



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 6 Week 2

Friday 14th June 2024

Headlines from our Head of School

Focus on 'School Dinners'

I often talk to parents about their children's eating, whether it is because they are reluctant to try new things or because they have very specific preferences on the Chartwell's menu. Many parents express concerns that their children's diet is limited or they only seem to be happy eating the less healthy meals but not the ones parents would like them to eat!

As you know, we are very lucky to have a **wonderful kitchen here at St Mary's** and **fantastic cooking staff (Kerry Powell and Kirsty Miller)** who work hard to make the meals super yummy and ensure they meet all of the children's nutritional needs. However, I met with the Chartwells team this week, as well as East Sussex procurement and talked to them about some changes to the menu that we would like to see that reflect the children's feedback which they will look into!

From next week, we have asked Chartwells to make some extra 'meal taster pots' that will be available to all children (school dinners as well as packed lunch) who can select a little 'taste' of the main meals on offer that day. We hope this will broaden the children's food experiences and encourage more to choose new foods from the menu (allergies will be observed!) and if children try a new food or meal, they will be celebrated with a sticker or certificate.

This is a good time to remind all parents who provide **packed lunches** that we ask for these to be healthy – including a sandwich or similar carb, plus protein, fruit, vegetables and a small treat item such as a yoghurt tube or similar. We really do urge you to avoid biscuits, 'grab bag sized' crisps, cakes and other processed sugar filled items. These we know provide short-term boosts but leave children feeling less energetic later in the afternoon. We also know that most children will choose these, by default, over the healthier options, including the school meal if it is an option!

Over the next academic year, we will be working hard to achieve our **Healthy School Award**. One strand of the assessment looks at how we promote healthy eating and we are looking to work with the Chartwell's nutritionist who will lead assemblies, small groups and cook with the children. We are investigating other charities and workshops to work alongside and will be applying for a small fund to improve our cooking facilities to support this healthy eating endeavour. We hope all these initiatives will educate our children and enable them to make better choices. We will also be further engaging the children in completing 'feedback surveys' that will inform our choices and those of the Chartwell team.

Jane Robinson

Head of School

Lunch Box Parent Guidance

Sending your child into school with a packed lunch is a great way to ensure they're eating a balanced and healthy diet that will keep their energy levels up and ready for learning. You can plan your child's lunch (or encourage them to help plan their own) using some of the guidance below.

<p>Ready, Steady, Go!</p> <p>Foods that contain carbohydrates are great for giving us long-lasting energy, meaning your child will have plenty of go power throughout the day. You should try to get two portioned sources of carbohydrates in your child's lunch, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bread • pitta • scone or English muffin • plain biscuits • wraps • rice cakes • quiche (a slice or child-size) • rice • pasta • crackers 	<p>Tall and Strong</p> <p>Foods containing calcium (like dairy products) can help to boost your child's bone growth, while protein-rich foods can help with muscle strength - that's why these foods are in the 'Tall and Strong' group! You should aim for one portion of these foods, which could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yoghurt pots or tubes • cheese slices, cubes or sticks • fish (e.g. tuna) • eggs (boiled or in a sandwich) • chicken • ham • salami 
<p>Healthy Glow</p> <p>Fruits and vegetables are fantastic sources of vitamins and minerals that keep your body healthy. They're also a good source of fibre, too. You should try to get two sources of these foods, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fresh fruits like apples, strawberries or oranges • canned fruits like pineapple or peach slices in juice • cut vegetables like cucumber, bell peppers and carrot 	<p>No, No, No!</p> <p>There are some foods that aren't appropriate for school lunches, including excessive snacks or fast foods. Many schools are also nut free, so precautions should be taken when considering nut products. The following foods can be enjoyed in moderation at home and should be avoided at school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • takeaway (leftovers or sharing packs) • sugary biscuits • fizzy drinks • sweets • large bags of crisps (i.e. such as pizza) 

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

Please check the dates as a couple have changed.

