



# St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School

Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4AA

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter

Head of School: Mrs Jane Robinson

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

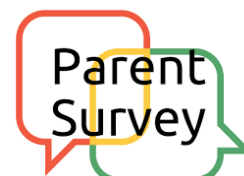


Term 2 Week 5

Friday 1st December

## Headlines from our Head of School

### Focus on Parent Feedback



This week I wanted to share my thanks to all parents who completed a questionnaire at the parent consultation evenings earlier this term. It was a great opportunity for us to hear how your children find their experience at St Mary the Virgin School, as well as your experience as parents. The feedback has allowed us to evaluate our practice and adjust our offer. Some changes you may already be aware of are a direct result of your feedback, one being the change to the amount of time we give to let you know your child is receiving a certificate in celebration assembly. We have already received comment that this has increased the number of parents who have been able to attend.

Some wonderful headlines from the questionnaire feedback are that 100% of parents answered, I agree or strongly agree to the statement "My child is happy at this school" and 100% answered that they agree or strongly agree with "I would recommend this school to another parent".

We also used this opportunity to consult parents over the School Value statement and whether there were any suggested changes. The overwhelming majority of parents liked our concise version: **"to be the best we can be in a thriving community, following the example of Jesus."** We loved the feedback that parents felt this vision fitted the school perfectly and that the new shorter version made it more accessible and memorable to the whole community. The next step in school is that we are planning to relaunch this vision statement with a celebratory event in Term 4 where parents will be able to come and help us launch our revised vision as part of a whole school event run by school and church together.

Areas that parents raised in the questionnaire that we could do better in were; offering a broader range of after school clubs, other than sport and how we communicate news and information between home and school. We are excited to share that as a result we are in the process of setting up a KS2 'coding' club for the spring term and are reviewing our newsletter offer so that more warning for upcoming events can be shared in good time. We continue to consider all you have said and to welcome feedback into our 'comments box' at the entrance.

Mrs Robinson  
Head of School

### Top Tips

Letters, emails and WhatsApp home:

#### Whole School

- Colouring Competition
- Christingle
- Fun Run
- Nativity

#### Selected

- Celebration Assembly
- Breakfast Club



### PTFA Christmas



#### Christmas Fair:

Sunday 3rd December, 12noon to 3:00pm



#### Christmas Wreath Making:

Thursday 7th December 7:00pm

St Mary's **PTFA**

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.



## Sports Awards

The PE speciality this term is gymnastics and this week, Miss Ambrose awarded the following children Sports Awards:

**Nicco:** for always 'aiming high', giving everything his best attempt thus mastering lots of challenging moves in gymnastics.

**Reece:** for being an amazing gymnast, and for always trying the more challenging moves!

**Bella:** for always giving her best and always having a smile on her face, no matter how tricky the moves!

**Michael:** who is loving the gymnastic lessons with his friends, is sky rocketing in his PE progress and growing in confidence.

**Well done to you all!**



## Christmas Wreath Making

There is a Christmas wreath making evening on Thursday 7th December, starting at 7:00pm in school.

This will cost £20 per person, to make a wreath, with a glass of prosecco and mince pie included/

To book your slot, please contact the PTFA in person or please email them on:

**[ptfahartfield@gmail.com](mailto:ptfahartfield@gmail.com)**

Booking in advance is required to secure your place and payments can be made by BACs to their account:

CAF Bank  
HARTFIELD SCHOOL PTFA  
Sort code: 45-52-40  
Account number: 00060500



## 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.

**Freddie:** shows fantastic **skills when speaking** and presenting in front of others. She shows confidence when speaking in front of the class and even sung our Vision Song beautifully in front of everybody.

**Lois:** has shown amazing **listening skill** this week, listening intently to the story of Beegu and asking some really interesting questions.

**Michael:** is developing fabulous **teamwork skills**. He enjoys building with construction and is often seen making something with a friend in class.

**Well done to you all!**

### Christingle

Please note the dates for our Christingle activities this year, especially the service as the day has changed:

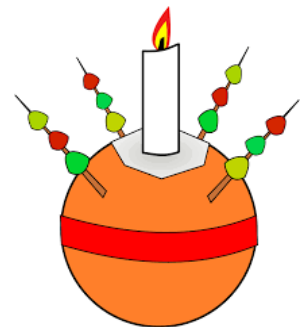
#### **Monday 4th December**

We are making our Christingles. Please remember to bring your oranges into school to ensure everyone is able to participate.

#### **Wednesday 6th December,**

Our Christingle Service is 9:30am in church and we would love to see you in there if you are able to join us.

