



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 3 Week 3

Friday 19th January

Headlines from our Head of School

Focus on 'voices for all'

This week, I have enjoyed spending time talking to groups of children from Lilac and Willow classes gathering 'pupil voice' about their experiences at St Mary's and finding out how they feel about their learning and progress in class.

The conversations have covered:

- what they have been learning,
- how they know they are being successful,
- how the teachers support them,
- what they do if they need help,
- broader questions about feeling safe and happy.

Hearing their views has been so insightful and reassuring and there were two great quotes from a Willow class member :

"I love learning about new things, every single lesson"

"last year I knew a little about rocks in our dinosaur topic in Cherry class, this year, in Willow, I have added to what I know by finding out about different types of rocks".

Next week, I will be focusing on hearing the Maple and Cherry children's views, allowing me to have heard from a full cross section of the school.

Running alongside these conversations, this term we are also undertaking a Pupil Questionnaire which will ensure every single child's voice is captured.

Gathering our children's views this week feels particularly poignant knowing that 'Children's Mental Health Week' is coming up on 5th February, when the theme will be 'my voice matters'.

I believe that as well as children's voices being the best 'thermometer' of life in a school, it is vital in helping children feel valued and understood, so this will be a fully established activity in the terms ahead.

Mrs Robinson. Head of School



Top Tips

Letters, emails and WhatsApp home:

Whole School

- * Lunch - Census day
- * Choir Club

Lilac Class

- * Ashdown Forest
- * Photo Permission

Year 4

- * Multiplication

Cherry Class

- * Drusilla's



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

January

23rd: Swimming - Willow Class
24th: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church
25th: Forest School - Lilac Class
26th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
30th: Swimming - Willow Class
31st: Lilac Class Trip - Ashdown Forest
31st: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church

February

1st: Online Safety Training - 9:00am - 10am
1st: Forest School - Lilac Class
1st: Community Café - 2:00pm - 4:00pm
2nd: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
6th: Swimming - Willow Class
7th: Cherry Class Trip - Drusilla's
8th: School Disco 3:15pm - 4:45pm
8th: FGB Meeting 5:00pm - 7:00pm
9th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
9th: Last Day Term 3



19th: First Day Term 4
20th: Swimming - Willow Class
21st: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church
22nd: Forest School - Maple Class
23rd: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
26th: Parents Prayer Meeting 2:45pm in church
27th: Swimming - Willow Class
28th: Collective Worship - 9:30am in church
29th: Forest School - Cherry Class



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:



Perseverance

This week, the children have been looking at the story of Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel.

Hannah prayed and prayed for many years to have a baby, persevering in her prayers until God answered her.

In their classes, the children then spent time finishing the following sentences:

- I am finding this hard so I will.....
- This was hard a few weeks ago but I.....
- If I am stuck I will.....

They then shared with others the examples of how they have persevered.

Consider, do you practice perseverance as a family?

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: 94.6%

Maple: 94.2%

Less than 94.9% - Red

Cherry: 93.8%

95 to 96.4% - Amber

Willow: 94.6%

96.5 to 99.9% - Green

Lilac: 95.6%

**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.



St Mary's Star Skills

"Skills for learning, skills for life"



Kate: is incredible at **aiming high** in all of her work, which she presents so beautifully and always works hard to achieve her best.

Immy: is developing fantastic **listening skills**, shown through the great progress she is making in maths and in turn being able to explain her method to other children to help them understand the new concepts being covered.

William: is developing delightful **creativity skills**, using his fine motor skills to manipulate clay into the shapes he wanted so that he could create a pig from his design.

Archie: is developing such amazing problem solving skills that he will give ideas to other children to help them solve a problem!

Well done to you all!

Church Events



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



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

Forest School



On the way to Forest School on Thursday 18th January, Willow Class were on the hunt for some ice, which they found plenty of, breaking it with sticks or their boots to fill a bucket.

