



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

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Term 2 Week 6

Friday 8th December

Headlines from our Head of School

Focus on working together

This week's thoughts are prompted by the huge effort made by our PTFA that we witnessed this weekend. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting the school at the Christmas fair and I know so much planning and preparation went on behind the scenes. Thank you so much Kerry, her team and everyone who gave their time to make the fair a success.

Following this, I was reminded on Monday of our wider church community with the fabulous 'Christingle Workshop' that saw every child in school make a Christingle orange and learn about its symbolic significance. Reverend Julie and her team of 4 brilliant volunteers worked all morning to ensure every child was helped and left understanding what each piece meant in preparation for our Christingle Service.

The children also met together with myself, in our whole school collective worship on Tuesday, to consider our dinner hall experience and what improvements we can make to enable us to enjoy this time more. All agreed that 'indoor voices' when talking to the person next to them, would reduce the noise levels and help everyone feel comfortable. Well done to the children for helping to demonstrate this at lunchtimes on the following days.

These collective events have demonstrated the importance of every single individuals' action leading to success for the whole group. This is reinforced every day, when I walk past the 'Murmeration Project' (the clay the birds made by many in the community before I arrived) moving as one, and I think of the group effort that is required to make a school successful and I am thankful for your all.

Mrs Robinson
Head of School



Top Tips

Letters, emails and WhatsApp home: **All** * Christmas dates and times
* Healthy Snacks

Selected

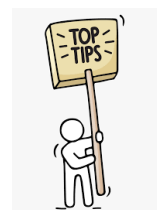
- * Celebration Assembly
- * Health Care Plans

Willow Class

- * Swimming

Lilac Class

- * The Croft



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.

Dates for your Diary



- 8th: Hartfield Live Nativity
6:30pm, the Croft
- 10th: Christmas Praise Service - Church 9:30am
- 12th: KS1 School Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm
- 13th: KS2 Nativity 9:30am and 2:00pm
- 13th: FGB Meeting 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 14th: Forest School - Cherry Class
- 15th: Last Day T2
- 15th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am
- 15th: End of Term Christmas Worship
2:30pm Church
- 15th: PTFA Christmas Social - Anchor 7:30pm



January

- 2nd: Inset Day
- 3rd: All return to School

School Value and Weekly reflection

Each term, we focus on a Christian Value with weekly reflection in assembly and in class.

We like to develop this further by asking you, where possible, to discuss the reflection of the week with your child(ren) at home.

This term, we are looking at:



Trust and Peace

The children have been in full swing practicing for their Nativity performances next week. For the reflection this week, they have been encouraged to think about the nativity, what they have enjoyed about it, their favourite part or song and why this is so.

At home, families are preparing for their Christmas celebrations, a break from school and maybe spending time with other people who are rarely seen. What will be your family's highlight of the season? Do you talk together about why we celebrate Christmas and what it means to Christians around the world?

If you could create a family prayer for one thing this Christmas, what would it be?

Attendance

The Pioneer Federation goal is an average attendance rate of 97%, recognizing 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, so we ask that you **please support us and your child by ensuring their attendance is a priority.**



Attendance this year:

Whole school: 94.8%

Maple: 95.8%

Less than 94.9% - Red

Cherry: 94.2%

95 to 96.4% - Amber

Willow: 93.9%

96.5 to 99.9% - Green

Lilac: 96.5%

**EVERY DAY
COUNTS!**
School success starts with
ATTENDANCE

Sports Awards

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

Riley: for excellent sequencing in gymnastics and always giving his best when learning tricky skills.

Albie: who has greatly improved his gymnastics routines and perfected many of the skills!

Ruby: for always having a smile on her face, and perfecting her shapes in gymnastics!

Rosie: who has re-joined gymnastics after some time away and performed some amazing jumps.

Well done to you all!



St Mary's **PTFA**

Christmas Treat Bags

If you would like to order a PTFA Christmas Treat Bag, please make sure the form is back on Monday 11th December, as none will be accepted after this deadline.

Thank you.



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.

Riley: displays brilliant **listening skills**; he is always keen and ready to learn and shows respectful listening when his peers are talking.

Jax: has shown superb **problem solving** this week, demonstrating his understanding of the relationship between multiplication and division.

Immy: is **aiming high**, using a range of fantastic vocabulary when writing her non-chronological report, including expanded noun phrases brilliantly, and coming up with some amazing rhetorical questions

Henry: is developing excellent **team work** and makes sure no one is 'left out' of group activities, particularly when playing football.