Thank you



June

- 19th: Collective Worship - church 9:30am
- 20th: Forest School - Willow Class
- 20th: Community Café - 2pm - 4pm in church
- 21st: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
- 25th: Lewes Castle - Cherry Class
- 25th: Briars - Maple Class
- 26th: Viking Day - Lilac Class
- 26th: Collective Worship - church 9:30am
- 27th: Forest School - Maple Class
- 27th: Leaver's Service, All Saints Church - Year 6
- 28th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am

July

- 1st: Transition Day - Uckfield
- 2nd: Transition Day - Uckfield
- 2nd: Transition Day - Oxted
- 3rd: Transition Day - Imberhorne
- 3rd: Collective Worship - church 9:30am
- 4th: Transition Day - Beacon
- 4th: Transition Day - Bennett
- 4th: Community Café - 2pm - 4pm in church
- 5th: Transition Day - Beacon
- 5th: Celebration Assembly - 9:15am
- 9th: Non- Uniform Day - Tombola Bottles
- 9th: Lilac Class Production - 2:00pm and 5:30pm
- 10th: Collective Worship - church 9:30am
- 10th: FGB Meeting
- 11th: Forest School - Lilac Class
- 12th: Sports Day - the Croft 12noon
- 12th: Reports Out
- 16th: Report Queries
- 17th: Collective Worship - church 9:30am
- 18th: Community Café - 2pm - 4pm in church
- 19th: Back up Sport's Day
- 19th: Leaver's Service 9:15am in church
- 22nd: Last Day Term 6

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

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:

96.5 to 99.9% - Green

Less than 94.9% - Red

95 to 96.4% - Amber

Whole school: 94.5%

Maple: 93.4%

Willow: 94.4%

Cherry: 94.4%

Lilac: 95.5%

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.

Top Tips

Letters, emails, WhatsApp:

All

- Community Pay Back
- Group Photos

Lilac Class

- End of Term Dates

Year 6

- Diocese Leavers' Service
- TA Information

Willow Class

- Mrs Champion

Selected:

- Football Kit
- Celebration Assembly
- Football Tournament
- Hands on History



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 of term:

Skye: is developing fantastic **listening skills**. She was amazingly attentive in the Hands on History workshop, handling the artefacts extremely carefully and was a credit to St Mary's. Well done, Skye!.

Isaac R: is developing wonderful **speaking skills**, sharing thoughtful ideas during class discussions and using excellent questions to deepen his understanding with many topics.

Iris: has remarkable **problem solving skills** and is using them to help others when they are finding things difficult

Well done to you all!



St Mary's Star Skills



"Skills for learning, skills for life"



Skills Builder PARTNERSHIP



CELEBRATE!



School Dogs



Griff and Indie are now fully fledged school dogs, coming into school as if it is their second home. They have had a sniff around, checked out the playground, met all of the children and are now getting into the serious task of 'helping out'.

This week they have been 'encouraging' children with their reading and maths (maybe a bit more work with

Indie to ensure she doesn't take over the whole desk!)



Forest School - 13th June

When Cherry Class set off for Forest School this week, they took a jar of cream with them taking it in turns to shake the jar hoping that it would turn to butter and as they arrived the cream had indeed become butter! The buttermilk was poured into a cup and the butter spread on crackers so that the class could look at and taste the two different products of shaken cream.

All felt it was well worth the effort and enjoyed the outcome of their hard work!



On the way to Forest School the class stopped in one of the fields so that they could play a game of Eagle Eye. Dormouse closed her eyes for the count of ten and the class ran to hide. When she opened eyes the whole class had disappeared, and needed to make sure they stayed quiet and hidden until she closed them again. On the next count of ten, the children needed to come out of hiding, run up to tap her hands getting back to their hiding place before she opened her eyes again. Those not quick enough were 'caught'. The class really enjoyed this game and to play it many times.

