



## 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 3

Friday 3rd May 2024

### Headlines from our Head of School

#### Focus on 'Ensuring Pupil Voice is heard'.

Last week, in our Wednesday Collective Worship, we were introduced to Church Youth Worker Matt Marriott. Many in the Hartfield Community may already know of Matt as he was previously a father at our school and has lived in the village for over 20 years.

About Matt:

Rev Julie says:

*Matt is the youth leader at St Mary's Church, running the local youth group on a Thursday in the Village Hall, as well as our Sunday youth work. He will now be helping Rev. Julie with the weekly church assembly on a Wednesday and will also be spending some time at St Mary's with the children*

Matt says:

*"I am so excited to be spending time with the children at St Mary's. I hope we can have loads of fun and also build even stronger links between the church and the school".*

Matt has lived in the village for over 20 years and his two boys both attended St Mary's. Matt is currently an active member of St Mary the Virgin Church congregation, running youth sessions for 'chat, food and prayer' hosted for teenage children at both church and at his home. He explained that when he was young he had support from people in his church community that was hugely beneficial in helping him navigate life and now he wants to offer this to children in our community.

From next week, Matt will come down to school after our collective worship each week to offer '**Chat with Matt**' time here. This will take place in the Lilac classroom during a playtime to allow children who want to chat to him about anything. A member of school staff will also be present. We are sure the children will have lots of questions for him, as there were so many 'hands up' in our Collective Worship to ask questions from "what sports do you like?" to "what's your favourite colour?". Matt says he is happy to answer these questions as well as any relating to his Christian faith.

We welcome Matt into our community and thank him for helping us enable our children to flourish.

Have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Jane 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



### May

**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
- 15th: Collective Worship - 9:30am
- 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 - on The Croft
- 24th: Last Day Term 5



### June

- 3rd: INSET
- 4th: 1st Day Term 6
- 4th: Mini Residential - Lilac Class

**Sports Day: 12th July 12 noon on The Croft**

## 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

This week the children have been learning about Ruth who left everything she knew to help her mother -in-law settle into a new country. She did so many kind things for her and sacrificed her own contentment for others.

They were then encouraged to think about when someone has done something kind for them, to write it down and share it with the person involved to thank them for their service!

As a family can you think of a time when others have given helped you or within the family, have any of you given up what you wanted to help another family member?

Can you celebrate this and find a way of sharing your own thank you?

### Top Tips

Letters, emails, WhatsApp:

#### **Year 6**

- SATs Breakfast;

#### **Selected:**

- Book Fair payments
- Celebration Assembly
- Bikeability

#### **ParentPay**

Please check on ParentPay to ensure your account is up to date.

#### **Book Fair**

Please ensure your book fair balance has been paid.

#### **Bank Holiday**

Monday is a bank Holiday, school resumes on Tuesday 7th May

#### **May Fair**

Afternoon of 24th May. All parents welcome.



## Book Fair

Our Book Fair this year has been a great success .

Thank you to everyone who took part and found books or stationery to be loved by their children.

Thank you also to Mrs Robinson who 'manned' the stall for the four days it was open.



## Sports Awards

The PE specialty being covered this term is 'sports' day' and Miss Ambrose has awarded the following children Sports Awards for the last week:

**Will:** for giving 'his all' on the 'bleep test' and pushing his classmates to keep going.

**Elodie:** being amazing at hurdles and for always being enthusiastic during lessons.

**Scarlet:** for completing amazing long jump practice and persevering with all challenges presented!

**Archie:** who excelled in their long jumping activities and was happy to progress himself onto more challenging tasks.



Well done to you all!



## 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: 93.3%**

**Cherry: 94.1%**

**Willow: 94.2%**

**Lilac: 95.4%**

**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.**

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

School success starts with  
**ATTENDANCE**

**EVERY DAY  
COUNTS!**



## 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.

From last week:

**Freddie:** has amazing **creativity skills** and has produced a fantastic self portrait in class.

**Abbie:** is developing fabulous **problem solving**. This week she has worked hard to visualise the relationships between numbers and to learn how she can use the facts she does know, to work out ones she does not. This has been helpful to her when working with decimals and place value.

