



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 2

Friday 26th April 2024

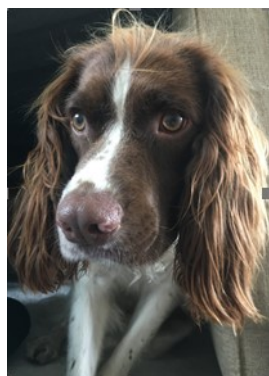
Headlines from our Head of School

Focus on 'Ensuring Pupil Voice is heard'.

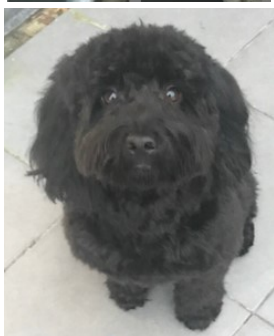
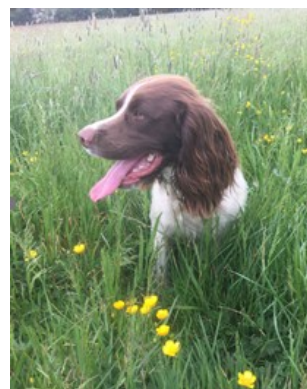
Children on our Pupil Governor team expressed their wish to return to having a dog on site. Mrs Bastin's dog, Benny, was well loved and much missed when Mrs Bastin moved to another school, so after extensive research and planning by Mrs Perry, our Pupil Governor facilitator, we will soon be able to reinstate this wonderful addition to school life!

We are very fortunate that Mrs Trengove and Mrs Pike have delightful dogs who have gone through the assessment process to be allowed to visit us at school. Very soon we will be talking to the children about their visits and trialing some time with them.

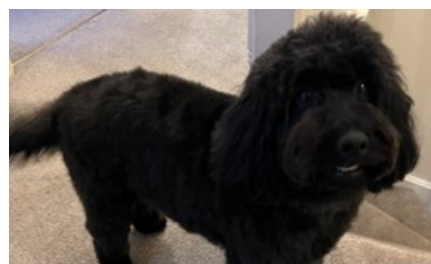
Let me introduce the dogs!



Griff is a 2 year old brown and white Springer Spaniel. He has lived with Mrs Pike and her family since he was a puppy and is very used to being around young children. His favourite things to do include going for long walks, especially if there is a river or sea to swim in to clean off! Griff is a very calm and friendly dog who enjoys being around people. He really loves being stroked softly and if he is lucky enough to be offered a treat, he will take it off you very gently!



Indie is a 4 year old black Cockapoo. Indie has been with Mrs T and her family since she was a puppy. She is an extremely friendly, affectionate, happy dog who loves to be stroked and thrives on social interaction. One of her favourite things to do is to chase a ball and after a busy day she loves to chill!



When they are in school, they may visit the children in class for short periods but we will only have one dog in school at any one time and will share a timetable of their likely attendance soon!

We have a School Dog Policy and Risk Assessment in school should you wish to read these and we will be writing to all parents in advance of the dogs visiting the school for permission for your child to be involved. We are aware that some children will not be familiar, nor comfortable being around dogs so please do not hesitate to come and speak with Mrs Robinson if you have any questions or concerns.

(Currently the staff are in deep discussions about which of us will be 'named handlers' and where the dog beds should live... I am hopeful for one in my office!)

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



26th: School Book Fair - Stage 3:15pm
29th: School Book Fair - Stage 3:15pm
30th: Cherry Class to Hodore Farm
30th: School Book Fair - Stage 3:15pm
30th: Lilac Bake Sale - Playground 3:15pm

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 term we are looking at:



Service

Reading Matthew 4, the children have been learning about how Jesus called the disciples to serve others. In particular they looked at brothers, James and John who worked with their father as fishermen until Jesus helped show them how to serve others before themselves.

The children then thought about what acts of kindness they do this week to show they are putting others before themselves.