On arrival, most of the class made their way down to the stream hoping to find some water but what they discovered was a broken bridge! Showing ingenuity, they managed to fix the broken end using a log. Once the bridge was fixed the class got out the trowels and worked really well together to redirect the water that was flowing down the stream.

Some children chose to use a hand saw to cut a thin disc of wood. They made sure to put a glove on the hand holding the wood to keep themselves safe and learnt about their "blood bubble", which is the area that no other child must enter when they are using the tool. The children worked really hard to cut their discs; even when their arms were tired they kept going until they were all the way through. Great Work!!

The small fairy garden that had been created the last time that Cherry Class were in the woods had sadly been destroyed but a few of the children worked really hard to recreate it. They

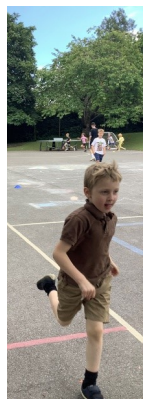
banged sticks into the ground with pieces of wood balanced on top, used wood shavings to create a floor and stones to create a pathway. On completion the sticks resembled Stonehenge and the children are prayerful that the new garden will survive until their next visit.



Pioneer Fundraising

Last Friday, following much work by our Pupil Governors, the school took part in a fun run and bake sale to raise money for the animal shelter at Raystede.

Mid week, we had an assembly run by a Raystede volunteer to give information about the charity and the children were excited to know where their money would be sent. Thank you to all who supported the day.



A Special Message



Dear Staff, Pupils and Parents,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful sympathy and good wishes you gave me when Mr Rowberry passed away.

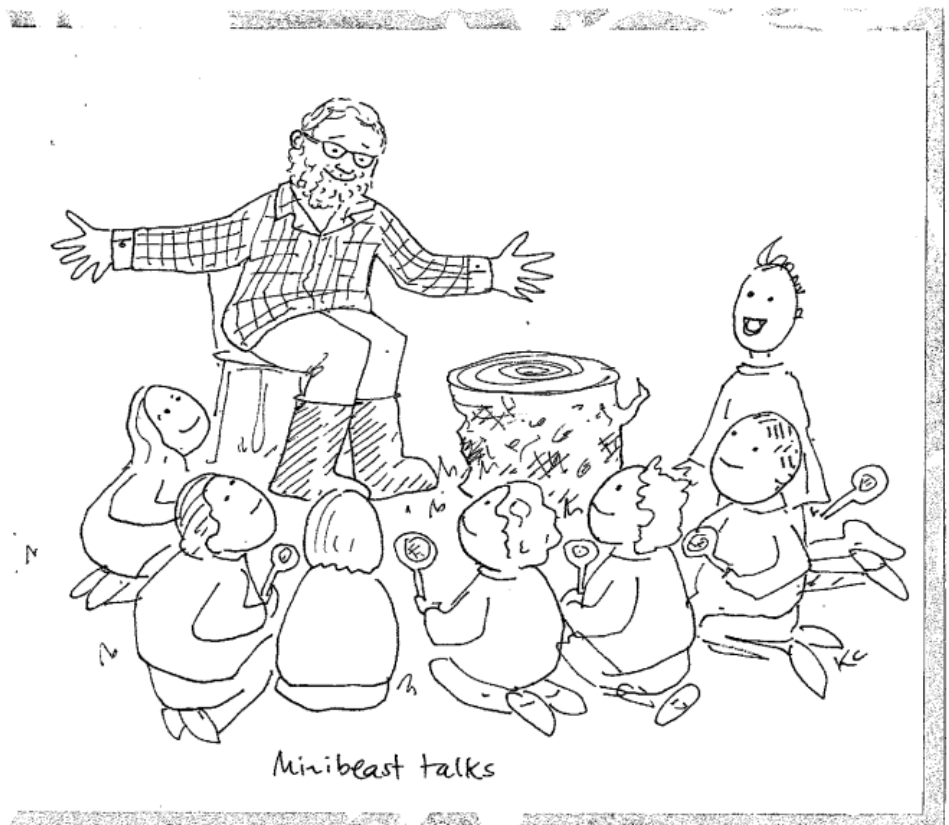
I felt so supported by you all especially with the lovely memory book you all had made.

