



# 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 1 Week 4

Friday 27th September

## Headlines from the Head

### Focus on Attendance

I wanted to start with a huge **thank you** for supporting us with increasing our attendance levels - so far this term we have already had three days where we have had 100% attendance. Let's ensure this trend continues and we have a 'full house' for the majority of our school year!



We all know that children being at school every day really does have a hugely positive impact on their **attainment, levels of engagement, motivation and social development**. There are of course times when children are ill and do need to recover at home, and times when we ask as a school that you keep your child home if they could potentially infect others (the reason we ask for 48h after vomiting before coming back to school).

However, at St Mary's we currently have a higher than 'national average' absence rate and this is a significant concern that we want to address. One easy and 'non negotiable' way of helping with this is to not take holidays during school times. There has also been new guidance from the local authority about how schools should respond to absence which is explained below.

**5**  
**CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF TERM TIME LEAVE**  
Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days

If a child is absent for 5 consecutive days in term time (a full week) fines are being encouraged, as well as 10 unauthorised days (i.e. holidays) in any 10 week period.

**10**  
**SESSIONS OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD**  
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period

**PER PARENT, PER CHILD**  
Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.  
**FOR EXAMPLE**  
3 siblings absent for term leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

Fines are issued from the Local Authority, to each parent, for each child.

**1** **FIRST OFFENCE**  
For Term Time Leave or Irregular attendance £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days Reduced to £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days

**2** **SECOND OFFENCE**  
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days

**3** **THIRD OFFENCE**  
Fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child

Fines issued from the Local authority will be graduated, dependent on the number of 'fineable' absences per year

With the new recommendations in place, as a school we will need to follow the guidelines given and wanted you to be aware of what this will mean for you.

We are also aware that you will be working with us to get our attendance above the national average going forward (instead of below!), wanted to thank you in advance for your support on this and also to welcome any questions you may have.

Mrs 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.

### Top Tips

We have had many letters, emails and WhatsApp's home this fortnight. Please check below and let the office know if you have missed any:

#### **Whole School**

- Reading
- Celebration Assemblies
- School Photographs
- Head Lice / Nits
- Christmas Planning!
- Meet the Teacher / Open Classrooms
- Flu Vaccinations
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Chartwell's' amendment to tuna mayonnaise
- School Closure and Re-Opening
- Federation Spellings
- Sports Events/Tournaments
- Links to class meetings for Monday

#### **Lilac Class**

- PowerPoint - Monday work
- Forest School

#### **Cherry Class**

- Class Newsletter
- Spellings
- Cardboard Boxes

#### **Willow Class**

- Homework
- Cardboard for modelling

#### **Maple Class**

- The Big Book of Families
- Little Wandle
- Monday work

#### **Selected**

- Football Tournaments
- Hartfield MacMillan deliveries

Please always check on the dates given to return your consents and letters as we need time to process anomalies or missing data before the dates of each event/activity.

If you have yet to return your 'data' sheet or 'Health Care Plan', please do so by Monday 30th September.

Any queries, please call the office on:

01892 770221

Thank you



### Dates for your Diary

#### **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
- 5th: St Mary the Virgin Church Harvest Supper
- 6th: St Mary the Virgin Church Harvest Service
- 7th: Cherry Class Open Classroom 3:15 - 4:00pm
- 8th: Tempest Photography
- 8th: Maple, Willow and Lilac Class Open Classrooms  
3:15pm - 4:00pm
- 9th: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 9th: Cherry Class Book and Bake Sale
- 10th: Flu Vaccine - afternoon
- 10th: Forest School - Maple Class
- 14th: Final Date for Christmas Cards to be returned
- 15th: Open Morning 9:15am - 11:00am
- 15th: FGB Meeting 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- 16th: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 17th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- 17th: PTFA Disco
- 19th: **Open Afternoon 1:30pm - 2:30pm - please note change of time**
- 19th: Arts for All Day
- 23rd: Collective Worship - in church 9:30am
- 24th: Parent/Carer Forum 2:00pm- 3:00pm Larch Class
- 25th: Last Day Term 1

#### **November**

Monday 4th - first day Term 2



### Wildlife Explorers

Hilary Rowberry, retired teacher volunteer and long term supporter of St Mary's runs Wildlife Explorers every Wednesday lunchtime in school.