They then spotted a large frozen puddle next to the Forest Way, which they took turns to throw sticks to see if they could hit it and crack the ice!



Once in the woods a few of the children stayed to help build and light the fire. Remembering what they had done on their last visit, they stacked the firewood largest at the bottom to smaller twigs at the top. They then lit a piece of cotton wool using a striker to add to the fire. They found this rather tricky but did not give up. Their perseverance paid off as there was soon a roaring fire on which to place a pan. The children added the ice they had collected on their walk and waited to see what would happen.

When asked they said:

“it will melt” and
“it will evaporate”.



Forest School continued



Some children choose to make animal tracks by pushing a stone with an animal track on into some clay. It was a little tricky as the clay kept getting stuck to the stone but again they persevered and some fabulous tracks emerged.

Using the clay they also chose to create some bugs and animals:

"I made a lady bird",

"I made a whale".



While moving logs by the stream, the class found some newts that were hiding underneath out of the cold. They took the opportunity to talk about having to be very careful when handling newts (wildlife in general) but also the importance of making sure that they are put back to where they had been found.

The class made sure they did this and ensured the newts were not squashed by the log they put them back under as they also needed to make sure they were nicely covered to keep them safe from the cold.



The children had great fun choosing which activities to become involved in, showing great perseverance and team work throughout the afternoon.

Well done Willow Class!

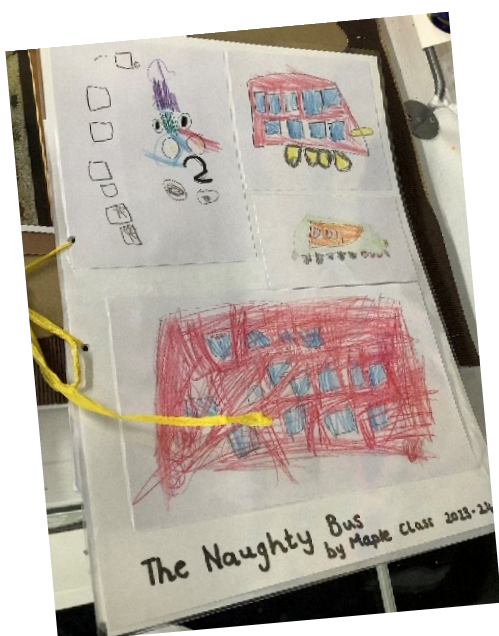


A Peek inside Maple Class

This week, we have the privilege of taking a peek inside Maple Class to see what they have been up to and it is very exciting as it has been 'Wheel Week!'



All of the children brought in a bicycle or a scooter and have had lots of fun riding around the playground, exchanging vehicles and negotiating cones. The skill levels have been astounding!



In the classroom they have been immersing themselves in the story of the Naughty Bus, a wonderful book by Jerry and Jan Oke. The children then chose lots of different places to



locate the bus (in the bug house, on the chess set, by the fish tank) and then did some wonderful writing to create their own Maple Class version of the book.



Prompted by the idea of circular tyres, the children then created some Kandinsky inspired paintings, looking first at some of Kandinsky's work and talking about his fascination with colour mixing.



They also shared the book 'Mouse Paint' and loved hearing about how the mice created different secondary colours from dancing in primary colours.

Then they worked on their own paintings!



A Peek inside Maple Class continued



The children also enjoyed making lots of different models using a range of junk modelling materials, playing in their travel agency and on the bus they created!



On Thursday, Maple class were very excited to welcome Sarah, a dental hygienist, and learnt how to keep their teeth and gums clean and healthy., including being shown how to brush their teeth properly.

They looked at pictures of what happens to teeth when they are not looked after.! The children then played a fun game where they had to decide whether food was good or bad for teeth.



To finish, the class had opportunity to ask Sarah questions about teeth and she shared some colouring sheets and a dot to dot activity.

