



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 7

Friday 15th December

Headlines from our Head of School

Focus on Reflection

It has been a 'festive feast of fabulousness' in school this week! I am so proud of all the children who have taken part in either the EY/KS1 or the KS2 Nativities. It was wonderful to see so many parents come and admire the result of all their hard work and rehearsing. The church was a beautiful setting to be able to retell the Christmas story and mark this magical time of year.

As we head off into the Christmas holidays, it is easy to start jumping head to planning for the Spring Term (note – the first day back is Wednesday 3rd January 2024!). However, I also think it is vital that we take time, such as over the Christmas holidays to rest, recharge and reflect.

On this note, next term will be thinking about what 'spirituality' means to our children and us. In school, we will be talking to the children about 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors' as a structure to think about Spirituality:



Thinking about the 'wows' and 'ows' in life. The Wonder. Asking Questions.



Thinking about Reflection: How does an experience make you feel? Experiences in school and life, and the wider world – how can these help us flourish?



Thinking about Response: How will we move forward these experiences? What choices will we make?

I will certainly be thinking about the 'wow' moments and the 'ow' moments this term and reflecting on how to use these experiences to move forward to consider what choices we can make here at St Mary's to do our best to ensure all in the community will flourish in 2024.

I wish you all a very healthy, happy and festive season!

Mrs Robinson. Head of School

Top Tips

Letters, emails and WhatsApp home:

All

Forest School dates 2024

Selected

Lunch



Our Prayer for You

Have a peaceful, restive, fun Christmas break. Make some magical memories through every day and we look towards a safe return for all on Wednesday 3rd January.

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



15th: Last Day Term 2

15th: PTFA Christmas Social - Anchor 7:30pm



January

- 2nd: Inset Day - Staff
- 3rd: All return to School
- 3rd: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church
- 4th: Forest School - Maple Class
- 4th: Community Café - 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 9th: Swimming - Willow Class
- 10th: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church
- 11th: Forest School - Cherry Class
- 12th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
- 16th: Swimming - Willow Class
- 16th: Cherry Bake Sale
- 17th: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church
- 18th: Forest School - Willow Class
- 18th: Community Café - 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 19th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am

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

This term, the children have been thinking about what it means to Trust In and have Peace With God. This week they have been encouraged to think about what sort of things they need to trust God with over the Christmas holidays and how this will help them feel peaceful.

As a family have you ever considered what gives you peace as individuals and as a family group and how God could help you with this? Perhaps you could start a new family tradition, writing a Christmas prayer to last the year, thanking God for the peace you have and asking Him for help to trust Him more in areas where peace needs to grow for those around you.

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: 95.9%

Less than 94.9% - Red

Cherry: 94.2%

95 to 96.4% - Amber

Willow: 94.0%

96.5 to 99.9% - Green

Lilac: 96.2%

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

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.

Finlay: is developing fantastic **speaking skills**; he offers and coherently shares his ideas with and in front of the class and showed amazing confidence when practicing and performing, the Nativity

Alfred: is definitely **aiming high**, always persevering even when a task is tricky; never giving up and using his independent skills when he needs to. Amazing Alfred!

Zach: is developing wonderful **problem solving skills**, shown this week when he was building more complex construction models and could be seen resolving the problems involved as he went along!

Well done to you all!



St Mary's Star Skills

"Skills for learning, skills for life"



Skills Builder

Christmas Praise Service

On Sunday 10th December, our school choir attended the Christmas Praise Service in church and we have the following from our two roving reporters for the day, Oliver and Amelia:

"Last Sunday we met in the church for the Christmas Praise Service. Abbie, Amelia, Beau, Noah and I (Oliver) represented the school with reading and the choir represented the school with singing.

We read bible verses about the birth of Jesus and sung Christmas songs. The most moving part was when all of the other people in the church joined in singing Silent Night with us but my favourite moment was when the choir sung We Wish you a Merry Christmas because this is my favourite song"

"The Christmas Praise Service went well and was fun. There were readings and singing and after, there were refreshments and snacks. It was a great experience"

Thank you and well done to you all; thank you to parents for supporting their children to the service; to Miss Katie for being there with the children, to Miss Rowberry for providing the music and teaching the choir and to Reverend Julie for inviting us.