**Thank you**



## Forest School

On the way to Forest School this week, Lilac Class stopped at the wellie tree and tried to work out whether they would be as tall as the tree if they all stood on each other's shoulders if? The children were split about 50/50, so they will need to work out the height of the tree to see what half of the class was right.

Once at Forest School, the class were very keen to get started. We reminded ourselves of the rules of the forest that keep us safe, they then set off to explore and do their own activities.



A group of children stayed to help build and light the fire which was a little tricky to get going as everything was so damp. Their perseverance to light the cotton wool was impressive and they did not give up until it was done.

Once the fire was going the kettle was placed on top ready for the hot chocolate and Lilac Class took it in turns to come into the fire circle and toast a marshmallow, which was then placed in between two biscuits ready to eat.



There was some great team work in the ditch today. Using some large logs a group of children created a dam with mud to support the back of the dam to fill in any gaps that the water was managing to escape through. At the end of the session they broke the dam and raced the water down the ditch.

While lifting some logs a smooth newt was found and named Jeff; he was shared with the class and then returned carefully back to the log he was found under, with the care taken to keep the newt safe fantastic.

The kettle soon boiled and the class sat class to enjoy a hot chocolate to warm up.

And to talk about the things they had enjoyed about forest school:

*"Having a hot chocolate in the hammock"*

*"Playing and building the dam"*

*"S'mores"*

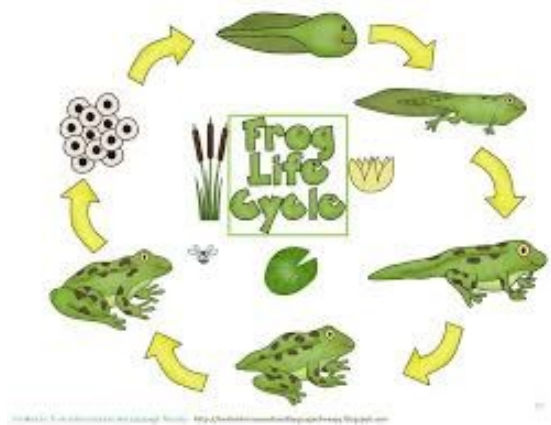


## Wildlife Explorers

Wildlife Explorers have been studying amphibians and reptiles over the last two weeks :

### Amphibians

They spent the first session looking at the life cycles of frogs, toads and newts:



### Reptiles

This week, they found out that there are four reptiles in Britain:

- Grass Snakes
- Adders
- Slow Worms and
- Lizards

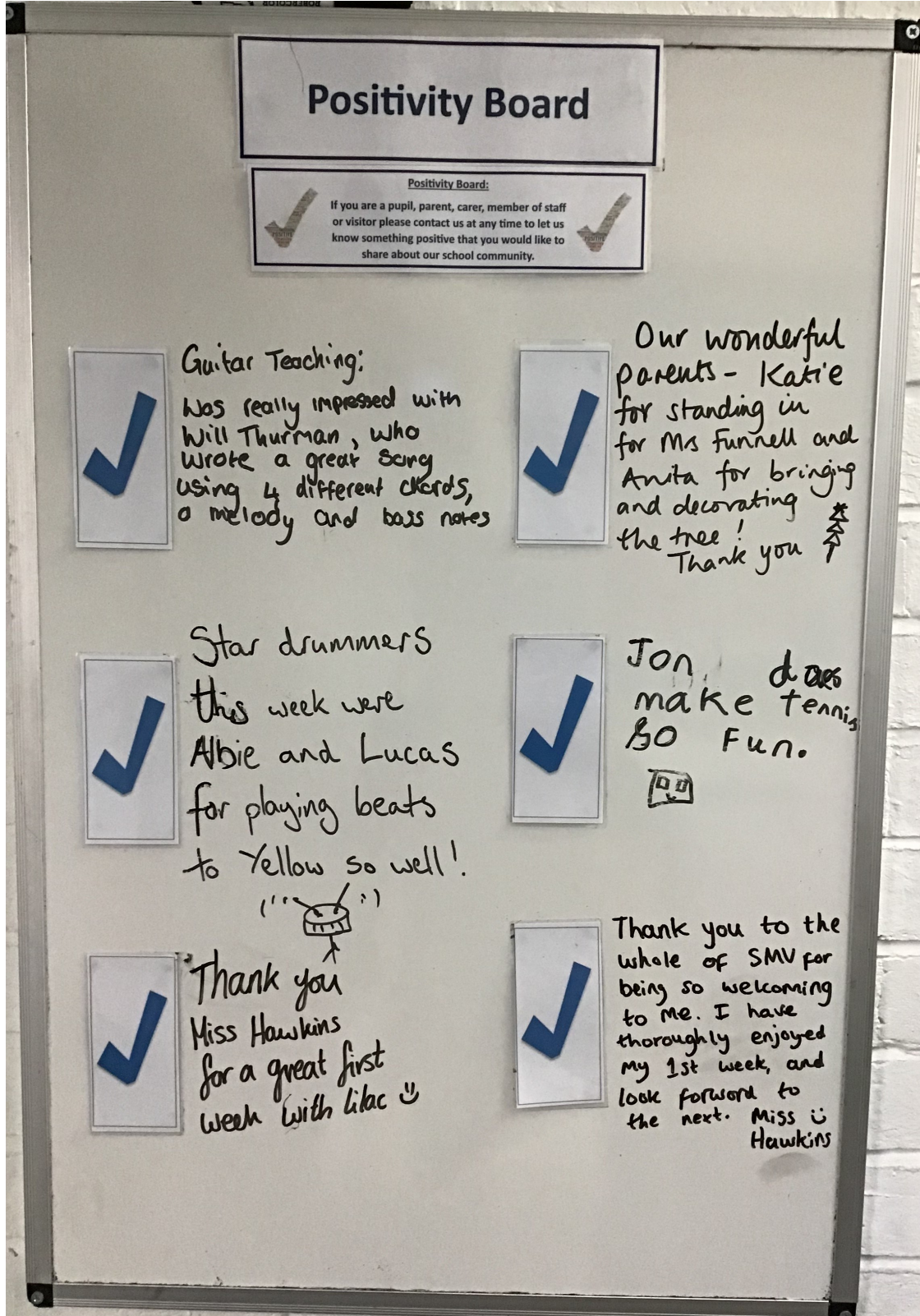
They then went on to make their own snake, colouring the spiral tails using the correct markings of their chosen breed.