As with all meetings with dentists, the children all got a sticker and certificate to say they are 'First Smile Champions'.

To reinforce their learning, Mrs Perry read the story 'Alan's Big, Scary Teeth' and they look forward to using their new teeth brushing charts at home.



Willow Class

Through term 3 and 4, Willow class will be going swimming every week and out roving reporter Oliver, gave us this feedback on their first trip:

We went on a coach to a different school to take a swimming lesson.

It was so hot there I could even see the steam in the air.

The teacher wasa very good. I have just started swimming and I wasn't scared. I trusted him even though the water in the pool was up to my neck in the shallow end.

The whole lesson was fun and I can't wait for the next one.

It sounds as though they had an amazing time and hopefully there will be more reports as the terms go on.

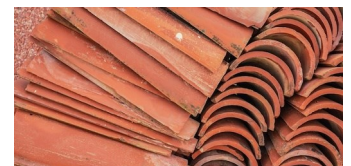


Donation Request

Are you having a New Year clear out? At Forest School over the next few terms, the children will be creating a bug hotel to encourage more wildlife to the site.

To achieve this we need the items listed below and would greatly appreciate any donations that you may have laying around unused at home.

- Whole or broken roof tiles
- Terracotta pots (whole or broken)
- Decking boards
- Drain pipe pieces
- Old bricks
- Dry bamboo
- Pallets (looking for 5)



Thank you



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 issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.

How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

NOS National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

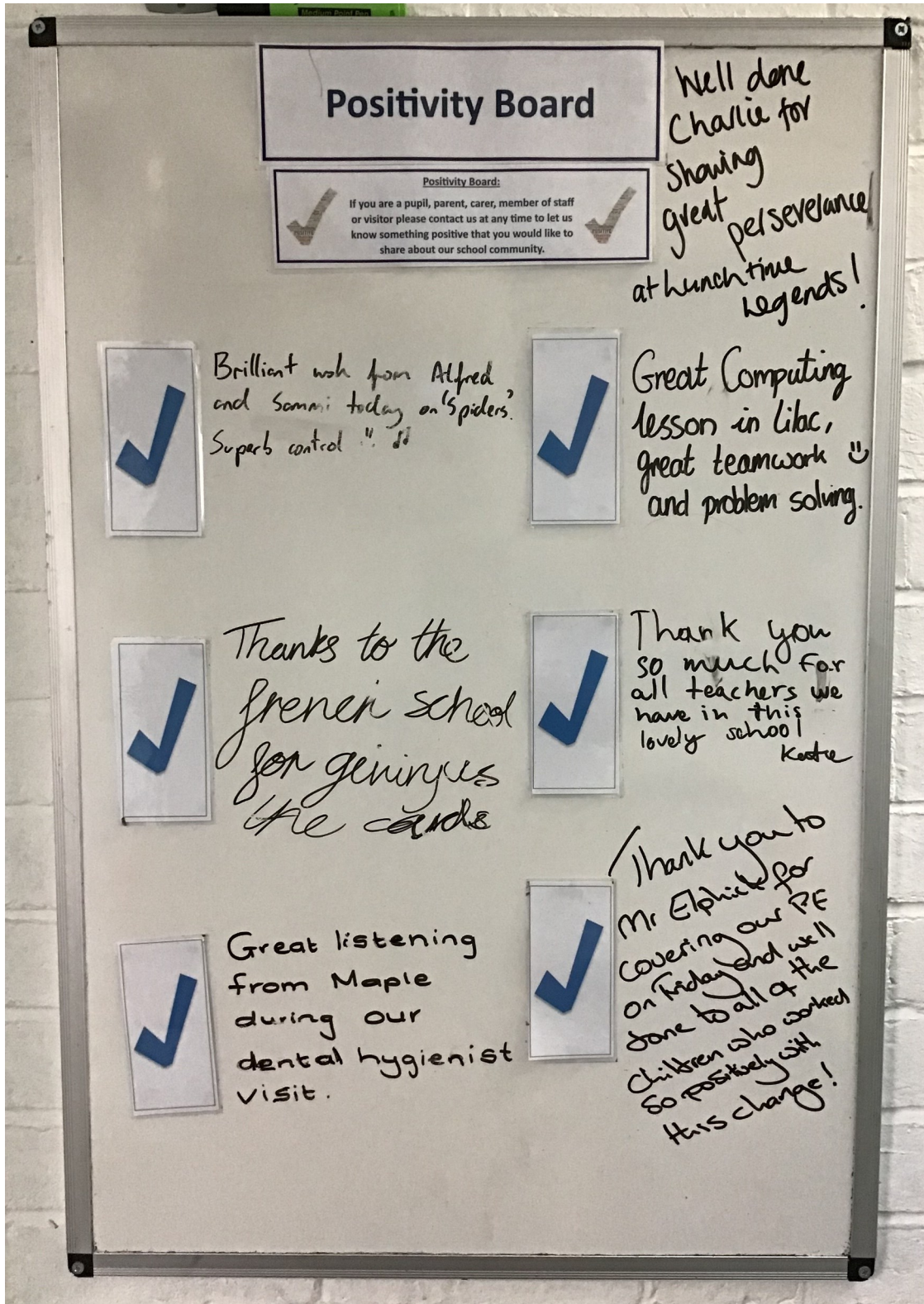
www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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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.