**Jacob:** has been working hard to develop incredible **listening skills**, shown this week during the class trip to the farm where he listened carefully to his friends as they worked together to unblock the dam in the stream.

**Clemmie:** has been **aiming high** this week, using the phonics skills she has learnt to complete wonderful writing increasingly independently.



# St Mary's Star Skills

"Skills for learning, skills for life"



Skills Builder PARTNERSHIP

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Well done to you all!



# CELEBRATE!



## Fun in the Playground

Bea, Evalyn and Abbie have been having fun in the playground creating a miniature village and stream. They report:

*This is a river we spent two days on.*

*There is a tiny village that has a beautiful spot near a tree'.*

Thank you all for sharing your village with us. It is indeed beautiful!



## Midwifery

Sid had an unexpected surprise this week, when one of his dogs gave birth to a litter of puppies. It was such a surprise that Sid was the only person on hand when the first pup was born!

Congratulations on your midwifery skills Sid.





### Cherry Class Trip to Hodore Farm

Cherry class had a brilliant and informative day out at Hodore Farm and Sawpit Wood on Tuesday. They enjoyed a gloriously sunny walk from school where they met Em, Gavin and Elizabeth.

Gavin and Elizabeth look after the sheep on the farm and the children had the opportunity to ask them questions about sheep farming.



On the farm there are currently around 85 ewes and 140 lambs. The children learnt that the ewes eat grass to get their nutrients, but they are also fed nutrient rich foods before lambing to make sure they have enough goodness in their milk to help the new lambs grow.

When the sheep on the farm get to around 40kg in weight, they are sold to a local company who turn them into lamb or mutton for shops to sell.

As Cherry Class continued their journey into the woods, they summarised that farming is about growing food and looking after animals like lambs and sheep. This led us on to think about what other places animals like to live....This links in with the with our current science learning and we were able to talk about the need for a habitat to be a shady, damp shelter with food for woodland creatures.



The children played a fun game where they were shown a creature and had to decide whether its' habitat was a meadow, a pond or a woodland. At times they had to think very carefully. For example a dragonfly begins its life as a nymph living in a pond habitat, but when it changes into a dragonfly it might live in a meadow habitat.

Later they paired up to go on a creature hunt, remembering to be respectful of all habitats and to return the creatures where we found them. When we gathered back together, we counted up the range of creatures we found as a whole class and tried to identify the creatures using picture cards and descriptions.

Here is what we found:

<b>Creature</b>	<b>Number found</b>
beetles	6
millipede	4
spider	2
woodlice	4
worm	12
snail	4
caterpillar	1
Grub/larvae	2



## Cherry Class Trip to Hodore Farm - continued



After lunch around the fire pit, they discussed the importance of soil.

Did you know that there are more living things in a tablespoon of soil than there are people on earth? To help understand the amount of living things in soil, they planned an experiment with a pair of cotton pants and asked: What is going to happen to the cotton



pants if we bury them?  
These were some of the predictions:

Lois: 'They might break.'  
Isaac: 'The insects might make a hole.'  
Tuppence: 'They might disintegrate.'

To find out they decided to bury some cotton pants in the woodland and also in an open field and will dig them up later in the year to find out what happens.



As we walked around the crop fields, we learned about two types of crop that was growing on the farm. The first to be planted in September, was the wheat. This would be used in foods such as bread, pasta and cereals. The second crop that was just beginning to grow was the spring bean. These are planted in spring and when harvested they are fed to animals to give them protein.



At the end of the visit the children got to look at, and sit in three types of farm machinery and met two of the farmers Bill and Charlie who were kind enough to answer some questions about the tractors.

Cherry class had a wonderful visit to Hodore Farm and Sawpit Woods. They enjoyed a hands on day of learning all about life on the farm and in the woods and they look forward to applying this knowledge to their classroom learning.



## Forest School

With the sun starting to shine, on Thursday 2nd May Cherry Class set off on a spring scavenger hunt. There were many things for them to look out for as they made their way to Forest School from something red to a spider's web! They discovered that some of the things were a little trickier to find than others, lots of spiders but not many webs.



As they walked they looked at the trees and talked about how they looked a little different now that all the leaves were out.



