



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 1 Week 2

Friday 13th September

Headlines from our Senior Teacher

September is always an exciting time of year for us as a school as we settle into new classes, welcome new children and look forward to a brand new academic year. The children are already immersed themselves into new topics. Here is an overview of what our pupils will be exploring this term.

Our Reception children have just completed their first full week of school. The children have settled well into new routines, and are making some lovely friendships within their class. Having a year 6 'Buddy' is always a highlight for children as they start school. The reception children are paired up with a Year 6 child, who takes as special interest in them by looking out for them at playtimes, reading stories and playing games with them.

The Year 1 and 2 children are learning all about The Great Fire of London. The children have begun the term looking at London and how it has changed through history. The class will explore how the events Back in September 1666 changed London forever. To support their learning, the children will use the diary of Samuel Pepys as an eye witness account to what happened.

In the Year 3 and 4 class the children are delving into the topic, '*Energising Engineers and Incredible Inventions*'. As well as learning about famous engineers and inventors, the children will be immersed in understanding what it takes to become an inventor/engineer. '*Rosie Reverere Engineer*' by Andrea Beaty will be one of the class texts.

The Year 5 and 6 children are very much enjoying their topic, '*Code breakers: Should codes be broken?*' the children will be exploring the theme of being a spy, developing our understanding of different genres and exploring the novel *Storm Breaker* by Anthony Horowitz. The children will also develop their biographical writing skills after learning about Alan Turing and Ada Lovelace.

It will be a fun-packed, eventful term.

Naomi Fry

Senor Teacher

Top Tips

Letters and emails home:

Whole School

- * PTFA AGM

Lilac Class

- * Homework - Term 1 and Term 2
- * PG Film - Stormbreaker

Cherry Class

- * DT

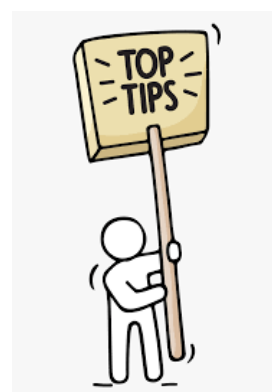
Specific

- * Bedes Football

Maple Class

- *School Dog

- Don't forget to book your lunches for termly if possible
- Parent Prayer Meeting Monday 16th September, 8:50am
- PTFA, AGM Tuesday 1st October 2:45pm - 3:15pm



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.

Welcome

To our new **Maple Class** children and their favourite things:

- ◇ **Willow** - who loves Lego
- ◇ **Lander** - who loves racing games
- ◇ **Dottie** - whose favourite thing is unicorns
- ◇ **Ted** - who likes cars
- ◇ **Winnie** - who loves horses
- ◇ **Charlie** - who likes cars
- ◇ **Henry** - whose favourite thing is dinosaurs
- ◇ **Scarlett** - likes to play on the Xbox
- ◇ **Finn** - who loves Lego
- ◇ **Teddy** - who likes racing games
- ◇ **Lola** - who loves unicorns



To our new **members of staff** (who had to work harder and share favourite colour, sport and food!)



Becca Bastin - Lilac Class Teacher
* Pink * Athletics * Passion Fruit



Imie Hawkins - Willow Class Teacher
* Purple * Swimming * Strawberries



Imogen Whyte - Teaching Assistant
* Blue * Swimming * Berries



Kirstie Gladman - Teaching Assistant
* Pink * Dance * Strawberries



Kate Hone - Teaching Assistant/INA
* Black * Swimming * Raspberries



Kerry Powell - Site Manager
* Green * Horse Racing * Salad



Karen Miller - Admin Assistant
* Blue * Dancing * Apples

Dates for your Diary

September

- 16th: Parent Prayer Meeting 8:50am - 9:15am
- 18th: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 19th: Forest School - Cherry Class
- 19th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 20th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am - 9:30am
- 20th: Football Tournament - Bedes, Year 5/6 Boys
- 23rd: Chartwells Healthy Eating Assembly
- 24th: Chartwells Class Workshops - Healthy Eating
- 25th: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 26th: Forest School - Willow Class
- 27th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am - 9:30am
- 27th: Football Tournament - Bedes, Year 5/6 Girls
- 27th: MacMillan Coffee Afternoon- village invited