Wildlife Explorers is an environmental action club for pupils with the aim to encourage children to engage with the environment and the issues affecting it. Whether through outdoor play, crafts, science experiments or wildlife spotting, the explorers discover wildlife right on our doorstep and spend time encouraging it to thrive.

If your child would like to join this group, please email the office.



Thank you

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If you need help or support with access to any information, please also contact Mrs Funnell.

## Forest School—Thursday 19th September

Cherry Class had their first trip to Forest School on 19th September and on the way decided to stop at the Wellie tree, to see if their class was as tall as the tree.

To work this out, they used a stick to estimate the rough height of the tree, leaving Dormouse (Forest School lead) standing where they thought the top of the tree would reach if it was laying on the floor. Each member of Cherry class then laid down head to toe, starting at the trunk of the tree and making a long line to see how far they would reach and established that as a class, they were *almost* as tall as the Wellie tree!



Once in the woods a group of children helped to lay the fire and light it ready for making jam. A pan of apples, blackberries and black currents was placed on the fire to cook with the children keeping it stirred. Once the fruit was soft they added some sugar and in preparation for the taste testing, others held bread over the fire to toast, spreading it with the finished jam sharing it with their class mates.



Many of the class chose to practice their fire striking skills using a flint and steel to light a piece of cotton wool. It was fabulous that despite finding it a little tricky, they did not give up. It was great to see the perseverance from the children to light their cotton wool and the joy they got when it burst into flames.



The Impact of Forest School can be seen through the skills gained, tools used, art and craft activities, developed together with observations and knowledge of the fruit, plants and trees in relation to the seasons. The skills involved in learning to play Forest School games are an added bonus to the school curriculum!

## PTFA

# St Mary's

Our Parent, Teachers and Friends Association work tirelessly to raise funds for the school to the children have opportunities to access the best that can be offered.

This year, their focus is on updating our school laptops as over time hardware becomes dated and with the excessive use they have, inevitably, some become broken.

Ideas for fundraising are always welcomed, or if you know of any businesses who are looking for someone to sponsor, please let us know.

More importantly, for the events to run and plans to be realised, the PTFA needs members so if you would be willing to help, please contact the school or attend their AGM, which is detailed below:

### Events

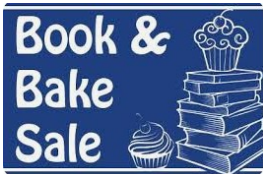
#### PTFA AGM 2024 Tuesday 1st October at 2.45pm.

This is taking place in the school and the PTFA ask that you please come and support them. While they are always looking for volunteers, at the AGM there will be absolutely no pressure to take on a role or help at an event, they need general members of the public to attend the meeting and help with voting in our members and to hear our plans for the year ahead.

Please come along and support us if you can!



### Book and Bake Sale



**Cherry Class** are going to do a bake & book sale on **Wednesday 9th October** after school.

### Cash Pot for Schools

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage.

Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most, such as (school to input)

### Easy Fundraising

Another 'no cost to yourself' way of raising funds for the school is by signing up to [Easy Fund Raising](#). If you sign up then buy something from a business who has also signed up, they will donate money relative to the amount you have spent - a fabulous idea when we have Christmas approaching!