I also wanted to let you know that over £1,000 was raised at the funeral and the donations have gone to the Hospice in the Weald (which helps people who are very ill) and to Ghana Education Project (who support girls in Ghana to be able to go to school) .

So again thank you all ,

Mrs Rowberry

Volunteer



Forest School - Thursday 6th June

Maple class started their session today by having a look at some items brought in by children to the class. These items were linked to the bird nests and eggs looked at in previous sessions and included:

- the nest of a bird; it had fallen out of a tree in their garden.
As a class we talked about the different materials that a bird uses to build their nest, how they are more twig like on the outside and then softer and finer in the middle.
- An 'already hatched' egg that had been found during the half term.
The class talked about what bird they thought the egg may belong to, establishing that it most likely belonged to a Blackbird!



On the way to the woods the class had a jar of cream that they had the task of shaking, in the hope it would turn into butter. As they arrived at the bridge they all gathered round as the jar was opened to see if it had worked:

"It's butter!"

Sitting in the sunshine the class enjoyed trying the handmade butter

on a cracker before heading the rest of the way to the woods.



Once they arrived at Forest School, some of the class chose to decorate some discs of wood which they then used a palm drill on to make a hole at one end. They found out that they needed to make sure to push down hard as they twisted the drill into the wood. When each hole was made they treaded a piece of string through to turn the disc of wood onto a necklace. This was rather tricky to do but they learnt a little trick of using a stick to help get the string through the hole!

A few of the class talked about the log dogs that they had made in a previous session which they said they had sadly lost. As they had liked them so much, they asked if they could make another one although this time they were going to be log cats! The children looked around to find the right sized piece of wood to make their cats, using a hand saw to cut the wood to the length they wanted, then decorated it with a face at one end and tail at the other, finishing it off with a piece of string to pull it along with.

There was lots of free play in the steam with the children adding to the bridge that they have been creating over there last few sessions. They also spent some time practicing their balancing skills on the slack line.



Opportunity

Within St Mary's we have four job opportunities arising.

Would you like to work with us?

Do you feel you could cover any of the following roles?

Caretaker



We are looking for someone to commit to caring for our lovely school! The role will keep the school looking its' best and the children safe.

The work involves both physical and written tasks, completing daily, weekly and quarterly checks for safety, and basic DIY activities such as touching up paint, clearing drains and cleaning the fish!

Do you have 2.5 hours each day?

Do you know someone who has retired who would like a job working in our school?

If you do, please give the office a call on 01892 770221.

Specialist Individual Needs Assistant

We are looking for a specialist individual needs assistant who would be happy to support a pupil with their medical needs whilst in school.

The hours will cover a full school day, five days each week, and we are looking for individuals who would be happy to train in several aspects of medical care and be willing to provide flexible support to enable full access to the school curriculum.

Is this something you would be interested in/able to do?

Do you know someone else who would be?

Again, please call the school office on 01892 770221



After School Club Coordinator



From September we are looking to provide after school, wraparound care and we are looking for two people to support this new venture.

All support staff are part of a whole school team and are required to support the values and ethos of the school and school priorities.

This will mean focussing on the needs of pupils, colleagues and parents/carers and being flexible in a busy pressurised environment.