The last word, however, goes to Oliver:

"I want to wish you all the best Christmas"



Forest School

On Thursday 7th December, Maple class set off for a muddy walk to Forest School, talking about the noise their boots made as they walked and jumped in the mud:



"squelch"

As they walked along the Forest Way, the class were on the hunt for a large stick to take back to school for an outside project they are doing. They spotted one in the hedge and there was some great team work as it took quite a few working together to pull it out and then carry the long stick all the way to Forest School. Some children found slightly smaller sticks that they used to push the fallen leaves along the floor



"I'm sweeping leaves"



Once in the woods they were having their first sessions with fire, so recapped on how to be safe around the fire circle. Some helped to lay the fire, starting by placing larger sticks at the bottom and stacking it up to smaller sticks on the top. They then had a go at using a flint and steel to strike a piece of wool cotton; this can be really tricky but with a little help they managed to light it.



When the fire was going Maple Class took it in turns to come into the fire circle and toast a marshmallow. They carefully knelt down on one knee and held their marshmallow over the flames turning it till it was all toasted. The marshmallow was placed between two biscuits ready to be eaten:

"yummy"

The children then had time for some great free play in the woods. A group explored the ditch, running and splashing in the water pretending to be motorbikes. Some children practiced their balancing skills on the slack line and others used the hammock as a swing.



Using a tin some of Maple class created a mini bug hotel. They collected moss, leaves and sticks and placed them inside the tin to make it cosy for any visitors, talking about what may come to live in their mini bug hotel:

"a spider"

"a bee"

The session finished sitting around the fire enjoying a hot chocolate and listening to what each had enjoyed about Forest School that day:

"I liked all of it" "S'mores"

"Motorbike game in the ditch"



Forest School

On Thursday 14th December Cherry Class set off in the rain prepared for a muddy and adventurous afternoon. As the class crossed The Croft they discussed how boggy and wet the ground was identifying that:

"it's because of all the rain".

When they got to the 'wellie tree' they found a hole in the mud stuffed with dry grass, and the class decided it must be the home of a snake.

As they continued their walk one member of the class showed them where a 'geocache' was hidden, so they added the class name and date to the list of people that had signed already and popped it back for the next person to find!

Once at Forest School the class sat round the fire circle and were reminded of some of the rules to keep safe when around the fire. They also discussed that should not pick or eat anything growing or laying around as it can make one poorly.



The class then set off for some free play within the woodland. Some chose to play in the hammock, taking it in turns to swing each other. Another group took the digging tools to the ditch and tried to create a dam to slow down the flow of water, which they did by using some large lumps of wood.

The fire was lit today ready for the children to have a go at making a s'mores, taking it in turns to come into the fire circle and toast a marshmallow. Once the marshmallows were toasted they placed between two chocolate biscuits ready for them to eat :

"it's so gooey" many exclaimed!

At the end of their session, everyone sat enjoying a hot chocolate to warm up and took turns to say one thing they had enjoyed about the afternoon:

"everything"

"s'mores and hot chocolate"

"playing in the ditch"

"making a dam"

With all of the fun had while attending Forest School it is important to remember the Impact it has for the children in the knowledge they gain from the complete experience which can be seen through the skills gained, tools used, art and craft activities completed, their developing 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.





Nativity

KS1 and reception completed their Nativity in church on Tuesday:

I felt happy on stage - Khaleesi

Being Joseph was the best bit! - Zenny

I felt happy because I loved doing the speaking part and singing the songs, that was my best part - Tuppence

I really liked singing We're Hitting The Road- Finn

My favourite part was singing it's Good News because that's my favourite song and I liked to clip the clickers in We're Hitting The Road - Ida

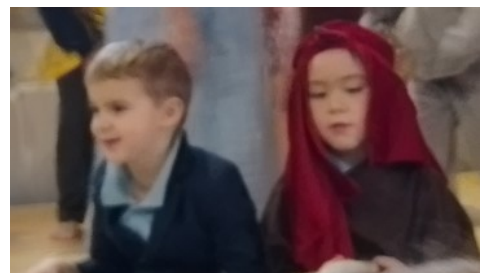
I felt nervous because there were lots of people and at the next show my mummy was there and I was happy! - Ellamy

I enjoyed having a speaking part - Scarlet

I was nervous because there were lots of people but I loved singing all the songs - Jacob

The children performed amazingly well and above are thoughts from some of the Cherry Class participants.