When they arrived at Forest School, the class were asked to be as quiet as possible when hanging up their things because a bird has decided to make a nest in the coat store. The class have been challenged to work out what type of bird is nesting their from a picture that has been taken of the eggs in the nest. Good luck with that, Cherry Class!



Using leaves and paint some children chose to create some beautiful printed pictures. They did this by applying the paint to the back of the leaf, placing it paint side down on some paper, rubbing gently then peeling the leaf away. This left a print of the leaf showing all the veins. Cherry Class got very creative with their colours, mixing them to see what colours could be made and using multiple colours to create 'leaves of many colours'.



The children also got very busy in the ditch, working together to clear it of logs:

"I made the water run faster".

As they followed the water down the ditch the children found that it disappeared into a small hole in the ground. Using sticks they poked at the hole, knocking away the build up silt and mud to leave a much larger hole which allowed the water to flow away more easily.

With all the moving around in the ditch the sides became rather wet, which became perfect for mud sliding. The children took advantage of this, taking it in turns to slide down the bank and into the water!

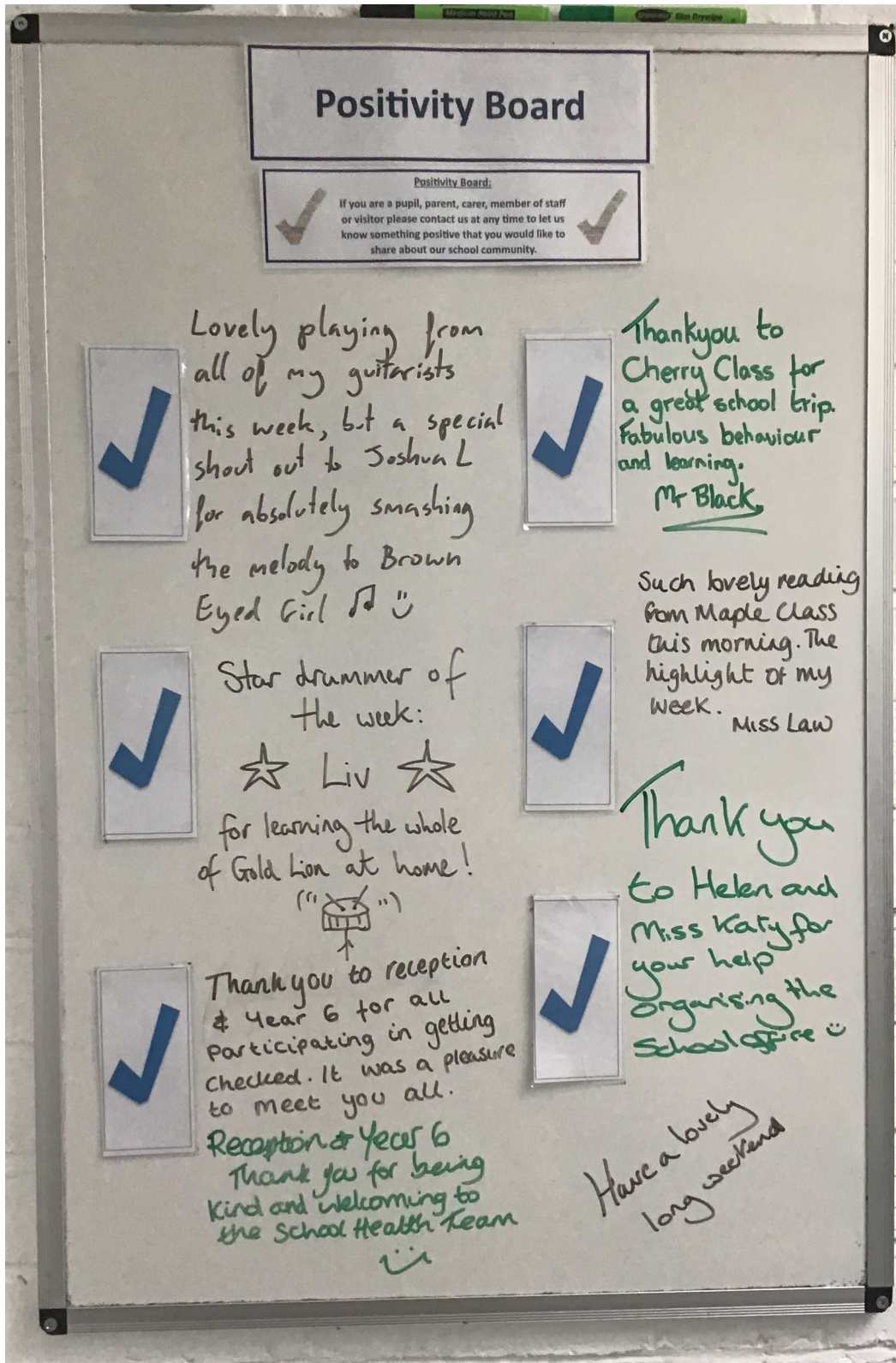




## Positivity Board

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 '10Steps to Improve Mental Wellbeing' taken from 'Anatomy Stuff'.

# 10 STEPS TO IMPROVE MENTAL WELLBEING

- 1 NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS**

Make time for your friends and family. You can nurture social connections in lots of ways, such as eating meals together, or talking regularly on the phone. Make new connections by joining a local community group or trying a new activity.


- 2 REFRAME UNHELPFUL THOUGHTS**

You can learn to break negative thought patterns by recognising them, challenging them and seeing if you can replace them with something more positive. With practice, this can help us look at perceived problems from a different perspective.


- 3 CONTROL YOUR SCREEN TIME**

Our digital devices can be great for feeling connected, but can also make us feel busy and stressed. Try periods of switching off, especially in the hour before bedtime.


- 4 SLEEP WELL**

Good quality sleep helps improve our mood, concentration and physical health. Establish a regular bedtime, relax before bed with a book or music, and avoid caffeine and alcohol.