As a class they created and looked at their own 'Acts of Kindness' grid to help them all think of kind things to do for others.

To extend this at home maybe work as a family on your own 'Acts of Kindness' grid, thinking about how you put others before yourselves within the family setting and how you could extend this both at home and into the wider community.

Top Tips

Letters, emails, WhatsApp:

Willow Class:

- Trip to Ashdown Forest

Lilac Class

- SATs Breakfast; transition workshops, Bikeability

Selected:

- School lunch choices



PTFA

Bingo Ball

St Mary's **PTFA**

The April Bingo Ball was 'pulled' today with lucky number **31** winning the monthly cash prize.



Thank you to all who have supported the Bingo Ball this year and don't forget, there will be an opportunity to join when we come back in September!

Book Fair



WHERE?

St Mary's Stage

WHEN?

3:15pm on Monday 29th and
Tuesday 30th April

Special Offer: all books three for the price of two!

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%

96.5 to 99.9% - Green

Maple: 93.2%

Willow: 94.1%

Less than 94.9% - Red

Cherry: 94.1%

Lilac: 95.5%

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.

Please bear this in mind when deciding whether to keep your child from school.

School success starts with
ATTENDANCE

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Weekly Peek

This week, Willow Class have let us have a 'peek' at what they have been up to:

Willow Class have had a busy week, getting stuck into their learning for this term. They have been reading *A River* by Marc Martin and written poems based on the migration of salmon. They discussed the way that poems often can be performed in a dramatic way and practiced this with some humorous ones, using the rhyming to support us.



The class examined the different trials and tribulations salmon experience on their migration and worked hard on improving our use of imagery to create a dramatic piece of writing. The children looked at using personification to describe the river and created sentences such as:



'the river is a dancer that twirls and swirls though the landscape it protects.'

They spent a whole morning completing their finished pieces of work and earned themselves an extra playtime as a result!



In maths, they continued to consolidate their learning about decimals and place value, and are beginning to link their understanding to money. The children have shown how adept they are at grasping new concepts and applying what they already know to support their learning, ordering decimals using both tenths and hundredths as well as comparing and partitioning them!



In PE, the children have begun practising for Sports Day by learning the correct technique for the hurdles as well as sprinting starting positions.



In music, they have been studying a tone poem (a piece of music that tells a story), composed by the Bedrich Smetana about the Czech river 'Vltava'. They listened to the music and imagined what might be happening in each of the sections. Using this as their inspiration, they have begun creating their own piece of music in six sections that describes a river's journey from source to sea and the events that it encounters on the way.

Taking full advantage of the glimpse of sunny weather they began composing their music using percussion instruments in the playground!



Forest School



On Thursday 25th April, Maple Class set off on a beautiful but still chilly sunny afternoon for Forest School. The children were given a Spring 'scavenger hunt' sheet to look for all sorts of different things on their walk along the Forest Way from things that crawls to different shaped leaves!

The class worked really well gathering all sorts of items, helping each other out by sharing their finds. They found Buttercups for 'find something yellow', which they used to hold under each other chins to see if they all 'liked butter!'

In the hunt for something long there were many sticks gathered, which got longer and longer as the walk progressed. In the end the sticks needed to be dragged all the way to Forest School!

Once there, they talked about what the class may have noticed during their walk and in the woods that was a little different to the last time that they were there:

*"bluebells are everywhere",
"the trees are covered in green".*

As it was the start of a new term, time was taken to remember how to be safe when at the fire circle, that they need to go round the outside if they want to move from one side to the other but also to shout 'red dragon' if they see someone walking through the circle.

The Impact of Forest School for the children is the knowledge they gain from the whole experience. This can be seen through the skills gained, the tools used, art and craft activities, observations and knowledge of fruit, plants and trees in relation to the seasons and the skills involved in learning how to play forest school games.