## Positivity Board

This board enables all to write positive comments, or thoughts. From parents, carers, staff, and children to all school visitors, who would like to share with others something positive about the school, their classes, the children or events.

Please contact us or come into school at any time to let us know something that you would like to add. In the newsletter every week, there will be a picture to share and celebrate the positivity within our school.



## Wellbeing

As we reach December, and with all of the celebrations planned over the next two weeks in school, it is important to acknowledge that not everyone finds the season easy and that Christmas can affect our Mental Health.

MIND acknowledge that whether Christmas is fully part of your life or whether it is happening around you, it is a time of year that puts extra pressure on us:

Things to be aware of:

Christmas could affect your mental health if you:

- Wish you didn't have to deal with Christmas, or find it stressful because of other events in your life
- Feel alone or left out because everyone else seems happy when you're not
- Feel frustrated by other people's views of a 'perfect' Christmas, if these feel different to your own experiences
- Have ideas about what Christmas should be like, feel as if you need to enjoy it or worry something will disrupt it
- Feel like Christmas gives you something to focus on and look forward to, and find it difficult when it's over
- Look back at difficult memories, regret things about the past, or worry about the coming new year
- Feel overlooked, for example if you celebrate other religious festivals or holidays that get less attention
- Want to celebrate with someone who's struggling

If you find this a difficult time of year, MIND give '[Tips for coping during Christmas](#)' which looks at:

- Coping with money worries
- Looking after yourself
- Planning ahead
- Managing relationships
- Talking to other people
- Getting support

So, if you are feeling sad or are worrying about any aspect of the month to come, don't do it alone. Go to the [website](#), there may be something there to help.



## Opportunity



*Sawpit Woods Hartfield*

# Community Winter Gathering

10-2pm

## Join us

for this community day to wander the land, nurture the trees & celebrate mid winter.

Meet some of our native trees & learn about their ecology, lore, food & medicine through song & story.

We will gather in the newly emerging Children's Forest to nurture the trees and in the ancient woodland around a fire, to warm ourselves with shared knowledge and celebration of the wonderful woodlands in the winter.

**Monday 18th December 2023**  
£20 PER ADULT, CHILDREN FREE

fee available at a reduced rate thanks to funding awarded to the Children's Forest from 'The People's Projects'

[www.sawpitwoods.co.uk](http://www.sawpitwoods.co.uk)  
[sawpitwoods@gmail.com](mailto:sawpitwoods@gmail.com)

Logos: Sawpit Woods, Children's Forest, Facebook, Instagram

## Celebrations from Home

It is always lovely to hear what our children have been getting up to at home, especially if it involves celebrating healthy living and getting out and about. This week, we celebrate Florence and Clemmie, aiming high on an extensive walk with their family and Marlie and Isla who stayed positive and listened really well when they tried out the scuba diving pool!