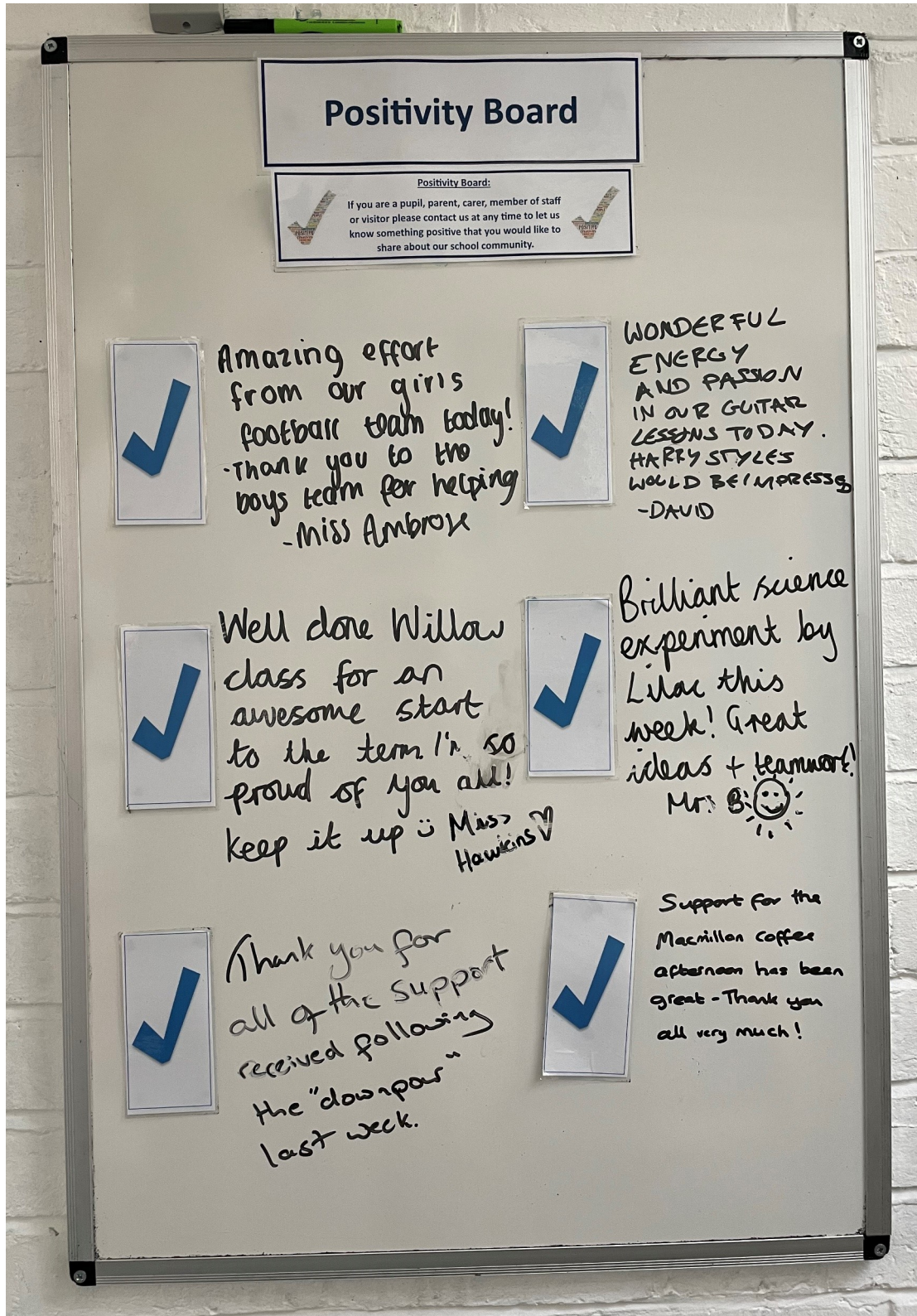
### Christmas

The PTFA Christmas Fair is planned for Saturday 7th December between 12 noon and 3:00pm. If you can help with this, please let us know.



## 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 being aware of our emotions and is taken from [Optimus Education](https://www.optimuseducation.co.uk/)

# Be a **STAR** of your emotions

We all experience different emotions from time to time. In just one day, you may feel proud, excited, sad, anxious, nervous, and many other emotions.

**Remember, all feelings are valid.**

Shining a light on how you feel, particularly when you're feeling overwhelmed or anxious, can help you find coping strategies to support your emotional health and wellbeing.

**STOP**  
Take a step back from whatever you're doing. How do your body and mind feel? Try putting your hands on your heart and belly, then quietly count to 10.

**TAKE A BREATH**  
Practise a breathing activity. As you gently breathe in and out, trace one finger up and down the fingers of the other hand. How do you feel now?

**AND**  
Continue to breathe deeply. Notice if any emotions come up; begin to label them. It's okay to not be okay! Try a sensory activity like push-ups, star jumps or using a calm down jar.

**RELAX**  
When ready, share how you feel. Write it down, draw a picture, or talk with a trusted adult. This can help you find a way to resolve the situation. Then, do an activity to relax and let go!

To get started, follow the steps on the STAR model.

