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Term 4 Week 2

Friday 4th March 2022

## St Mary's Star Skills

This week, we launched our St Mary's Star Skills!

This year, we are working the Skills Builder Partnership to develop eight essential skills which go beyond use just in the classroom. These skills are vital in everyday life, and need developing particularly in preparation for life after primary school.

They are:

<b>Listening:</b>	This skill is about being able to receive information effectively.
<b>Speaking:</b>	This skill is about orally communicating ideas or information.
<b>Problem Solving:</b>	This skill is about using your ability to find a solution to a problem.
<b>Creativity:</b>	This skill is about generating new imagination and using your ideas.
<b>Staying Positive:</b>	This skill is about staying motivated despite setbacks.
<b>Aiming High:</b>	This skill is about trying hard and achieving your goal.
<b>Leadership:</b>	This skill is about supporting, encouraging, and developing others to achieve a shared goal.
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The skill icons (see the poster later in the newsletter!) are up in all the learning areas of the school (differentiated depending on the age of the children in the class) and as a school community, we are looking out for the children using these in different contexts. Each child has their name up in the classroom and if an adult, or another child, spots them using a skill, they will move their name onto that skill to celebrate it. During class assemblies, the children will be challenged to consider which skill they haven't been on that week and aim to focus on ones they are not as confident in.

The Skills Builder website has a lot of brilliant resources for parents to use at home, too, and we'd encourage you to spend some time on their website, looking at what they do: [www.skillsbuilder.org/parents-and-carers](http://www.skillsbuilder.org/parents-and-carers)

Each week, one child from each class will be chosen to receive a Star Skill certificate and this will be shared in celebration assembly on a Friday, before coming home to celebrate it with you.



### Top Tips

Letters and emails this week:

#### **Whole School**

- Parent Consultations
- Covid-19 update
- Get Caught Reading

#### **Willow Class**

- Postponement of Cuckmere Haven

**Please remember to book your Parent Consultation.**



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.

### 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 Justice and Hope.



## Justice and Hope

### Week 2:

Standing up for what is right can be difficult. As a class, think of a classroom code and write it down or make posters. Think of a way to make sure that everyone is looked after well. Could there be someone to talk to if you're struggling?

### Attendance

Whole school: week: 95.7%  
year: 92.6%

Maple: 95.8% Willow: 97.0%

Cherry: 93.6% Lilac: 96.8%

Less than 94.9% - Red 96.5 to 99.9% - Green

95 to 96.4% - Amber 100% - Gold

Well done, Willow Class!



### Sports Award

This week, our sports awards go to:

**William:** for excellent aiming and passing with the ball.

**Rory:** for great hand to eye co-ordination during Tennis.

**Luca:** for much improved focus, technique and control during Tennis.

**Archie:** for much improved stick work and control, especially whilst passing in Hockey.



Well done to you all!



### 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 House total.

This week's results:

**Rother:** 1,492 minutes **Cuckmere:** 950 minutes

**Teise:** 319 minutes **Medway:** 1,492 minutes

Well done, Rother !



### Headteacher's Award

We have one Headteacher award to share this week:



**Ryah-Rose:** for fantastic progress in reading and for developing a real love of reading.



Well done Ryah-Rose!

### Dates for your Diary

#### March

- 8th: Swimming - Willow Class
- 8th: Parent Consultations 3:30pm - 6:00pm
- 10th: Forest School - Willow Class
- 10th: Parent Consultations 3:30pm - 6:00pm
- 15th: Swimming - Willow Class
- 22nd: Swimming - Willow Class
- 28th: FGB Meeting 5:00pm - 7:00pm, East Hoathly
- 29th: Wilderness Wood - Lilac Class
- 29th: Swimming - Willow Class
- 31st: Bake Sale - Cherry Class 3:15pm

#### April

- 1st: Easter Service - 2:30pm in Church
- 1st: Bake Sale - Cherry Class 3:15pm
- 1st: Last Day - Term 4
- 19th: First Day - Term 5



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## Get Caught Reading

With World Book Day next week, our desire to enhance school-wide reading and our hope to encourage all to read for pleasure, we have planned a competition to run over the next week.

We would like the children to '**Get Caught Reading**' in unexpected places and to have photographic evidence to send to the school!

This could be anywhere, so get your thinking caps on and your reading books ready.

Prizes will be awarded in each year group for the location judged 'most creative' with the photos will be used

to create a wonderful display in school and where agreed, posted in the weekly Newsletter.

Please send your photographs to the school office before **Monday 7th March**.

We can't wait to see the children's imaginations at work!



**Where will you 'Get Caught Reading'?**



### **Benny - The School Dog**

This week Benny has again encouraged us to exercise and get more fresh air!