Well done to you all!





Nativity

KS2 completed their nativity in church on Wednesday and a selection of comments have been taken from the descriptive report writing completed by Lilac Class on their return:

“the children are very happy with themselves with one quoting “I am feeling so positive about our morning performance today” I feel that the choir have beautiful, amazing singing voices and they definitely had the most claps from their songs”

“The day of the performance finally came. The children were stressed, the teachers were stressed, the church was filling with fear.....Suddenly everyone was quiet.....The stage filled with voices singing beautifully. Everyone was smiling! The children were doing their best performance yet.”

“Did the children enjoy it? Yes, they said, they thoroughly enjoyed it; everyone had a good time! One member of Lilac said “It was really good and it made everyone laugh and stuff” A big thank you to all the parents and teachers who were also involved”



School Clubs

We plan to continue all of our extra curricular clubs within school after half term.

Breakfast Club will be starting from the first day back (Wednesday 3rd January) and runs from 7:40am to the beginning of school each day.

Places need to be pre-booked through the office so please call: **01892 770221** or email **office@st-mary.e-sussex.sch.uk**



Red Butler Music will come in on Monday and Tuesday. If you are already signed up, they will contact you. If you would like to sign up (strings or drums), please call them: **01273 805666**



Badminton (R-6) will begin on Mondays 8th January for five weeks. Please visit the [active education website](#) to book a place



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

After school **Tennis Club** on Wednesdays. Again, this will be if sufficient children are interested in joining. 3.20pm - 4.20pm each week. To sign up either: Phone/WhatsApp: 07464972681/07495368571, or email: kentandsussextennis@outlook.com



Pop darts and table Tennis (R to Y6) will begin on Friday 5th January for six weeks. Please visit the [active education website](#) to book a place.
beginning 4th



Our lunchtime clubs Art and Lego clubs will also continue on a Thursday and Friday respectively.
No sign up required



Please email the school office, or contact Red Butler, Jon Prenelle or Active Education if you would like to sign up. Thank you.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

St Mary's Breakfast Club

7.40am onwards
EVERY WEEKDAY
\$4 pre-booked

Healthy breakfasts Fun Activities Flexible Options

CONTACT MRS. FUNNELL in the OFFICE TO BOOK

Special Request

Two of our Year 6 boys, Luca and Will, were very excited by their Lego construction in Club today and wanted to share it with you via the Newsletter.

We are very pleased, therefore, to introduce you to Scugtron!



Well done Luca and Will.

Wellbeing

Our wellbeing poster this week looks at opportunities available for support through 'Open for Parents' who recognise that:

“most of the time parenting is great fun, you know you are doing a good job: but there are times when things get a little tricky!”

**Are you a PARENT or CARER
In East Sussex?**

We are here to help!

**What's on
January, February and March 2024**

Open for Parents offer support with a variety of online courses, each with specific tips on how you can deal with the most common behaviour problems;

They say:

“best of all, the evidence-based methods have already been successful in supporting families worldwide through times of crisis. So, you don't have to do it alone; we'll get through this together.

Parents and carers can access as much or as little as they like, and just small changes will make a big difference!

The Parenting Team use Microsoft Teams which is free to download and accessible from phones, tablets, and laptops! Just simply choose the support you would like to access and email us which course you would like to attend: EH.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk

Once you have joined the discussion you can choose to have your microphone and camera either on or off (whichever you are more comfortable with), but we do encourage you to try some face to face with the other parents as the more you engage, the more supported and confident you will feel!”

“Being a parent can be tough but remember that in your child's eye – nobody does it better.”

