



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 5 Week 1

Friday 19th April 2024

Headlines from our Head of School

Focus on 'Vision through Art'.



This wonderful 3D 'book' documents the 'story' of 'Our Thriving Community'.

The piece was created over two days, as part of our Visions and Values immersive week. Every child in the school spent time in their 'house' group working with Artist Jo Irvine, from 'So Sussex, Schools without Walls'. Jo took the idea of an individual's journey through life, where the path maybe hard (see the textured path on the outside cover of the book), starting in many different locations (the outside represents 'a city' but traveling and moving along a smoother path the closer you get to the Church. The individual houses and lives, created by each child, coming together to create the 'community'. The houses on their own were purposefully created in muted colours to further enhance the colourful focus – on the Church.

The children and Jo, whilst making the final piece, talked about the way stained glass windows tell stories through imagery and in a similar way our 'book' tells the story through the picture created.

The three paths to the church entrance are inscribed with the three values of the school: Love, Strength and Faith. Whilst the main route, direction or trajectory holds the school value statement: 'Being the best we can be, in a thriving community, following the example of Jesus'.

Mrs Robinson
Head of School

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

24th: Collective Worship - 9:30am in school

25th: New Volunteer Induction

25th: Forest School - Maple Class

26th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am

26th: School Book Fair

30th: Cherry Class to Hodore Farm

30th: Lilac Bake Sale

May

1st: Collective Worship - 9:30am

1st: Vision Screening - Maple Class

1st: Health Screening - Year 6

2nd: Forest School - Cherry Class

2nd: Community Café - 2pm-4pm in church

3rd: Celebration Assembly 9:15am

6th: Bank Holiday - no school

7th: School open as usual

8th: Ashdown Forest - Willow Class

8th: Collective Worship - 9:30am

9th: Forest School - Willow Class

10th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am

13th: Mental Health Awareness Week

13th: SATs Week - Year 6 - with Breakfast Club

13th: Bikeability - Year 5

16th: Forest School - Lilac Class

17th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am

21st: Full Governing Board meeting

22nd: Collective Worship - 9:30am

22nd: Ethos Committee meeting

23rd: Forest School - Maple Class

24th: 'Bake Off' Challenge

24th: May Fair

24th: Last Day Term 5

June

3rd: INSET

4th: 1st Day Term 6

4th: Mini Residential - Lilac Class

Sports Day: 12th July



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 week, we have been reflecting on our re-launched vision statement and the values that underpin this.

Our Vision:

“Being the best we can be, in a thriving community, following the example of Jesus”

Our Values:

Love

‘Love and respect yourself and all others, treating them as you would like to be treated’

Read Luke 10: 25-37

Strength

‘Recognise people’s strengths and use your own to be resilient and the best you can be in all you do’

Read John 6: 1-14

Faith

Have faith in yourself and others and be honest and truthful. Believe that you never know what you can achieve until you try

Read Luke 5: 1-11

If you were to put the vision of your family into writing, what would it be and what values underpin this?

Do the children bring our school vision and the values that back it up into your home, being the best they can be in their family community?

Top Tips

Letters, emails, WhatsApp:

All:

- Start to school day

Maple Class:

- Vision and NCMP screening

Year 6

- NCMP screening

Cherry Class:

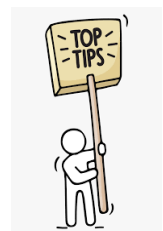
- Class Trip - Hodore Farm
- Term 5 Class Newsletter
- Re-usable, recycled materials, boat building

Lilac Class:

- Mini Residential - food options

Selected:

- After School Choir
- ParentPay - balance catch up



Vision and Values Week



Preparing our 3D expression through art



Thinking about our Values



Preparing our drama



The children have spent the week reflecting on and our amended Vision and the values which underpin this.



They prepared a 3D Art representation of our Vision, then in houses planned how they could present each Value to rest of the school and wider community, through our collective church service on Friday.



Rev Julie pulled the service together gathering and connecting varying members of our community, highlighting that each of us brings something to the community.

We all have different strengths and collectively that strength is stronger than the sum of the component parts.

If we garner that collective strength, through love and faith, the distance we can cover grows and our community is allowed to flourish.

Book Fair



St Mary's Stage

Stage 3:15pm on Thursday 25th,
Friday 26th, Monday 29th and
Tuesday 30th

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: **94.3%**

Maple: **93.2%**

Cherry: **94.1%**

Willow: **94.2%**

Lilac: **95.5%**

96.5 to 99.9% - Green

Less than 94.9% - Red

95 to 96.4% - Amber

Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind, both academically and socially which impacts on their emotional wellbeing and creates further barriers to learning which is why we are delighted that the children's individual attendance is increasing across the school.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School success starts with
ATTENDANCE

Forest School



On Thursday 28th March, Maple Class had their Forest School lesson in school, continuing their theme of birds.

The class started by going on a bird hunt for ten little bird teddies that had hidden themselves in the classroom. This was enjoyed so much that the birds were hidden again by a child for round two of bird hunting! Once all the birds were found, the children took it in turns to hold them up and as a group talked



about what they were. Dormouse gave a little information about each bird as they looked at them. While describing how the green woodpecker fly's one child exclaimed it was:

"like a roller coaster".

They all got to squeeze their bird while the class listened to the sound it made.



The children were then able to make their own bird nests full of colourful eggs. They used hay to create the nest, shaping it in to a circle and making sure to line the bottom well to keep the eggs safe. They then coloured in some stones to use as the egg which came in all different sizes and colours.



While making the nests the children talked about where a bird would choose to nest and what materials they would use to build it.

When asked what the nests were for the class replied:

"for eggs, that hatch".