Would you be able to provide safe, creative play opportunities, preparing activities, organising a termly programme? If so, please call the office on 01892 770221

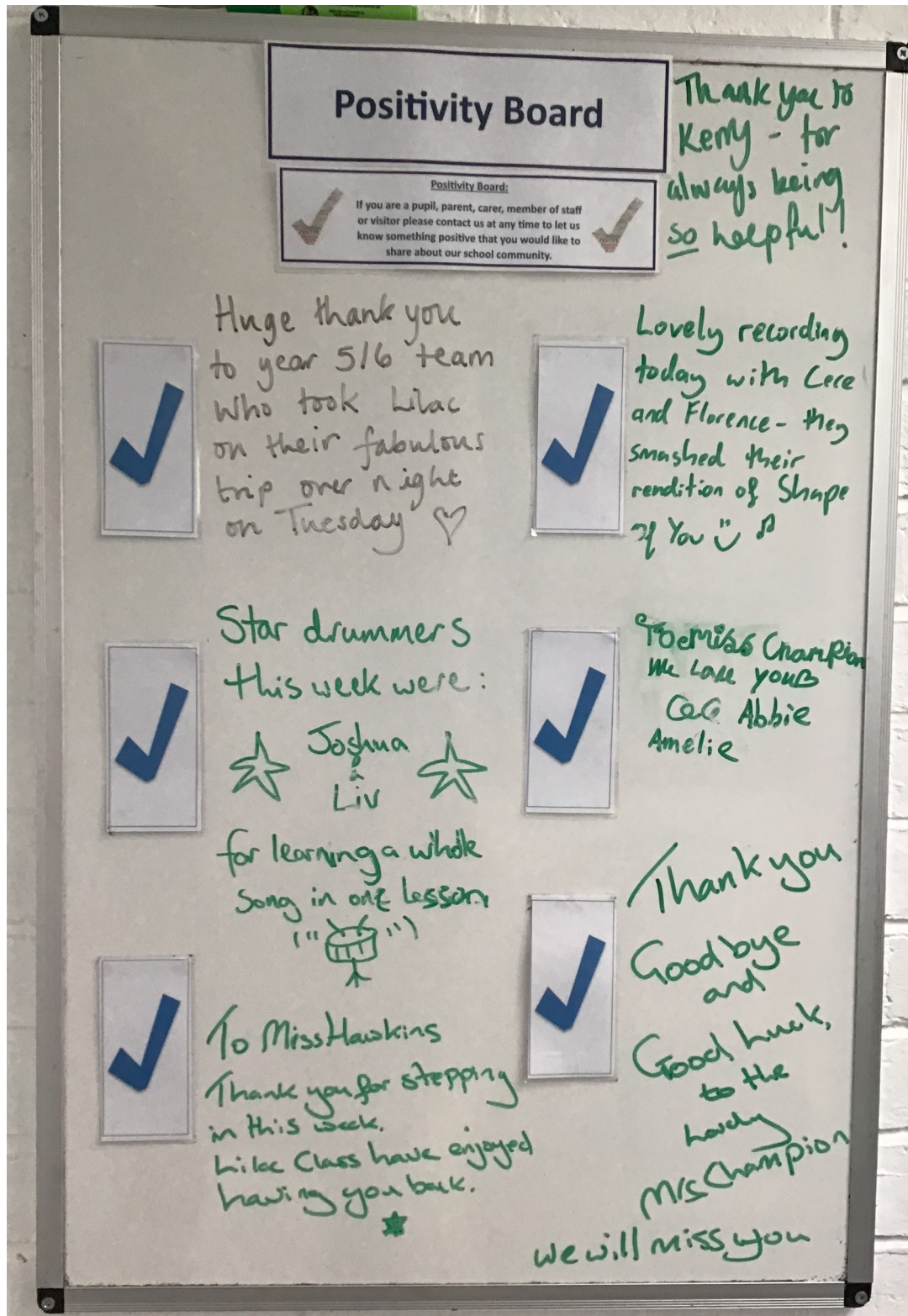
After School Play Worker



Positivity Board (last week of term)

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 advocates walking as a way to improve mental health and gives details of a group that walks on the Ashdown Forest, on the 2nd Friday of each month



Revive Health Fitness invites you to a rejuvenating walking experience amidst the breathtaking landscapes of the Ashdown Forest. Whether you're a member of the community simply looking to expand your social circle or a professional looking to expand your network, our scenic walks offer the perfect opportunity to forge new friendships and explore business collaborations while immersing yourself in the beauty of nature.

