



St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School

Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4AA

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter

Co-Heads of School: Mrs Becca Bastin and Mrs Abbie Hill

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Term 4 Week 2

Friday 3rd March

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.

Our values for this term are Forgiveness and Hope.



Forgiveness

Forgiveness is more than saying 'sorry' and this week we looked at how easy it is to talk about but very difficult to practice, forgiveness. We read the story of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35 which emphasises this.

Are you clear as a family on how you can tell or show each other you are sorry and what forgiveness would look like? Maybe spend some time sharing ideas on this and agree as a family.

Attendance

The Pioneer Federation goal is an average attendance rate of 97%, recognising that each school day provides opportunities for learning, as well as social and emotional development. It is noticeable when students miss school as it impacts on their progress.



Whole school: week: **94.4%**
year: **94.1%**

Maple: **97.3%** Cherry: **94.6%**
Willow: **91.3%** Lilac: **95.7%**

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

Well done, Maple Class!



Top Tips

Emails and letters sent home this week:

Whole School:

- Book Tokens

Whole School (selected):

- Wildlife Explorers
- Preston Manor Payments
- Breakfast Club Payments
- Lunchtime Discoverers



Headteacher Award

We have one fantastic Headteacher award to celebrate this week:



Ellamy: who has completed an amazing painting of a bear. Super creativity!

Well done, Ellamy!

Parking

Please park considerately at school drop off and pick up. There have been difficulties this week with others being 'blocked in'. Thank you



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 Star Skills

"Skills for learning, skills for life"



Star Skills

Each week, one pupil from each class is identified for their 'star skills' development. Staff and other pupils share their observations of the week, which are then recognised in Celebration Assembly on Fridays. With so many developing, we choose one star skill each week for the Newsletter.

Jared: has shown brilliant **speaking skills**, being much more confident to put his hand up and ask questions or share thoughts which is helping others understand or think more deeply.

Rory: has a fantastic approach to **aiming high**, producing a wonderful piece of work about Rio de Janeiro, taking his time to make sure he was using the skills he has learnt in handwriting club.

Oliver: has shown fabulous **problem solving** this week, applying what he knows about doubling numbers to help solve maths calculations!

Ida: has displayed brilliant **staying positive** this week, especially when she was trying to flip the floppy discs in PE!

Next week we will be looking at how Lucas M, Logan, Jax and Bo develop their skills.

Sports Award

This week, sports awards go to

Joe: for his outstanding defensive display during bench ball.

Scarlett: for excellent focus, control and hand eye co-ordination during tennis.

Wilf: for excellent control and much improved technique during tennis.

Alfred: for fantastic, controlled technique during tennis.



Dates for your Diary

March

- 7th: Willow Class Swimming
- 7th: Cherry Class - Assembly 9:15am
- 7th: Parent Consultations 3:30pm - 6:00pm
- 9th: Parent Consultations 3:30pm - 6:00pm
- 10th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am
- 10th: Pioneer Gymnastics Tournament
- 14th: Willow Class - Swimming
- 16th: Willow Class - Forest School
- 16th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 17th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am
- 21st: Maple Class - Assembly
- 21st: Pioneer Gymnastics Tournament
(selected pupils)
- 21st: Willow Class - Swimming
- 22nd: Maple Class - Hever Castle
- 23rd: Y5/6 Girls Football Tournament - Bedes
- 23rd: Lilac Class - Forest School
- 23rd: Cherry Class - Bake Sale 3:15pm
- 24th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am
- 24th: Cherry Class - Bake Sale 3:15pm
- 27th: FGB Meeting 5pm - 7pm
- 28th: Willow Class - Swimming
- 29th: Palm Sunday Service 9:30am - 10:00am
- 30th: Toast for World in Need
- 30th: Maple Class and Buddies - Forest School
- 31st: End of Term Service Church 2:30pm
- 31st: Last Day Term 4



April

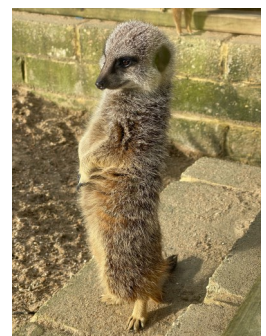
- 17th: First Day Term 5

Photo From Home

The topic in Cherry Class this term is 'Meerkat Mail' and



Bella took a weekend opportunity to expand her learning!



Lilac Class - Preston Manor

On Wednesday 1st March, Lilac Class went to Preston Manor to experience life as Victorian servants for the morning.



On arrival, they were greeted by Miss Ada, the housekeeper, and were quickly told exactly what was expected of them!

The children commented that Miss Ada was very strict and they were so perfectly behaved, Mrs Bastin and Mrs Hill were tempted to offer her a job..!



The children were then put to work, preparing Preston Manor for the arrival of some guests for a dinner party. Their tasks included cleaning rooms ready for guests, preparing tea trays, cutlery, grinding up herbs and spices for dinner, folding napkins, ironing, polishing and more! They children said how tired they felt at the end of all the tasks!