Florence: has been **staying positive** this week, putting in huge amounts of effort when learning to read.

Well done to you all!

Lost Property

As we move into the last week of term, please check the lost property box on the playground for any items that may have been mislaid.

Anything left there at the end of next week, will be removed.

To help avoid so much lost property in school, please ensure your child(ren)s' clothes are clearly labelled which makes it easier for items found to be returned to their original owner.

Many thanks.



Christingle

On Monday, the children got busy making Christingles ready for their collective worship on Wednesday.

Rev Julie and four fabulous church helpers came along to support the children and helped them learn the meaning behind their craft:

The Christingle

Represents Jesus as the light of the world

The Candle

Jesus

The Orange

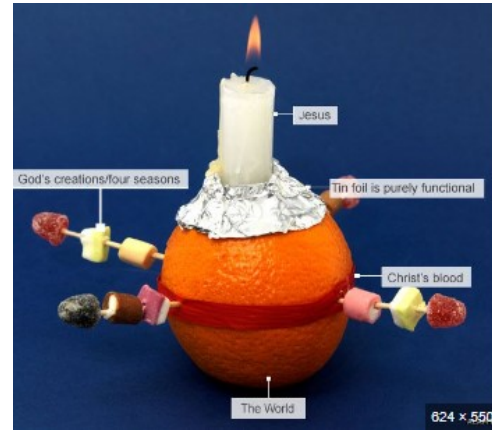
The world

The Red Ribbon

That Jesus died so that we can be saved

The Sweets and Currants

Arranged around the orange to represent God's creation and the four seasons.



Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children shared their Christmas lunch together.

Mrs Powell and Miss Millar worked hard through the morning to produce a scrummy, full turkey dinner with Christmas shortbread and fruit available for pudding. Miss Law came in to decorate the tables and share out the crackers and the teachers then provided table service to a background of Christmas carols.

With Christmas jumpers galore and a beautiful tree courtesy of Mrs Emery, it was a lovely way for the whole school to celebrate together.



School Choir

On Thursday, members of our new school choir went up to the Community Café in church to perform some Christmas songs to the patrons. It was delightful to see them fully engaged with the songs and their singing was beautiful. Thank you to Miss Rowberry who has taken the lead with this venture and is supporting them through the events of the season.

Well done, St Mary's choir.





A very busy time of year for all including our PTFA, the volunteers who help them and to everyone who comes to support their events.

Thank you to you all.



Wildlife Explorers

This week, our wildlife explorers studied mammals as part of their investigations of vertebrates (animals with backbones).

Exciting Facts

- Members were amazed to discover that we have as many hairs as a chimpanzee – they are just smaller and need a magnifying glass to see them!
- Using a thermometer explorers discovered that we are all warm blooded.

Then the club looked at different mammals and have put their research onto the display board.

Congratulations to all our explorers for becoming really involved with our environment and scientific studies. Also, a big thank you to our group leaders, Noah, Isla and Amelia for helping and supporting everyone to set up our display.



Mammal Nests

Harvest Mouse

- Made from living, woven grasses
- Ball-shaped nest, 5-10cm wide
- 30cm - 1.5m above the ground
- Attached to the stalks of grasses, cereals or rushes

Hedgehog

- Made from leaves, grass and moss
- Summer 'day nests' are built in the grass
- Winter 'hibernation nests' are 50cm wide
- Winter nests are built under a hedge, shed or in a tree hole or rabbit hole

Rabbit

- Underground network of tunnels
- Many entrance holes
- Holes are 8-20cm wide
- In loose soil, which is easy to dig
- Often on slopes
- Maybe in the roots of a large tree

Badger

- Underground network of tunnels
- Many entrance holes
- Holes are 20-30cm wide, football-sized
- Often in sandy soil
- Large heaps of soil and dirty bedding of dry grass, lie in piles outside

Red Deer

- Deer do not build a nest
- Trample down grass and vegetation, often turning round in circles, like a dog
- Keep their young hidden in the undergrowth, in bracken or tall grasses