Opportunity



Club Flyer

Type of Club:

February Holiday Camp

Activity:

A fun filled day with a variety of sports, competitions, dance, arts & crafts, movies, and more!

Where:

Park Mead Primary School
BN27 3QP

Date:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
12th, 13th, and 14th February 2024
3 Days

Time:

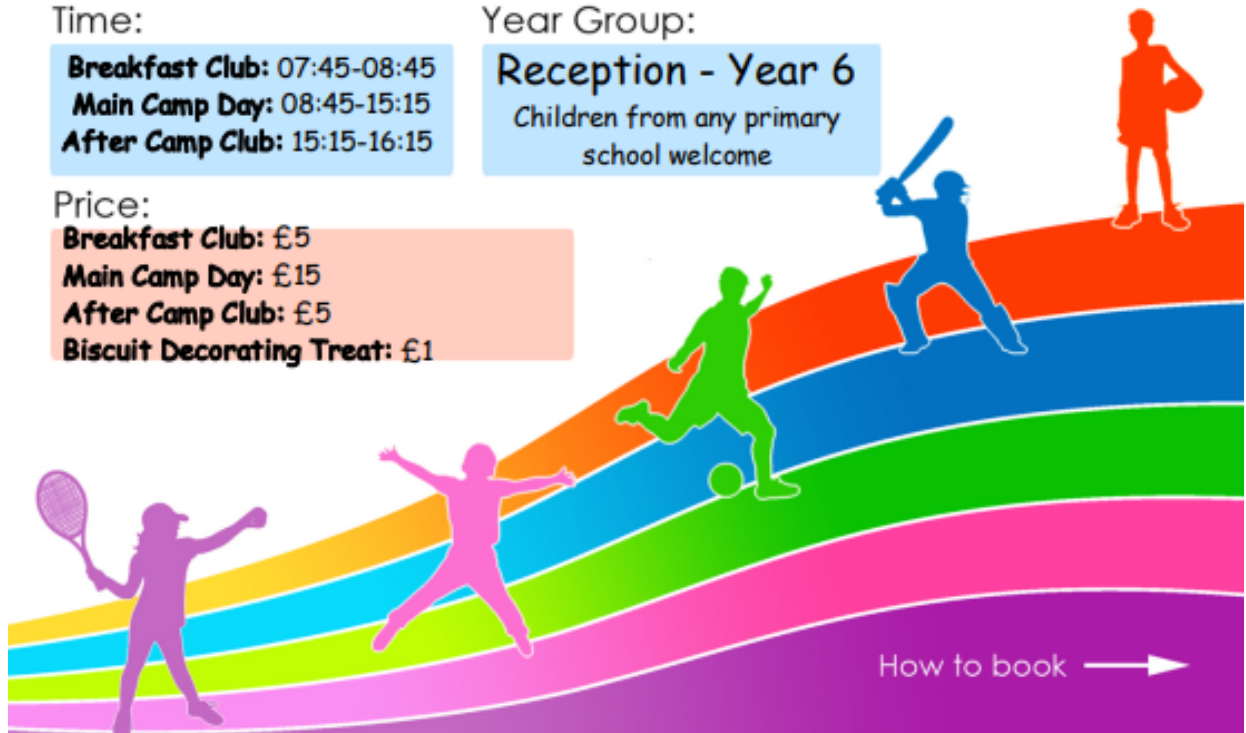
Breakfast Club: 07:45-08:45
Main Camp Day: 08:45-15:15
After Camp Club: 15:15-16:15