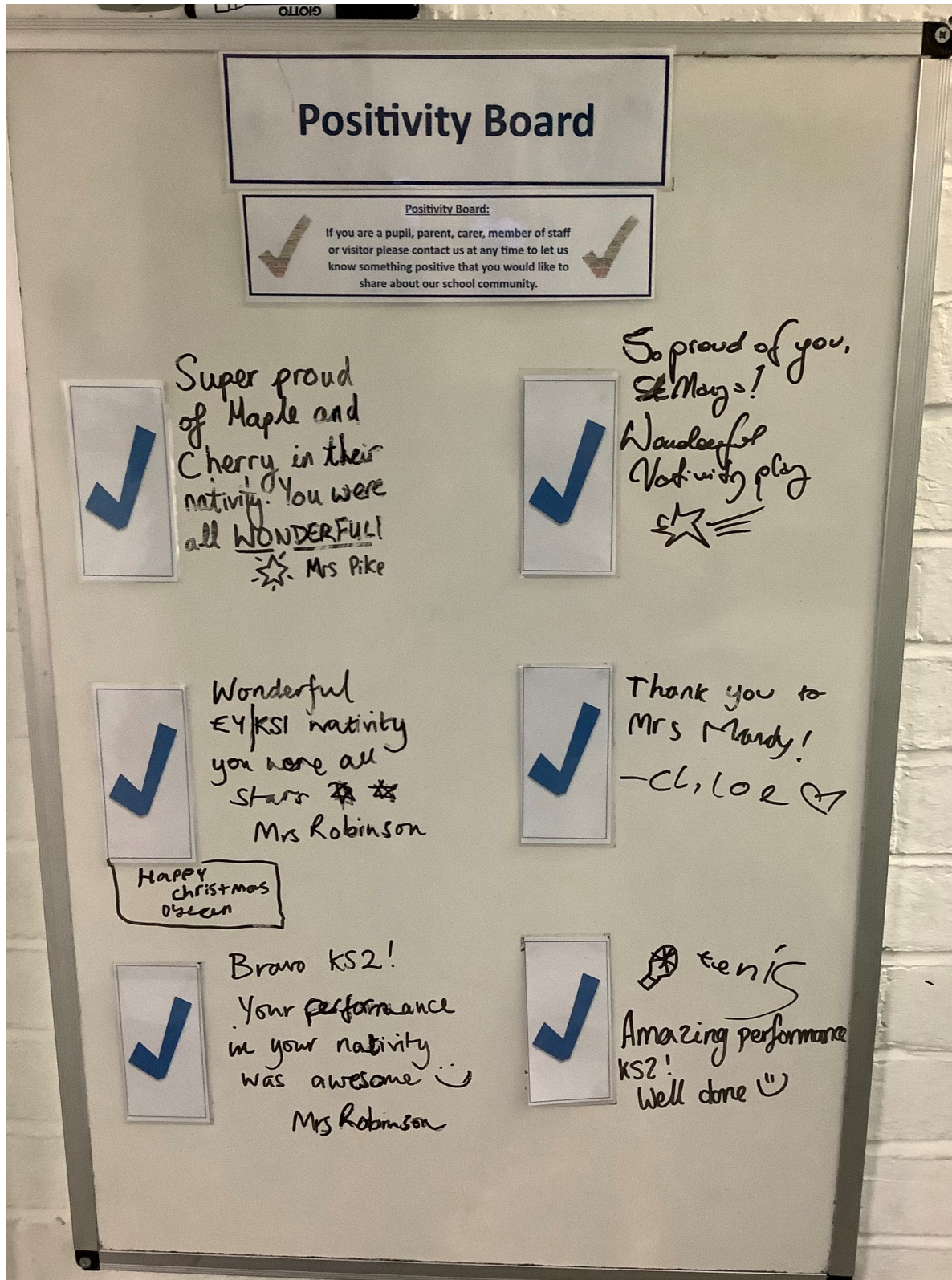
For ease, we have popped their information on to the [school website](#) so please take a look as there may be something of interest for you!



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.



Active Education Sussex
**Festive
Fun Run**

ae active education sussex
£655 **THANK YOU!**
A huge well done to Noah
and Amelie who were our
lucky trainers winners!

A massive thank you to all the parents, carers, friends, and family who did an amazing job in sponsoring the children of St Mary the Virgin Primary School for our Festive Fun Run.

We raised an amazing **£655** for the school.

We hope that all the children enjoyed the event and look forward to our Easter Fun Run in term 4!



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

*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
sawpitwoods@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