**OPTIMUS EDUCATION**  
Part of Shaw Trust

Harvest Service and Collection

Wednesday 2nd October 9:30am in church

See our needs in real-time  
with **Bank the Food** app



# Harvest Appeal

No fresh foods please



Use by dates must be 2025 or longer



Tinned tomatoes, Christmas biscuits  
Christmas chocolates, Pringles, Tinned meat,  
Tinned Custard, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit,  
Tubs of chocolates

**TO DONATE £5 TO EAST GRINSTEAD FOODBANK**  
**TEXT **FOODBANKFIVE** TO **70450****

**THANK YOU** for all your support

## 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



Ensuring your child or teen gets a good night's sleep can be challenging but is crucial for their overall well-being. Here are some effective tips to help improve their sleep quality this September.

### Create a Sleep-Friendly Environment

- **Comfortable Bed:** Ensure the bed is comfortable and inviting.
- **Dark and Quiet:** Make the bedroom dark enough for sleep and limit noise.
- **Sleep-Only Zone:** Use the bedroom exclusively for sleeping to create a strong mental association.

### Encourage Daytime Activities

- **Fresh Air and Exercise:** Encourage plenty of outdoor activities and physical exercise during the day to help tire them out naturally.
- **Healthy Diet:** Establish a routine for eating a healthy, balanced diet. Avoid caffeine-containing drinks and foods like tea, coffee, energy drinks, and cola.

### Establish a Routine

- **Consistent Bedtime:** Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time to regulate their internal clock.
- **Manage Anxiety:** Help your child manage anxiety by accessing appropriate support services.

### Reduce Screen Time

- **Limit Screen Exposure:** Minimize screen time and avoid screens entirely at least one hour before bedtime. The blue light emitted from screens can interfere with the sleep cycle.



By following these tips, you can help your child or teen develop better sleep habits that will benefit their health and well-being. For more support, consider reaching out to mental health charities like [YoungMinds](#) or health services like the [School Health Service](#) or [East Sussex Family Advice Service](#).

Let's make this September the month of restful and rejuvenating sleep for your young ones!

**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

**STUDY SMART**  
Free Online Courses

**Aspire Education**

**ncfe. | cache**

**Education & Skills Funding Agency**



**Fully Funded School Support Course**

[www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)

**Levels 1, 2 & 3**

CACHE Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent  
CACHE Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours  
CACHE Certificate in the Principles of SEN

**Six Week Course**  
Mon - Fri  
9:30 - 11:30am  
12:30 - 2:30pm  
4 - 4:30pm  
(last optional session for reflection and support if needed)

**Level 1:**

- CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
- CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
- CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
- Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace

**Level 2:**

- CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
- CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours

**Level 3:**

- Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Must Be Aged 19+
- Either Claim Benefits (Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit).
- OR, be in employment, able to attend the sessions and earning less than £23,500 per year
- You Can't be a student or an International Student
- You Can't be an Asylum Seeker
- You Must have lived in the UK for a Minimum of 3 Years (Except if you are from the Ukraine).

Go to: [www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online) for more info'

**Opportunity**



# **NEW! Oral Health webinar**

with **HALO** (Healthy Active Little Ones)  
& The Parenting Team



**Battles with tooth brushing?**



- Our Oral Health session for parents & carers covers:*
- Advice on developing healthy habits for toothbrushing
  - Guidance on sugary foods
  - Bespoke support for children with SEND
  - Ideas to support your child's health and wellbeing

*Families attending will receive a FREE toothbrush and toothpaste pack for their child/ children*

Upcoming Dates:

**Monday 7th October 12:30 to 2:30pm**

**Tuesday 26th November 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

To book your place, email the Parenting Team

**[EH.O-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:EH.O-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk)**

Or call: 01424 725800



## Opportunity

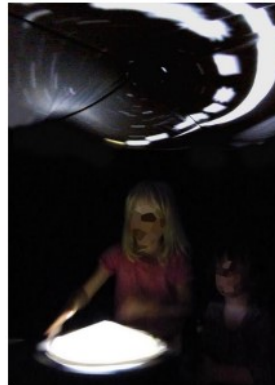
# Art for All

11 am – 4pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
St Mary's Church, Hartfield, TN7 4AG

Hartfield's annual community art event, Art for All, returns on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October in St Mary's Church, Hartfield. Free and open to all ages, everyone is encouraged to have a go! The theme this year is LIGHT – an opportunity to create with light in strange and wonderful ways.