Support Mental Health: Revive Health Fitness partners with **West Kent Mind**, allowing walkers to make optional donations to support mental health initiatives. Your contribution can make a positive impact for members of our local community.



Monthly Walking Events: Join us every **2nd Friday** of the month for a refreshing circular walk lasting around an hour.



Meeting point: Ashdown Park Hotel - on the main garden terrace at **10:15 am** departing promptly at **10:30 am**.



- **Dog-Friendly:** Bring your furry friends along!
- **Refreshments:** Enjoy complimentary refreshments on the terrace after your walk.

Book **NOW** and experience the perfect blend of active networking and the revitalising embrace of the Ashdown Forest.

Simply scan QR Code to reserve your **FREE** space:

www.revivehealthfitness.co.uk



Available Support



Welcome to the Family Hub newsletter Please find below the lowdown of what we are about and what we do.

NEWSLETTER April/July 2024

We want to introduce to you Uckfield Family Hub –formerly Uckfield Children’s Centre. Based in Uckfield we provide services for families across the whole of the High Weald area including Crowborough, Forest Row, Heathfield, Groombridge and Wadhurst.

Family advice service

We have a new advice and guidance service for parents/carers across the whole of East Sussex. Sometimes it’s a challenge for families to know the best places to find the right advice offering support in:

- 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

For more information visit our website:

[Contact our family advice service | Family hubs \(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/family-hubs)

Or for enquires:

familyhubs@eastsussex.gov.uk

Early Years

At Uckfield Family Hub and in the surrounding areas we run many Early Years groups, sessions, and courses.

Every week drop ins:

Bumps to Babies
Music Groups
Discovery Tots
Out & About

Courses and sessions (to be booked on to)

HENRY
Play and Learn
Small Beginnings
Sensational Stories
Early Words
Incredible Years

For more information visit our website:

[Uckfield, Heathfield and Crowborough - What's on | Family hubs \(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/whatson)

Or for enquiries:

EHHighweald@Eastsussex.gov.uk

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Open for parents

The Parenting Team offer courses for FREE and ONLINE for the parents of East Sussex

When parents/carers need advice on helping their child to become more independent, getting them into healthy sleep habits, setting clearer rules, or supporting them through tough emotions and anxiety, we've got it covered.

Our online courses offer practical tips for dealing with common issues, and they're based on methods that have worked for families worldwide, especially during tough times. You don't have to figure it out alone; we're here to support families in East Sussex.

For more information visit our website:

[Online parenting courses - children | Family hubs \(eastsussex.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/parenting)

Or for enquiries:

EH.019parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Family Funday Festival

We are having a party this summer holiday and every family is invited to attend:

- Cartlodge, Horam, Monday 29th July, 10-11:30am
- Selby Meadows, Thursday 8th August, 1-2:30pm
- Crowborough Community Centre, Thursday 22nd August, 1:30 - 3pm,
- Uckfield Family Hub, Friday 30th August 10 - 11:30am

All events are free and open to families with children. No need to book.

Updates can be found on our [Facebook](#) page.



Welcome to Holiday food and fun

FREE for children on benefit-related free school meals ...

A range of activities and food is available during school holidays at our Holiday food and fun clubs. It's a great opportunity for children and young people to enjoy a range of fun things to do.

Six weeks of food and fun!

For six weeks during school holidays throughout the year (Easter, summer and Christmas) local clubs will be serving up a menu of activities for children and young people of all ages, plus there's food to enjoy too.

Activities may include sports, games, arts, crafts, music, and nature although these will differ from club to club.

Many clubs can offer families advice and recipes for cooking healthy meals on a budget. Sometimes the young people get to try them out at the club.

What's on offer

Check our [events list](#) to find a Holiday Food and Fun club near you.

Each club takes its own bookings.

Need help booking?

Our events list and booking system has been tested for users of assistive technology. We know that some images on the system may not include alternative text. Read the [accessibility statement](#).