### **PTFA**

Thank you for the amazing support given to the two PTFA events held through the last week. By combining the two, an amazing amount in the region of £1000 has been raised.

Thank you also to the hard work and planning that is put in to make these happen.

### **Planned for April:**



**Saturday 23rd April** plans are also in place to hold a Quiz Night, in the school hall with doors opening at **7:30pm**.



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## World Book Day

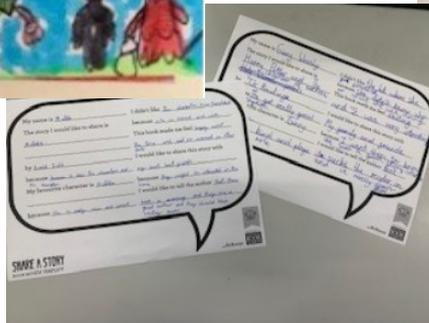
Once again World Book Day was enjoyed by the whole school. Both children and staff relished the opportunity to celebrate books and reading across all year groups. We shared some much loved stories in class and the children enjoyed our version of 'The Day the Crayons Quit' in assembly. All classes took part in different activities centred around reading at various points throughout the day and week.



**Lilac Class** designed their own mini books. The books produced ranged from retellings of familiar stories to fact filled books on Meercats, Pandas and World War 1!



**Willow Class** took part in a book scavenger hunt and also created a Share a Story to recommend a favourite book to their peers.

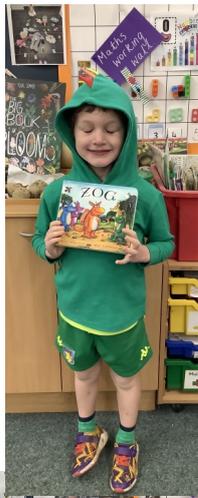
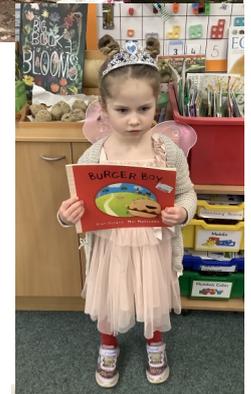




### **World Book Day**

Cherry Class had their own scavenger hunt where they were on the look out for the costumes of children throughout the school. It was lovely to see the different year groups interacting with each other and enjoying showing off their costumes.

Maple Class have taken the opportunity across the whole week, to share everyone's favourite books!





# St Mary's Star Skills



**"Skills for learning, skills for life"**



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## **Wellbeing Poster**

Our wellbeing poster this week looks at the benefits of reading and is taken from work by the [Markham Public Library](#).

Aside from leisure and education, reading enables us to learn new words and to maintaining mental health and here are the top 10 benefits of reading for all ages:

### **1. Reading Exercises the Brain**

While reading, we have to remember different characters and settings that belong to a given story, remembering details throughout the time taken to read the book. Therefore, reading is a workout for your brain that improves memory function.

### **2. Reading is a Form of (free) Entertainment**

The most of the popular TV shows and movies are based on books, so why not indulge in the original form of entertainment by immersing yourself in reading?

### **3. Reading Improves Concentration and the Ability to Focus**

Reading cannot happen without focus and in order to fully understand the story, we have to concentrate on each page that we read. In a world where gadgets are only getting faster and shortening our attention span, we need to constantly practice concentration and focus. Reading is one of the few activities that requires your undivided attention, therefore, improving your ability to concentrate.



### **4. Reading Improves Literacy**

Books have the power to improve vocabulary by introducing new words. The more you read, the more your vocabulary grows, along with your ability to effectively communicate. Additionally, reading improves writing skills by helping the reader understand and learn different writing styles.

### **5. Reading Improves Sleep**

By creating a bedtime routine that includes reading, you can signal to your body that it is time to sleep. Setting screens aside and picking up a book, you are telling your brain that it is time to quiet down.



### **6. Reading Increases General Knowledge**

Books are always filled with fun and interesting facts. Reading a variety of topics can make you a more knowledgeable person, in turn improving your conversation skills.

### **7. Reading is Motivational**

By reading books about protagonists who have overcome challenges we are can be encouraged to do the same. The right book can motivate you to never give up and stay positive.

### **8. Reading Reduces Stress**

Reading has the power to transport you to another world and away from daily routine, therefore can decrease stress, lower heart rate and reduce blood pressure.



### **9. Reading Sets a Positive Example**

Reading is a key component of early literacy development. Children are excellent at mimicking the adults around them which means that if you regularly set aside some "me time" for reading, your children will learn to do the same.

### **10. Reading Teaches Empathy**

Books allow us to experience realities outside of our lives. They teach us to relate to others by often putting us in the shoes of the narrator. This simple technique is called empathy. Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Reading builds on empathy by constantly presenting us with thoughts and scenarios outside of our usual perspective.



## 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.