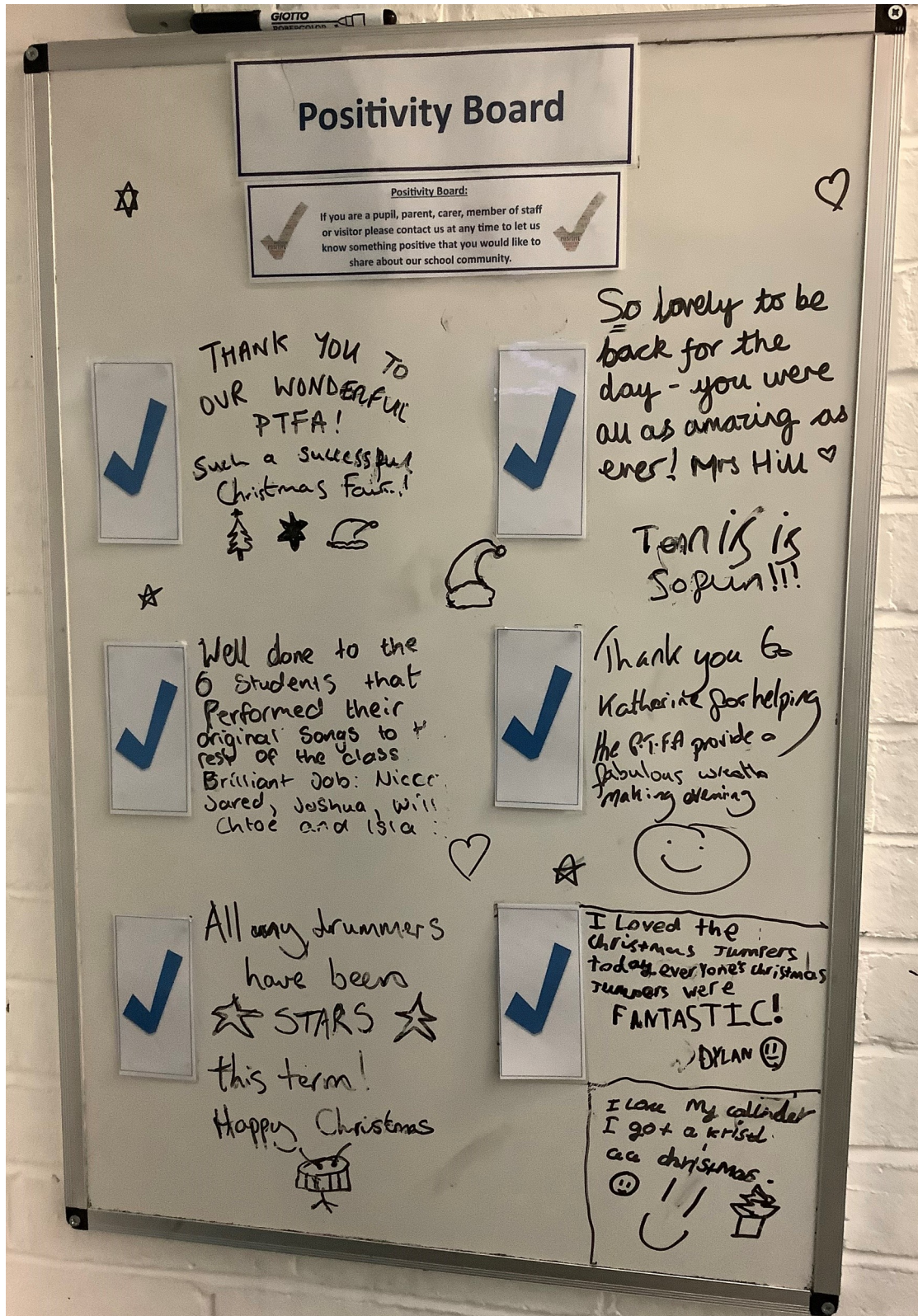
The Nature Collection
Registered Charity No 278918. Support our work at mammal.org.uk

Mammal SOCIETY

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

This week, our wellbeing poster looks at Healthy Habits following an email received from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust:

If you would like support to eat well and get more active as a family, come and join us for a free, fun programme in the New Year!

Interested? Want to find out more?

Visit their website now for further details: <https://www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk/healthy-habits/>

Or give them a call on 0300 123 4062

Healthy habits

Fun, family focused sessions to improve your health and well-being. Our eight week healthy weight and lifestyle programme is for four to 11 years olds who are looking to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.



NHS
East Sussex School Health and
Children's Integrated Therapy Services

**Healthy
lifestyle
club**
for children aged 4 to 11

Eat well and get active together

Eight fun one-hour
interactive sessions suitable
for the whole family.
Virtual and face-to-face sessions available

**Healthy
habits**

Please contact 0300 123 4062 or visit
www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk/healthy-habits

we care

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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

Opportunity

*Swamp 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.swampitwoods.co.uk
swampitwoods@gmail.com



Opportunity

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

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 or 01892770436