Drop in any time and try as many activities as you like:

- **Light drawing** – draw with coloured torches in the air with a camera capturing your every move. Draw antlers around your friend's head or may be give them butterfly wings!
- **Lanterns** - sculpt lanterns and tealight holders in clay.
- **Rainbows** - play your part in a giant communal rainbow drawing.
- **Light spinning** – make your own illuminated cone and enjoy the beautiful spinning light in a special tent.
- **Silhouettes** – using shadows cast by the faces of your family and friends, create silhouette art.



All the activities are free and there will be a food stall with lunch snacks and drinks – please bring cash. Art for All 2024 will be the sixth annual community art event organised by HARTS (Hartfield Arts & Theatre Society) and St Mary's Church. The day is incredibly popular with nearly 200 people attending in previous years. All children must be accompanied.

If you would like to find out more information about Art for All, please visit [www.HartfieldARTS.wordpress.com](http://www.HartfieldARTS.wordpress.com) or email [ajberryartist@gmail.com](mailto:ajberryartist@gmail.com)

## Opportunity



### HAILSHAM HOCKEY CLUB

#### Junior Hockey Training

**Junior Hockey Mixed Training**  
Wednesdays during the school term  
Years 1 - 6 | 18.00-19.20  
Years 7 - 11 | 18.00-19.30  
📍 Hailsham Community College (Snr School)

**NEW PLAYERS:**  
First session FREE  
FREE HHC T-shirt with second session  
Email: [contact@hailshamhockey.co.uk](mailto:contact@hailshamhockey.co.uk) to join in

  @hailshamhockey

**smythe&barrie**  
TV & home appliances

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](mailto:office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk) Website: [www.pioneerfederation.co.uk](http://www.pioneerfederation.co.uk)

# Parent & Carer



## Lunch and Learn Online Workshops and In-person Family Hub Workshops with 'Me & My Mind'

Do you want to learn about children's mental health and how you can support your child with their wellbeing? If you do, these FREE webinars or our in-person small group workshops may be for you!

### Lunch and Learn Webinars

#### How to support your child with worry and anxiety

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, 1pm to 2pm

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 1pm, to 2pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 1pm to 2pm

#### How to support a worrying child with transition to secondary

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025, 1pm to 2pm

### Small group in-person sessions

#### Supporting primary school children with anxiety and worry

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Uckfield Family Hub

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 12pm to 2pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available, and we will be providing activities to make some items to take home with you to do with your child/ren

For more info and to book scan the QR code or visit:



[www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/mentalhealthandwellbeingineducation)

If you have any questions, please email [mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk)



All webinars are run using Microsoft Teams. You can access this on your phone or computer. You will be provided with the link when you book.



**Opportunity**



The poster features a central title 'tunbridge wells PUPPETRY festival' in white and red text against a teal background with a white geometric shape. Below the title is a pink banner with the dates '5th - 13th OCTOBER 2024'. A collage of images shows various puppets, including a pink furry character, a wooden monkey, a large orange puppet, a man in a white coat, a woman in a white coat, a man in a blue shirt, a woman in a white shirt, and a man in a white shirt. A red circular callout says 'JOIN US FOR THE PUPPET PARADE SUN 13th OCT 11AM'. Logos for 'ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOGETHER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT', 'ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND', 'KENT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION', and 'Kent County Council' are at the bottom. Social media handles and the website 'www.twpuppetryfestival.org' are also listed.

tunbridge wells  
**PUPPETRY**  
festival

**5th - 13th OCTOBER 2024**

JOIN US  
FOR THE  
PUPPET PARADE  
SUN 13th OCT  
11AM

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
TOGETHER  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

KENT  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kent  
County Council  
kent.gov.uk

@Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival @twpuppetryfest @TWpuppetryfest For more information visit: [www.twpuppetryfestival.org](http://www.twpuppetryfestival.org)

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](mailto:office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk) Website: [www.pioneerfederation.co.uk](http://www.pioneerfederation.co.uk)

# 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