Isla displayed her capacity to aim high, by going on to gain her junior open water diver certificate which means she is now qualified to scuba up to 12m deep in the sea with an Instructor!





**ST MARY THE VIRGIN**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SUNDAY**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**  
**12 to 3PM**

**HARTFIELD**  
**SCHOOL**

**DON'T MISS A**  
**SPECIAL VISIT FROM**  
**Father**  
**Christmas**

TO BOOK A TIME SLOT PLEASE EMAIL  
PTFAHARTFIELD@GMAIL.COM

**FREE**  
**ENTRY**

- CHRISTMAS GAMES AND CRAFTS
- LOCAL BUSINESS STALLS
- SECOND HAND TOY SALE
- CAFÉ WITH FOOD SERVED BY PROFESSIONAL CHEF
- RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE WITH SOME GREAT PRIZES

**ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BENEFIT OUR FABULOUS VILLAGE SCHOOL**

# *St Marys* **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

## **SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER**

*9.30am - Holy Communion Quiet Service for all ages*

*6.30pm - Advent Choral Evensong - Holy Trinity*

## **WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

*9.30am - St Mary's School Christingle Services at  
St Mary's Church*

## **FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

*6pm-8pm - Live Nativity in Hartfield Village starting on  
the Croft.*

## **SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER**

*9.30am - Christmas Praise Service for all ages with  
St Mary's School*

## **SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER**

*9.30am - Holy Communion*

*6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols - Holy Trinity*

## **SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER**

*4pm - Crib Service*

*11.15pm - Midnight Holy Communion*

## **MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER**

*8am - Holy Communion BCP*

*9.30am - Christmas Celebration Service for all ages  
(no Communion)*

## **SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER**

*9.30am - Morning Worship*

# Hartfield Live Nativity

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Starts 6pm on The Croft



**Come along to Hartfield's very special and popular Live Nativity!**

- Join the crowd following Mary and Joseph through the village knocking on doors trying to find room at the inn.
- Angels, shepherds, wise men, "donkey", camels and carols.
- Procession ends in the church in a beautiful and heart warming nativity scene with baby Jesus.
- Refreshments in the church.

**If your child would like to join in as an angel or shepherd**  
contact Alison Berry 07763 188538, [ajberryartist@gmail.com](mailto:ajberryartist@gmail.com)

**Everyone welcome – a lovely way to start Christmas!**



St Mary's Church, Hartfield



**HARTS** .....Life is for Living

Hartfield Arts and Theatre Society



Inclusive  
Rugby

**For Kids  
5-18**

# URFC ACORNS

A new inclusive group allowing children of all ages with any additional needs or vulnerabilities to access rugby in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment.

Non-contact, fun activities which teach children basic ball skills, teamwork and foundations of rugby.

- DBS-checked, qualified coaches
- Held during 'quiet' sessions at the club
- Demand-free, no pressure to participate
- Gentle exercise, adaptable activities, supported social interaction and lots of smiles

**Last Sunday Of Each Month From 1-2pm**

**Free Of Charge**

If you think your child would benefit from these sessions and enjoy a low demand environment to learn new skills, please get in touch.

Please note, parents are required to attend sessions.



[hello@uckfieldrugby.uk](mailto:hello@uckfieldrugby.uk)

[www.uckfieldrugby.uk](http://www.uckfieldrugby.uk)

Scan the QR code  
to sign up!



## CHURCH STREET COMMUNITY

### CHRISTMAS CAFE'S

THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER

2PM - 4PM

ST MARY'S SCHOOL CHOIR WILL BE SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND  
MAKING DECORATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE



THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER

2PM - 4PM

WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

COME AND ENJOY DELICIOUS HOMEMADE CAKE, TEA AND COFFEE  
EVERYONE WELCOME

for more information contact Joanne Griffin on 07941 856715  
or email [msjoanegriffin@gmail.com](mailto:msjoanegriffin@gmail.com)

## Connect@5

14th December

CHRISTMAS

11th January

25th January

8th February

22nd February

5-6.15pm  
Games, Food, Bible story

For more information  
Contact Matthew Marriott at  
[m.marriott@btconnect.com](mailto:m.marriott@btconnect.com)

Hartfield Village Hall

Year 5 and up

1st & 3rd Sundays, 9.30am

## SUNDAY Discoverers



Dates of Sunday Discoverers  
this term

17th December

7th January

21st January

4th February

Join us for each  
Sunday  
discoverers as  
we find out  
more about  
God

For more information  
Contact Rev Julie Sear at  
[revjuliesear1@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliesear1@gmail.com) or 01892770436