Many of the children chose to go and check on the bridge that they had created last time they were at Forest School, but unfortunately discovered that it was no longer there. They were not too concerned by this as it meant they could again work together as a team to gather lots of new pieces of wood to create a new bridge. Some children then cautiously tested strength of their bridge by laying down on it!

Other members of the class chose to practice their balancing abilities on the slack line, and were tested a little more when the line was gently wobbled by Dormouse.

The session finished with the children sitting around the fire circle and taking it in turns to listen to what each other had enjoyed about forest school.

*"the stream"
"playing with my friends"
"looking for things"*



Needed

We are looking to improve our 'Dressing Up Box', particularly for use on our new stage area during break times.

If you come have any dressing up clothes that are no longer loved or no longer fit, please bring them into the school office.

Thank you in advance for your help.



Parent Prayer Meeting



At the beginning of each term, parents gather together to prayer for the school and our children.

We have a prayer book in school that is completed by staff and children, prior to each meeting which is used to guide the prayer.

Next meeting: Monday 10th June, 8:50am to 9:15am.

They are hoping to meet in the church but please let the office know if you would like to come so you can be kept up to date regarding location.

Thank you.

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Every year, the Reading Agency with the UK public library network deliver the Summer Reading Challenge across the country.

This year, they have been busy planning ready for the summer when the theme is going to be: Marvellous Makers.

It is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged four to eleven and throughout the summer library staff together with teenage and adult volunteers help children to discover new authors and explore a wide range of books to give them a positive experience of reading for pleasure.

Are you thinking about taking part this year?

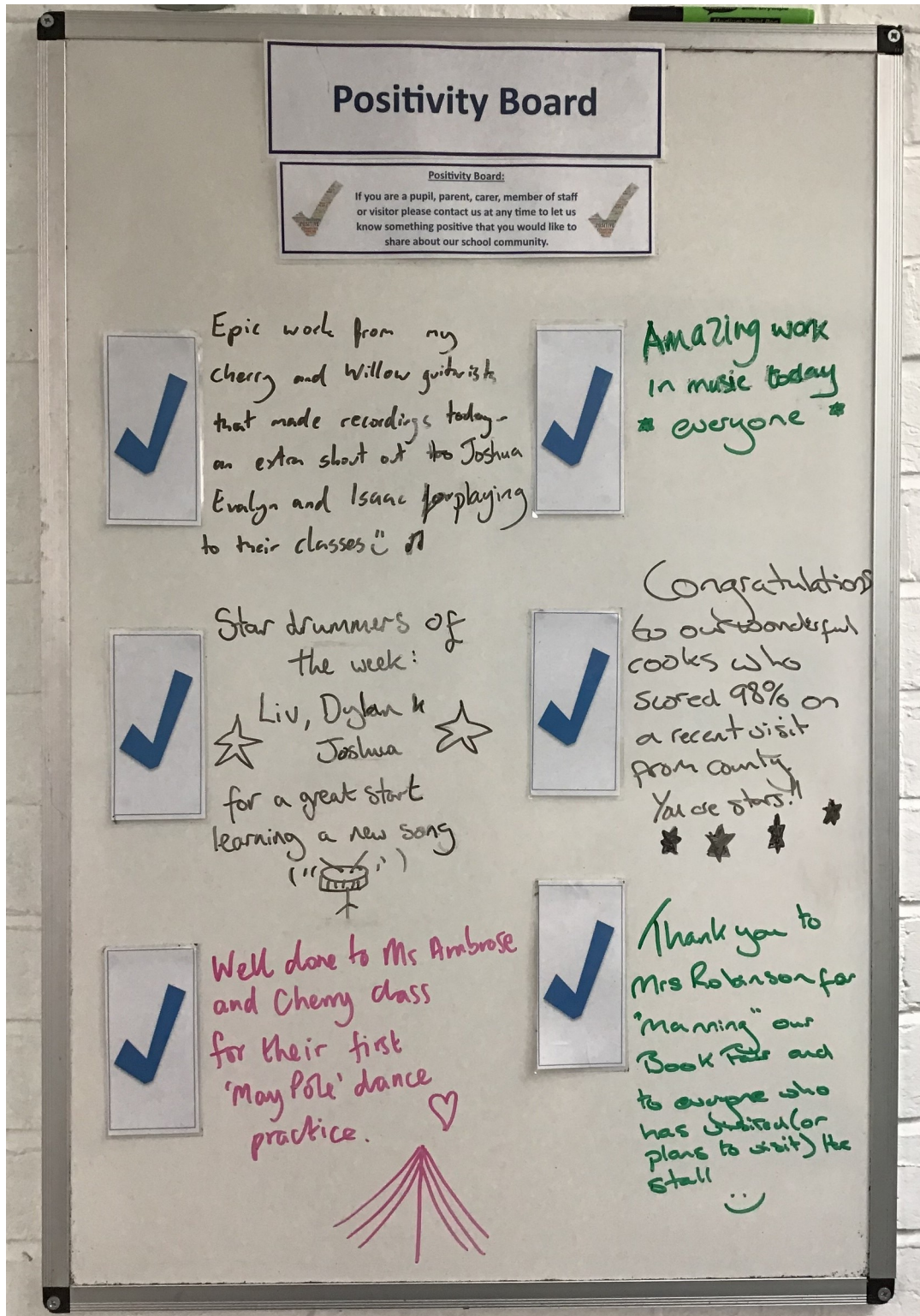
In term 6 we will have a visit from the library service to tell us more, so get your thinking caps on for any questions you may have.