Year Group:

Reception - Year 6
Children from any primary
school welcome

Price:

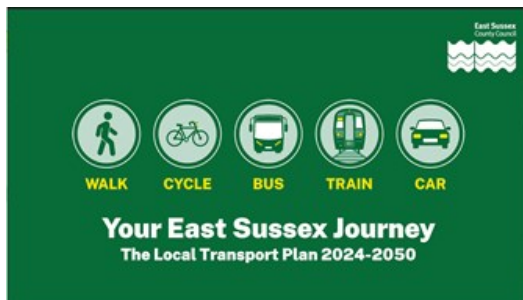
Breakfast Club: £5
Main Camp Day: £15
After Camp Club: £5
Biscuit Decorating Treat: £1



To book visit their [website](#)

Opportunity

We have been asked by Admissions and Transport, to share the following with you:



Have your say on the East Sussex Local Transport Plan

Consultation 27 November 2023 – 25 February 2024

We want you to have your say on the future of transport in the County.

The draft East Sussex Local Transport Plan 2024 – 2050, sets out how we will plan and provide transport for people taking every day journeys in East Sussex, which include getting to school, work or for leisure, now and in the future.

The plan recognises factors that are important for journeys to school such as enabling safer and more accessible journeys, the benefits to health and wellbeing from more active travel, even if this is part for part of your journey or being undertaken on certain days of the week.

Many of you will often be combining the school run with other journeys, so undertaking multiple trips, to get to work or for other purposes, so the plan recognises the importance of having a connected transport network.

To take part please select this link and complete the consultation questionnaire <http://eastsussex.gov.uk/DraftLTP4>

Contact details

If you want to contact ESCC to discuss this you can do so in the following ways:

Email - LocalTransportPlan@EastSussex.gov.uk

Telephone: 0345 608 0190 lines (open 8am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday, and 8am to 4.30pm on Friday) and ask to be put through to the Local Transport Plan Team.

Opportunity

We have heard from Crawley Open House this week, who are finding demands from their services greater than ever.

The 55 bed hostel and move-on houses are constantly full, and the Resource Centre continues to be a place of warmth, safety, practical help and advice for around 50 people every day. Their outreach team is working hard to support those on the streets, in tents, in vehicles and in precarious accommodation, and the Crawley Foodbank Partnership of which they are a part is still giving out around 15 emergency food parcels every day. The work is vital, complex and relentless.

As a school and church we support this charity each Harvest time when they are so thankful for the donations made.

For the New Year, they have developed a new scheme '1 in 1000' where they are trying to find 1000 people and organisations to set up a monthly direct debit to give a few pounds towards their work each month.

So far around 400 people and companies have signed up with the regular income allowing for planning and budgeting for the future of their work.

Could you or your company help them in this way?

If so, see more details on their [website](#)