If you need help booking a place, please contact us.

Telephone: 07923 382464 or 07512 449389

Email: HAF@eastsussex.gov.uk

Is it FREE?

It's free for school-aged children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals. A small number of places are available for other eligible groups.

Contact the [HAF team](#) to find out more. Additionally, some clubs also offer paid places alongside HAF-funded ones. The charges may differ from club to club.

There is also help and advice on benefits available to families:

Hartfield Village Hall Photography Competition



The Hartfield Village Hall invites all photographers, young and more mature, to participate in our upcoming photography competition. We are seeking high-quality, landscape images, taken on cameras or phones, showcasing the beauty of the local area, from its wildlife to the unique charm of each season.

A distinguished panel (the Village Hall Committee), will select the top 13 images, with each winning photograph securing a spot in our 2025 calendar. The calendar will be sold to raise funds for the installation of double-glazed windows in the hall.

Furthermore, the photograph chosen for the cover of the calendar will be determined by a public vote at the upcoming Village Fete.

The deadline for submissions is the 4th of August. To enter, kindly email your photograph along with your name, contact number, email address, and age category (11 and under, 18 and under, or over 18 years) to hartfieldvillagehall@gmail.com Capture the essence of Hartfield and let your lens tell a story of our vibrant community!

SUMMER SERVICES

St Mary's

Sunday 7th July

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th July

9.30am Morning Woship

Sunday 21st July

9.30am Holy Communion

From 28th July we will be providing a breakfast from 8.30-9.15am, followed by our Sunday services from 9.30-10.15am

Sunday 28th July

8.30am Breakfast

9.30am Songs of Praise

Sunday 4th August

8.30am Breakfast

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 11th August

8.30am Breakfast

9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 18th August

8.30am Breakfast

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th August

8.30am Breakfast

9.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 1st September

9.30am Holy Communion



Website
Hartfieldchurch.org



We would love to see you and your pets for a
**Pet Service of Thanksgiving
and Blessing**

taking place in the grounds of Holy Trinity
Church, Colemans Hatch
on
Sunday 1st September at 11am

To ensure that no pets are harmed, we politely
request that dogs are on leads and small pets are
safely in baskets.

If your pet can't come, you are welcome to bring a
photo or your cuddly pet toy with you instead.

Horses and sheep welcome too.

To find out more, please contact Donna Dewar:
01342 326424

*Refreshments afterwards for both pets and
humans.*

Opportunity

Let's have a Picnic

We are arranging a picnic on the croft in Hartfield on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer holidays with games organised for the Children

From 23rd July - 27th August
5.30pm - 8pm

Please bring a picnic with you

We look forward to seeing you there!



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.

As part of the mission of MICC is education, in the afternoon between 2pm and 3pm they intend to provide an interactive workshop for children aged between 7 and 11 years. The children will need to be accompanied by their parents for the hour and should arrive at Holy Trinity Church at 1.50pm. Parking is available on the day in the field next to the church – look for the signs!

Please call the office 01892 770221, if you would like to attend.



St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School, Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

Tel: 01892 770221 Email: office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk Website: www.pioneerfederation.co.uk

Opportunity



**Saturday
13th July**

Pippingford Park, Nutley

This exciting trail run or walk offers a choice of three distances: 3, 5 or 10km. Whichever distance you choose you'll get to enjoy totally off road, single lap route within Pippingford Park, a stunning private estate nestled in the heart of the Ashdown Forest.

The Adventure Run is an age inclusive event with opportunities for every trail runner from 5 year olds upwards, regardless of experience. All of the routes are rewarding and we encourage you to take them at your own pace, even if that means walking or stopping to take the views in. All three routes offer varied terrain with a mixture of woodland trail running and open grass or gravel tracks.



For more information please scan the QR code or visit www.crtcharity.org/adventurerun

Registered Charity No.1140277 www.crtcharity.org 01825 817417