October

- 1st: Open Morning 9:15am - 11:00am
- 1st: PTFA AGM - 2:45pm-3:15pm Larch Classroom
- 2nd: Harvest Service - in church 9:30am
- 3rd: School Census
- 3rd: Forest School - Lilac Class
- 3rd: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 4th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am - 9:30am
- 5th: St Mary the Virgin Church Harvest Supper
- 6th: St Mary the Virgin Church Harvest Supper
- 8th: Tempest Photography
- 9th: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 10th: Flu Vaccine - afternoon
- 10th: Forest School - Maple Class
- 11th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am - 9:30am
- 14th: Final Date for Christmas Cards to be returned
- 15th: Open Morning 9:15am - 11:00am
- 15th: G+FGB 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 16th: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 17th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 17th: PTFA Disco
- 18th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am - 9:30am
- 19th: Open Morning 9:15am - 11:00am
- 19th: Arts for All
- 23rd: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 24th: Parent/Carer Forum 2:00pm- 3:00pm Larch Class
- 25th: Celebration Assembly 9:15am - 9:30am
- 25th: Last Day Term 1

November

Monday 4th - first day Term 2



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Helpful Hints

The following gives information to events held within school:

Mufti Day: this is a day when children are encouraged to donate £1 to our PTFA funds in exchange for your child wearing their own clothes to school. There are two mufti days when other donations are requested, but more of that later in the year.



Bake Sale: throughout the year each class is asked to provide cakes for sale after school. We always start with Lilac Class as they know what to expect, then work our way down the school.

On Bake Sale Day

- If it is your Class bake sale, you are asked to provide cakes (home made if possible but **without nuts**) for the children to sell when school finishes.
- If not your Class, you are asked to join in with the sale by purchasing the lovely cakes.
- All money raised goes to the PTFA



Healthy Mid-morning Snacks: Please ensure this is only fruit, vegetable, or a plain cracker. Do not send in fruit yoyos, cereal bars, cakes etc. thank you.

Celebration Assembly: this assembly is held each Friday morning from 9:15am when we celebrate the successes of the week both in school and at home, so please let us know of any achievements at home. Parents are invited to join this assembly to celebrate with the children and refreshments are available from 8:50am.

Collective Worship: a service held on a Wednesday each week, when you are also welcome to join us in church at 9:30am

Parent Prayer Group

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

This term, they are meeting on **Monday 16th September, 8:50am.**

If you are able to attend or have anything you would like prayed for, please let us know.



Safe Grapes

The size and shape of grapes means they can completely plug a child's airway. If sending into school please ensure they are chopped up.



Forest School

On Thursday 12th September, our new Maple Class had their first Forest School experience in school.

They started their session today by looking at some pictures of the journey that they will be taking down to the Forest School site further into the term, and talked about all the different things they may find down in the woods.



Getting into activities, some of the children chose to make paint using blackberries, squashing and crushing them with sticks until they had a paste then added a little water. Using old buddleia flower heads as paint brushes, they then painted a piece of fabric which they plan to hang in their outside area. One child scooped out the squashed berry paint, placed it onto the fabric, folded the fabric in half before jumping up and down on it to add even more colour to their fabric picture.



Some of the children chose to make wonderful soups and potion creations in the mud kitchen, adding leaves, mud, twigs and some crushed blackberries left over from their painting to a saucepan before adding water and mixing it all together!



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

We finished our session today by passing round Harold the Hedgehog, and when each child had him they shared what they had enjoyed most about their Forest School today with the class .

"I liked playing crushing the berries"

"I like washing the blackberries off the mat at the end"

"Making soup"





To raise money for the MacMillan Cancer Support this year we are inviting individuals from the local community into school on Thursday 27th September between 2:00pm and 3.15pm.