- 5 STAY ACTIVE**

Walk, run, swim, cycle, garden or dance – whatever it is you like to do, but commit to doing it regularly (at least 2.5 hours a week). Physical activity helps us sleep, manage stress and improve our self-esteem.


- 6 EAT AND DRINK HEALTHILY**

Get a balanced, healthy diet. Limiting alcohol consumption and quitting smoking or recreational drugs can really improve both our mental and physical health.


- 7 TAKE NOTICE AND BE MINDFUL**

Notice and savour the small things in life, especially in nature. Try breathing exercises or other mindfulness techniques such as meditation to help you feel calm.


- 8 MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF**

Family and work commitments can make it hard to find time to relax or do hobbies that we enjoy. Try to prioritise at least 30 minutes every day doing something you really enjoy.


- 9 KEEP LEARNING**

Try a new skill or rediscover an old interest or hobby. Learning new things can be fun and rewarding, can introduce you to new people and helps keep our brains active.


- 10 REACH OUT**

Look out as well as in. Help a neighbour, take time to say thank you, or volunteer with a local community group. Helping others makes us feel good about ourselves and strengthens our relationships.





 AnatomyStuff



## Hartfield Remembers

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, Hartfield will participate in the international tribute with a short service in the Memorial Garden followed by lighting the beacon on the Town Croft.

**TIMETABLE**  
**6 JUNE 2024**  
**8:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

- 8:45 pm . Welcome address and prayer from Rev. Julie Sear
- . Tribute from the Royal British Legion
- . 'National Tribute'
- 9:15 pm . Lighting the Beacon
- 9:20 pm . 'Last Post' followed by the ringing of the church bells.





*Holy Trinity Church Fete  
Coleman's Hatch*

**Saturday 11th May 2024 from 1pm**

Enjoy a fun day out with friends and family, browse and buy from the stalls.

Nearly New, Linens, Books, Gifts.  
Bric-a-Brac, Collectables, Bottle Tombola,  
Plants & Produce.  
Raffle, Childrens stall.

Afternoon tea, cakes & pastries  
available from the tea tent.

Entertainment from Paul Stanworth.

3pm Maypole Dancing,  
4pm Spirimawgus Morris Men.

After expenses, all proceeds are shared by our nominated charity for 2024  
**Crawley Open House** and to the upkeep of Trinity Hall.