To finish off the morning, Miss Ada then 'hired' 5 children to be live-in servants and shared some more of the history of Preston Manor. The hands-on experience of the trip showed the children just what life was like back in Victorian times and actually how many things they have to be grateful for these days.

Thank you so much to all the parents who helped with costumes - the children looked amazing! A big thank you also to the parent helpers who accompanied us to Brighton for the day.





World Book Day

Thank you to all parents and children who made World Book Day such a success. It was wonderful to see so many inventive and fun costumes worn with pride, and to hear lots of excited chatter about favourite books.

The children enjoyed our staff assembly of *The Day the Crayons Came Home* – with a special mention to Mrs Bastin and Mrs T as they took turns reading their postcard, which was very funny.

The Book Swap was a triumph and hopefully



will become a yearly event on World Book day, as the children really got stuck in choosing a new book or books to take home.

Thank you to our Librarians, especially Eva, Esrah and Harry who put in so much effort into making the swap a success and for giving up so many of their lunchtimes to set

up The Library Club, which will now run weekly, Monday lunchtimes.



In Cherry the children used 'Journey' as a starting point for their ideas and imagined what would be hidden behind their secret door. They created some wonderfully descriptive sentences along with some careful illustrations.

In Willow we used the Willow Pattern Plate as a starting point for telling stories and then decorated our own plates ready to retell our own. The book scavenger hunt was trickier than expected as the children searched for exciting writing and detailed descriptions in many different genres of books.



On Friday, it was fabulous to see the children taking the opportunity to share their love of reading with each other.



Forest School - Thursday 2nd March

Cherry class were great at spotting interesting signs of spring on the walk to the woods. They were very good at using the identification sheets to support their identification, finding hazel catkins, cuckoo pint, daffodils, crocuses, oak trees, silver birch trees, lichen pink acorns and alder cones.

Some of the class discovered that the bluebells sprouting under the leaves on the



woodland floor had grown up taller since their last session. We tried our hardest to stick to the paths, so as to protect them as they grow

Once the class had reached the woods they each took a moment to find a quiet 'sit spot' to observe and listen.

Some children played with the large 'nest', which is on the woodland floor and started to learn a bit

about recognising birds. They talked about what materials birds might use to build nest and had a go themselves with hay, leaves, sticks and clay which they dug from the woodland floor. The children played with toy birds and learned to identify them by their colours and bird call



The children had a go at making their own birds with card and sticks and then flew them around the Forest School area.



The class discovered that a hazel tree had fallen, which had stopped the swing working. We got out the bow saw to remove it and there was enjoyment on the swing and taking it in turns to push and wait for each other to have a go. The children worked out a strategy for taking turns on the hammock fairly, by queuing, pushing and counting.



Some children took to the stream, where there was much excitement trying to move logs from the water to help the flow of the stream.



It was World Book Day, so there was some reading in the woods!

A huge thank you to the volunteers who came and supported the children so brilliantly, we can't do it without you!



Lunchtime Clubs

Alongside the after school clubs and music sessions run by outside agencies, we also have lunchtime clubs run by school volunteers and members of staff:



Wildlife Explorers will continue on Tuesday lunch time for Y1 - Y6.

The children get involved in 'all things wildlife' from issues affecting our planet, to local energy consumption, plants, insects and birds.

Mrs Rowberry also encourages engagement in competitions, national surveys and work towards young leader awards.

We need to ensure that a clear register is provided to Mrs Rowberry so if you would like to arrange attendance, please email the school office.

Discoverers plus is a lunchtime club run by Kate Dillingham (youth worker from church) on Wednesdays for all ages. At this club, they read a bible story, sometimes about a Giant of faith as such David (as in David and Goliath), sometimes about the amazing miracles Jesus did. They play games and make things, such as loop band bracelets or a craft to do with the story. They pack a lot into their 30 minutes, but have lots of fun while doing it! Again, we need to provide a clear register so if you would like to arrange attendance, please email the school office



Mindful Art Club, again for all ages is run by Kay Carpenter on Thursday lunchtimes on the playground (unless wet). A different activity is completed each week and runs on a 'drop in' basis so if any child feels the need for a calm moment during lunch play or a desire to express themselves through the art projects on Offer, they can choose to join on a week by week basis.



Lego Club, runs on Friday lunchtimes and is for all ages. Supervised by Kay Carpenter the children show fantastic imagination, creating amazing structures and developing skills in collaboration and sharing.