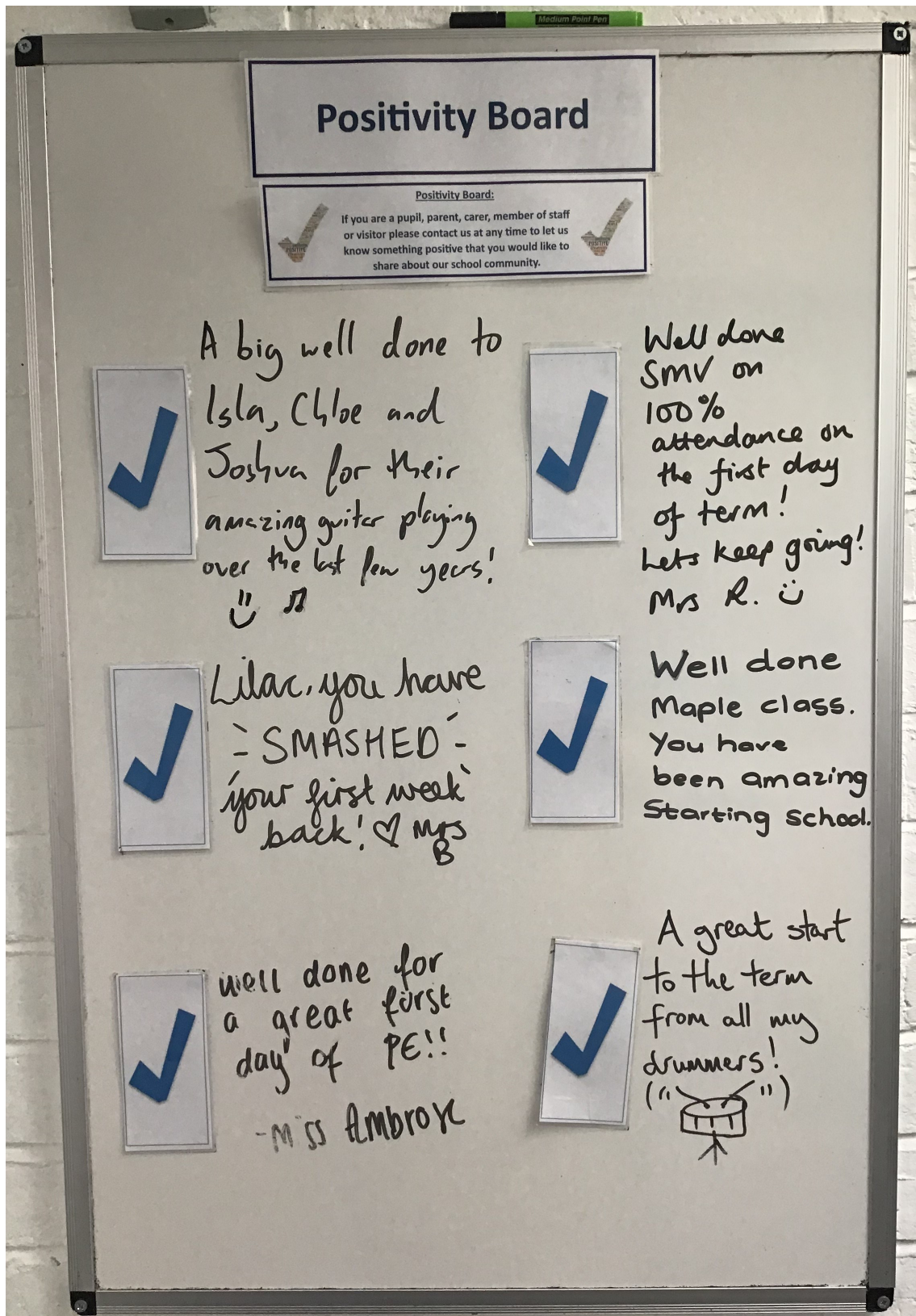
Children from Lilac Class will be hosting this event and will ensure any cake remaining is available for school to buy at the end of the day.

Donations of cakes to support this event welcome on Thursday 27th September please.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Positivity Board

This board enables us to write positive comments, or thoughts, from parents, carers, staff, children and visitors that they would like to share with others about the school, their classes, the children or events. Please contact us at any time (or come into school) to let us know something that you would like to share. In the newsletter every week, there will be a picture to share and celebrate the positivity within our school.



Wellbeing Poster

Our Wellbeing Posters this week, looks at supporting children coming back into school and is taken from [The National College](#) 'Wake up to Wednesday' posters

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically offered – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>



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Census Day



The first National School Census Day this academic year is Thursday 3rd October 2024

Census day is when the Local Authorities collect information electronically from every school in their area, partly to guide them in planning and funding.

They collect details such as pupil numbers, numbers of pupils with Special Educational Needs, entitled to Pupil Premium funding, entitled to Free School Meals, attendance information and so forth.

One thing they particularly look at in the autumn term is the number of children taking the Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM), to provide schools with the appropriate funding for this service, including waste disposal.

It is the number of children in EYFS and KS1 taking the free meal on the actual Census day's lunchtime that informs the funding, rather than the meals ordered for that day or children attending school. Pupils who bring in a packed lunch from home on that day are unfortunately not included, nor are the children who normally take the UIFSM but are absent on Census day.

To maximise our potential funding, we encourage all families with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to enjoy their free school meal on Thursday 3rd October, rather than bringing in a packed lunch for that day. As always, we will be swapping the lunch choices from Friday 4th, to enable children to choose their all time favourite, Fishfingers and chips!