Other in the class chose to use pens, paint, crayons and pastels to create some beautiful spring leaves. They spent time looking at the different shapes of leaves that were beginning to grow outside and finished the lesson by taking turns to listen to what each other had enjoyed about forest school.

"the bird hunt"

"everything"

"making eggs"



Hever Castle

As part of their topic 'Once Upon a Time, Maple Class were lucky enough to visit Hever Castle in the last week of term 4! The children were so excited to visit a real castle and find out more about how it was built and who had lived there.

They travelled to Hever Castle by minibus and enjoyed looking out for familiar landmarks and signs of Spring on the journey. The children had looked at the route that was taken before leaving using google maps and had talked about where they all lived in relation to the route that they would take.



After arriving, they found a lovely place for lunch and enjoyed talking about our surroundings as we ate. The children enjoyed looking at the topiary and the shapes of some of the bushes.



On the way to the castle, they enjoyed feeding the ducks and the fish. They were very hungry!

Finally they arrived at the castle and saw the moat with the drawbridge and spotted the portcullis.



The children were interested in the fact that it was made out of wood and talked about some of the other materials they could see: glass windows, tiled roof, stone walls, wooden beams.



Maple Class also visited the maze eventually finding their way to the middle and each other! They enjoyed looking at the extensive gardens and smelling some of the flowers. The hyacinths smelled gorgeous!



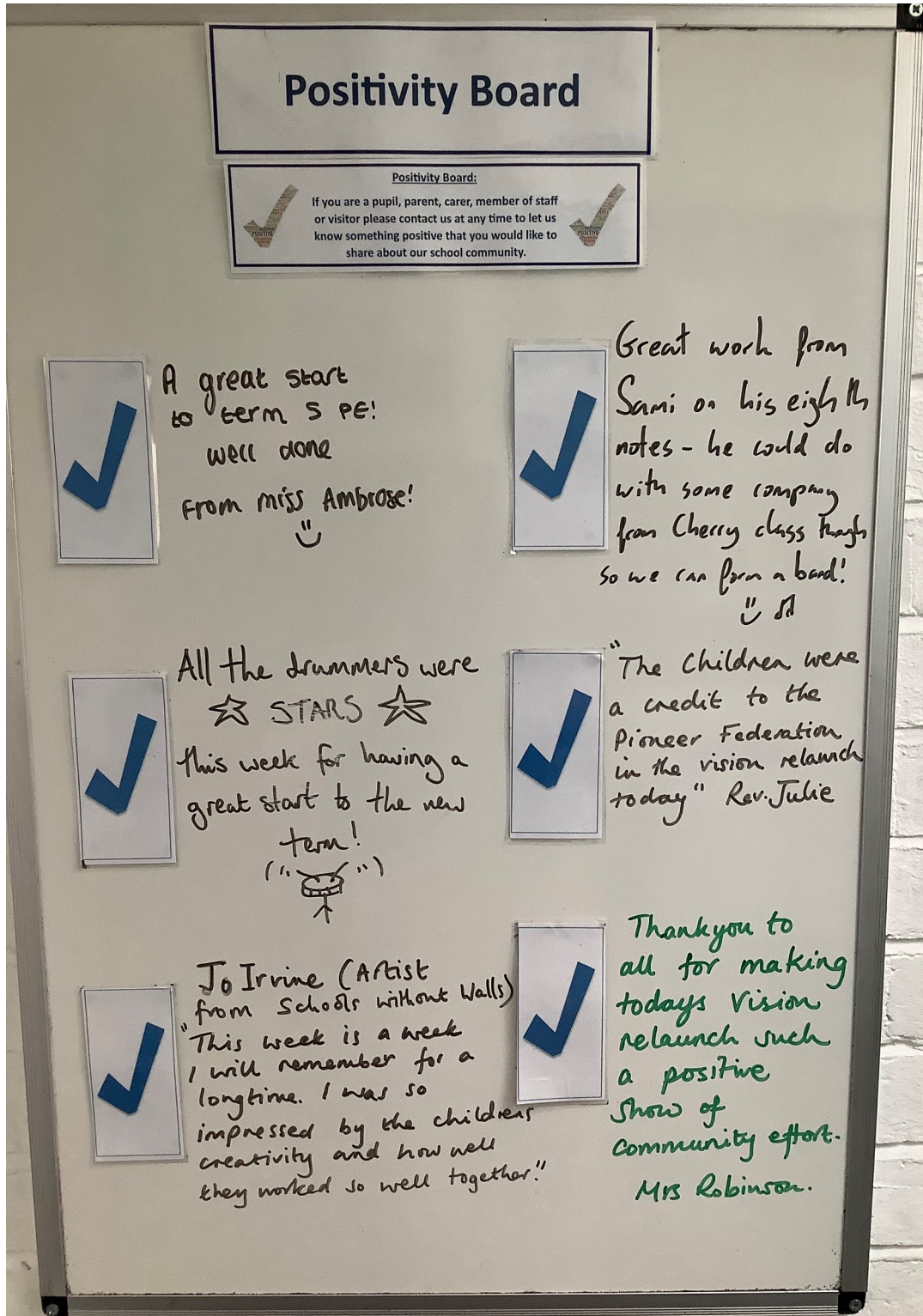
To end their day, they walked to the playgrounds and had the most wonderful time!



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.



Juggling family life...?



...we're here to help.

**Every family goes through ups and downs.
Let us help you to find the answers.**

We can offer you a wide range of support with

- ✧ emotional wellbeing
- ✧ special educational needs and disabilities
- ✧ financial, housing or employment challenges
- ✧ supporting your child's behaviour
- ✧ support for new parents
- ✧ activities for children of all ages

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