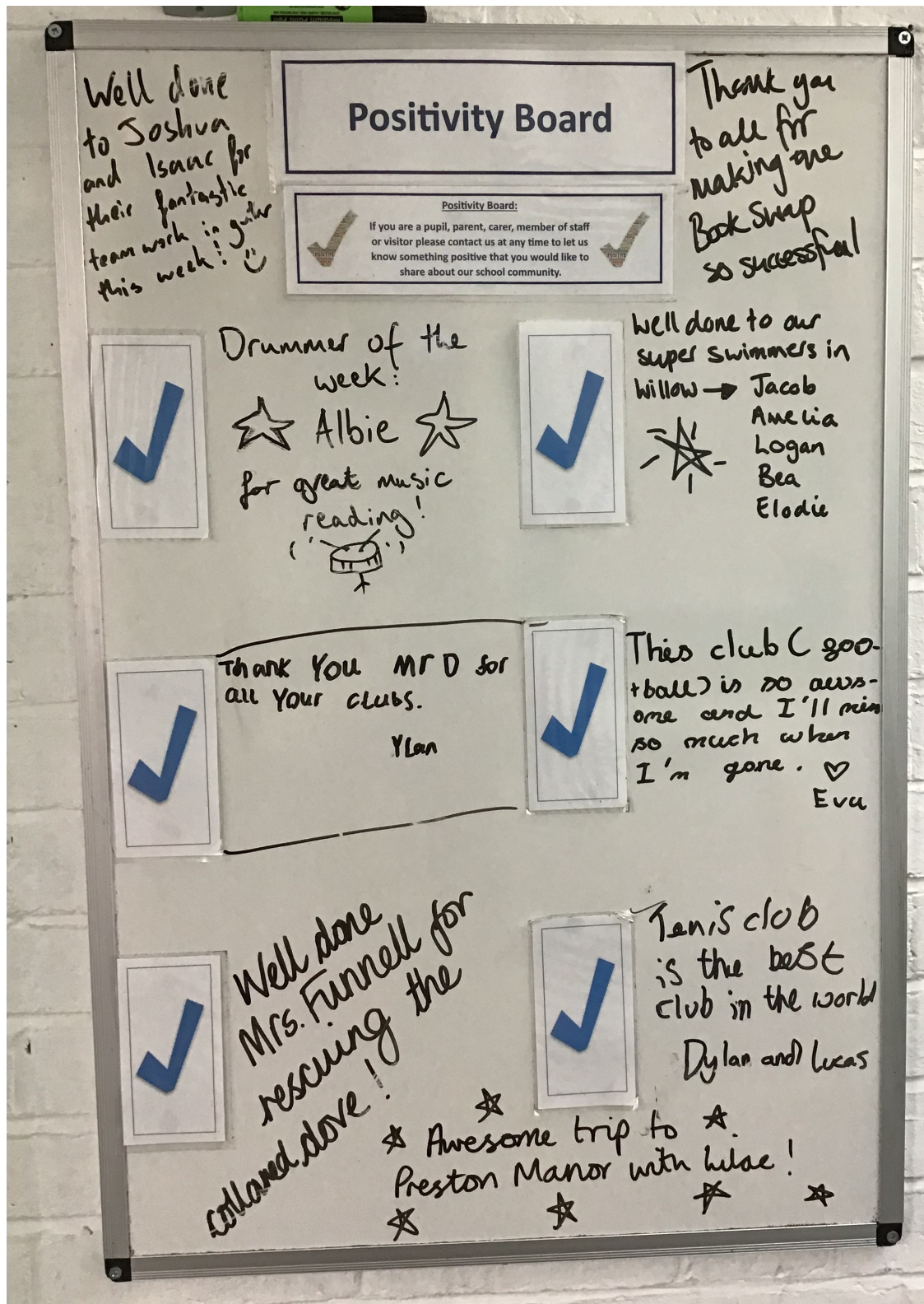


This group runs on a 'drop in' basis and is available for all children to join if and when they choose.

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.



Wellbeing Poster

Starting this week, we are going to run a series of posters relating to safety on the internet. This week, What Parents and Carers Need to Know about Spotify

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://theverge.com/spotify/company-info/> | https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental_Guide.pdf | <https://www.spotify.com/us/live/>
<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-confirm-investigation-launched-after-25916035>

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Opportunity



Updated dates for Spring and Summer 2023:

- 3/3/23 'The Thrive Approach and Zones of Regulation' 2-3pm at Chiddingfold School
25/4/23 Topic to be confirmed – let Mrs Leahy know of any requests 2-3pm at St Marys
16/5/23 'Supporting Adult Mental Health in Adult Mental Health Week' 2-3pm at Park Mead
4/7/23 'Transitions – between classes and between schools' 2-3pm at Park Mead

Opportunity



CLASS+ Coffee & Chat Sessions

Come and join the CLASS+ team and other parents to talk about all things **Autism**. This is a great opportunity to listen, share questions, ideas and experience with other parents. This session is designed to support parents/ carers who have an autistic child or are on the Autism pathway.

28 February, Burwash Primary School, 9:00am to 10:30am

28 February, Denton Community Primary School, 1:15pm to 2:45pm

6 March, Annecy Primary School, 9:00am to 10:30am

9 March, Robsackwood Primary Academy, 9:00am to 10:30am

13 March, Harbour Primary School, 9:00am to 10:30am

13 March, Willingdon Primary School, 9:15am to 10:30am

23 March, Hollington Primary Academy, 9:00am to 10:30am

An invitation from Class+, the Inclusion, Special Education Needs and Disability Services (ISEND), Children's Services, East Sussex:

'Come and join the CLASS+ team and other parents at one of our Coffee and Chat sessions.'

No need to book just turn up.

These sessions are designed for parents who have an autistic child or a child on the autism pathway. We kindly ask that you don't bring small children to this session.

We look forward to seeing you'.

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