Please book your child's free hot meal on ParentPay for Census Day, to support our funding and hopefully create more enthusiasm amongst the children who do not normally take these meals to take more of them over the rest of the school year!



Opportunity



Hartfield, Colemans Hatch & Cowden
Heart for the Community

This Harvest, you are invited to...



Harvest Supper Saturday 5th October

At St Mary's Church, Hartfield, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Please bring your own plate, bowl, cutlery, and drink of your own choice.

Glasses and jugs of water will be provided.

Including a guest speaker from International Needs, Children's quiz and activities, and a main course. Please bring a pudding or a salad to share. (NO NUTS).

Harvest Festival Sunday 6th October

St Mary's, Hartfield - 9.30am, St Mary Magdalene, Cowden - 10.30am,
Holy Trinity - 11am & Harvest Choral Evensong - 6.30pm.

An opportunity to give thanks to God for all we have this harvest time.

Food donations will go to Foodbank.

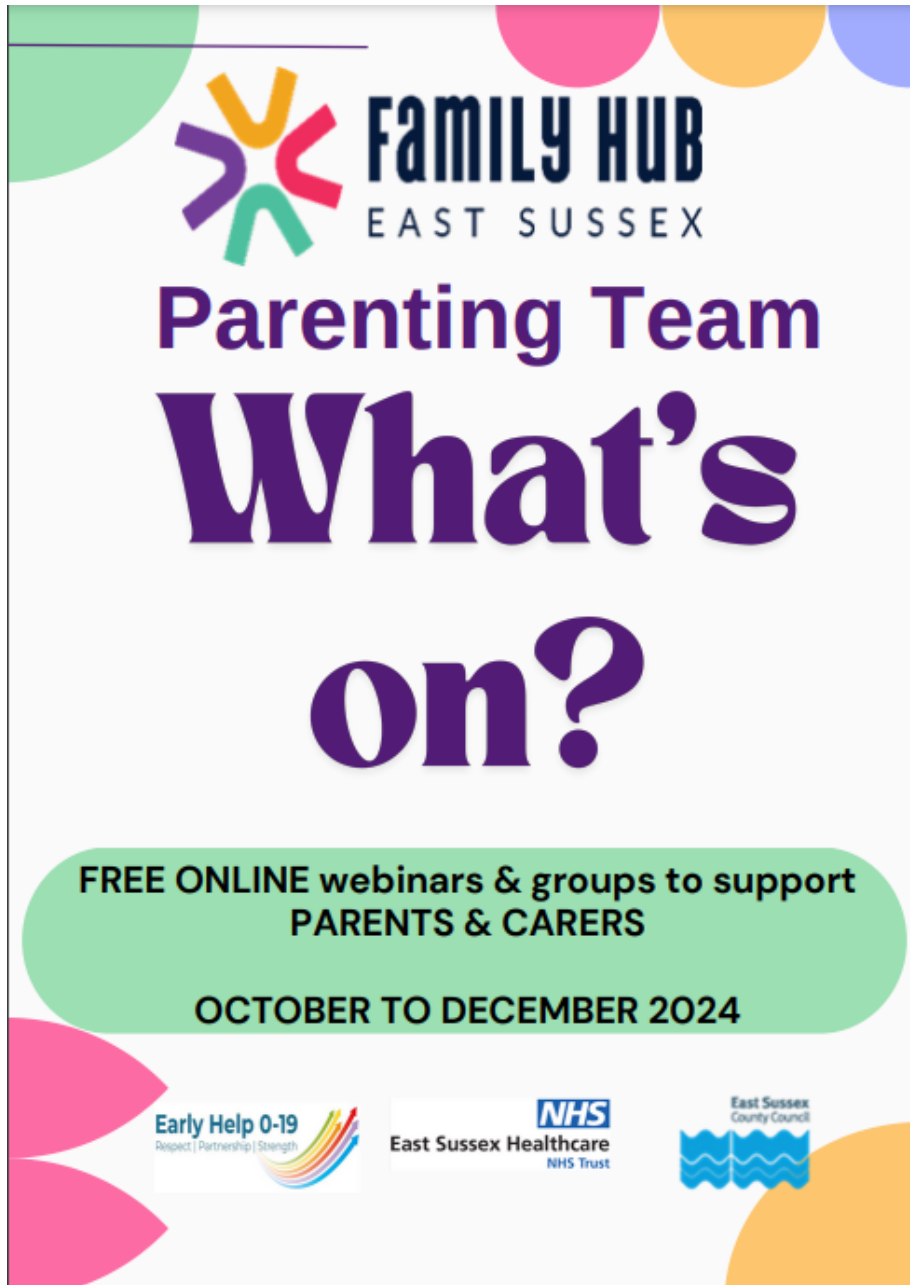
All financial contributions this year will be going to:



international needs

transformed lives, changed communities

Opportunity



FAMILY HUB
EAST SUSSEX

Parenting Team

What's on?