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 things we can do to support our overall wellbeing.

It is presented as 'wellbeing Bingo' but it might be fun just to take some time over the next week to ensure you have completed done everything that is mentioned.

Go on. Look after yourself!

Wellbeing Bingo

YOUNG MINDS
360°
schools

Have a go at playing our wellbeing bingo and see if you can find people to play with you or try it later with your friends and/or family.

In the past week I have...

Sung in the shower 	Played with a furry friend 	Had a good sleep 	Spent some time with my family/friends 
Listened to my favourite tune 	Read a good book 	Watched a great movie/TV show 	Eaten something delicious 
Done some exercise 	Stayed hydrated 	Drawn a picture 	Laughed until my cheeks hurt 
Spent some time in a park 	Danced 	Treated myself 	Visited somewhere new 

Illustrations by Jen Springall

Opportunity

'Get Set to Eat Fresh' have launched a competition for children aged 5-14 to design a balanced, healthy meal for one of their Team GB or Paralympics GB Athlete Ambassadors at the games. The prize is a trip to the games plus a donation to the school. Entries close on 10th May 2024.

Home | School resources | Parents resources | About | Community | Register | Log in

Design a Meal

ENTER NOW

THE OLYMPIC GAMES 2024

Date: 26 Jul - 11 Aug
Time: 14.00
Zone: B2 Seat 15
Price: FREE

Resources

Please go to their [website](#) for more details.

Opportunity

CHIDDINGSTONE NURSERY PTA PRESENTS

COLOUR OBSTACLE RUN

ADVANCE TICKETS £10
£13 ON THE DAY

T-SHIRT,
SUNGLASSES
& MEDAL
INCLUDED

12TH MAY
11-3PM

CHIDDINGSTONE SPORTS GROUND
CHILDREN AGED 2-11 YEARS

Opportunity



Music in Country Churches, a charity which promotes concerts of beautiful music in our splendid country churches, will bring the award-winning choir Tenebrae to Holy Trinity Church, Colemans Hatch on Saturday, 20th July.

Tenebrae are known all over the world for the passion and precision of their performances. They will perform a programme called 'I Saw Eternity' which features music by J.S. Bach and Sir James Macmillan.



Tickets will be available online from the 25th of March via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/micc>. Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear one of the greatest choirs of our time!

Prices range from £15 to £25 and there are two-for-one tickets available for children and parents/grandparents (the child goes free).

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