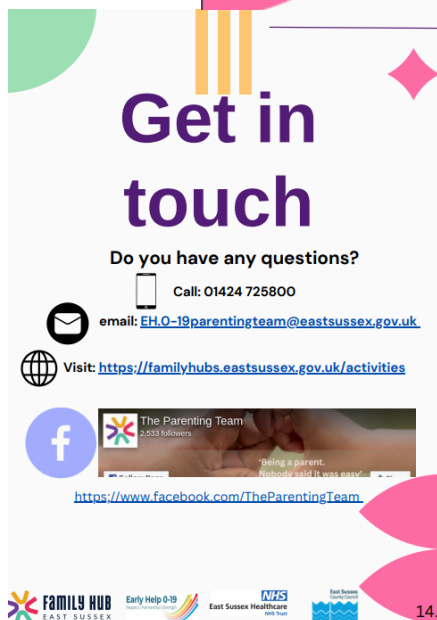
FREE ONLINE webinars & groups to support PARENTS & CARERS

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024

Early Help 0-19
Respect | Partnership | Strength

NHS
East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

East Sussex
County Council




Get in touch

Do you have any questions?

Call: 01424 725800

email: EH.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk

Visit: <https://familyhubs.eastsussex.gov.uk/activities>

 **The Parenting Team**
2,533 followers

<https://www.facebook.com/TheParentingTeam>

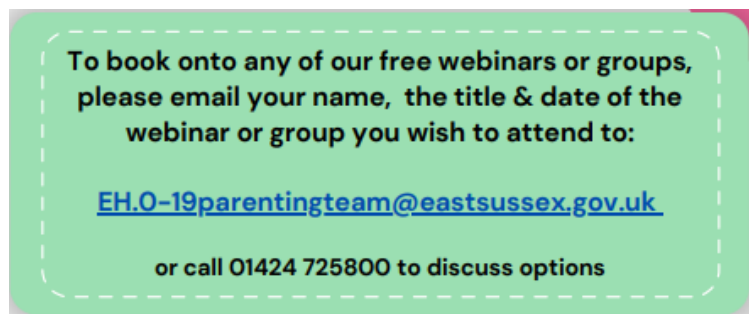
FAMILY HUB
EAST SUSSEX

Early Help 0-19
Respect | Partnership | Strength

NHS
East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

East Sussex
County Council

14.



To book onto any of our free webinars or groups, please email your name, the title & date of the webinar or group you wish to attend to:

EH.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk

or call 01424 725800 to discuss options

The power of positive parenting

Appropriate for children aged 2-10 years



This webinar is perfect for new parents/carers, or those who need a refresh!

It introduces parents to the five key principles of positive parenting that form the basis of Triple P. These principles are: -

- Ensuring a safe, engaging environment
- Creating a positive learning environment
- Using assertive discipline
- Having reasonable expectations
- Looking after yourself as a parent

Tuesday 1st October 6:30 to 8:00pm
Monday 4th November 10:00 to 11:30am
Wednesday 11th December 10:00 to 11:30am

Opportunities at St Mary the Virgin Church

We are blessed to have such a close relationship with our church and are pleased to be able to share information about the many events they provide for the local community. They offer great opportunities and are always open to new people.



LITTLE STARS

Parent & toddler group
Mondays @ St Mary's Church, Hartfield

Upcoming dates

9th September	
16th September	11th November
23rd September	18th November
30th September	25th November
7th October	2nd December
14th October	9th December
21st October	16th December
4th November	

9.15 to 10.45am Tea and Coffee Provided



Church Street Community Cafe

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2pm - 4pm.

Homemade cake, tea, and coffee.
Everyone welcome.

Table with crafts and games for children.

upcoming dates

Thursday 5th September
Thursday 19th September
Thursday 3rd October
Thursday 17th October
Thursday 7th November
Thursday 21st November
Thursday 5th December

For more information contact Joanne Griffin on
07941 856715 or msjoannegriffin@gmail.com