

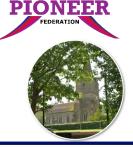
St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School

Hartfield East Sussex TN7 4AA

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter

Head of School: Mrs Jane Robinson

Email: office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk



Friday 29th November Headlines from the Head

Term 2 Week 4 2024

Focus on Parent Feedback

This week I have been analysing and acting on the feedback shared by so many of you either through our paper 'Parent Questionnaire' or via the 'google form' link we sent out. Thank you so much to those who completed these for us.

It is always so beneficial for school staff to hear the 'parent perspective' to ensure we can continue to develop and grow the school to ensure we meet our vision statement of 'being the best we can be, in a thriving community', so that our children receive the best possible offer.

Below is the summary of the responses to the questions asked. It is wonderful to hear your glowing comments but we do take on board the areas we hear from you that we need to improve on.

Statement	Net agree
My child is happy at this school.	100%
My child feels safe at this school.	100%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	94%
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively.	88%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	100%
When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly.	80%
My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.	73%
The school has high expectations for my child.	93%
My child does well at this school.	93%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	93%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	100%
My child can take part in clubs and extra-curricular activities at school.	100%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	100%

Parents shared that they see some of **our strengths as being**: 'community ties, very personal approach and care for the children, all staff knowing our children's names, the sense of being a family, brilliant teachers who are kind and caring, being fully supported no matter what, supporting the children's development in a holistic way as well as educationally'.

It was wonderful to hear from one parent that shared that we "value them [children] as people, not treating all children the same, but supporting each individual's needs" and another said that "the school feels like an extended family as it is warm and welcoming".

Parents shared that areas they would like to see improve were: "talking to parents more and keeping them informed, managing challenging behaviour from children who misbehave and disrupt others, challenging children more in their areas of strength". These are useful perspectives that have and will inform our plans moving forward.

Our **communication pathways** will be strengthened by our move to a new email system through 'Arbor' which allows for a more efficient system of emailing parents in groups/classes and as a whole school. We have also created a new direct email address for parents to be able to inform us of any absences by using attendance@hartfield.school. Staff continue to be on the playground everyday to meet parents and answer any questions. Furthermore, we have set up our CommuniTEA events, for parents to come into school regularly to talk about any topics or issues relevant to school life. The next one is due to take place on 16th January at 2pm until 4pm and will focus on our federation wide behaviour policy and the schools approach to supporting children to follow the Golden Rules of being Ready, Respectful and Safe. We would welcome parents to come to this and be part of discussions about our approach and share parental voices.

Top Tips

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

Whole School:

- Hartfield Live Nativity 13th December @6pm
- Incident at lunch on 27.11.24

Cherry Class

- Headlice
- Home Learning
- · Visit to Pooh Corner

Lilac Class

• Christmas performance



Requests and Information

Raring2go! Tunbridge Wells Winter 2024/25 Magazine has arrived and can be viewed at the following link:

CLICK HERE FOR LINK



Price and Buckland orders

The company are doing their annual Stock Take, which will involve a temporary 8-day closure of the warehouse.

Stock Take will take place from Thursday 28th to Friday 6th December.

During this period, they will continue to accept orders, but these will not be processed or dispatched until after the stock take is complete. This process is not only a legal requirement for them but, by maintaining accurate stock figures, it also ensures they can provide accurate information to schools and parents/carers.

Dates for your Diary

December

4th: Collective Worship 9:30am church 5th: Cherry Class visit to Pooh Corner

5th: Forest School - Lilac Class

5th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm

6th: Santa themed Fun Run

7th: PTFA Christmas Fair 12noon - 3:30pm 8th: Christmas Praise - Church, 9.30am

11th: Christmas Jumper Day, Lunch, PTFA Elfridges

11th PTFA Movie night

12th: Forest School - Maple Class 13th Cherry Class Assembly 9am 17th: School Nativity 9.30am or 2pm

18th: Collective Worship - Church - Christingle

19th: Pantomime to children in school 19th: Community Café 2:00pm—4:00pm 20th: Christmas End of Term Service—9.30am

January

6th: INSET Day 7th: Start of Term 3

8th: Collective Worship 9.30am church 9th: Open Afternoon 1.30-2.30pm 16th: CommuniTEA event 2pm-4pm 17th: Maple Class Assembly 9am

22nd: Collective Worship 9:30am church

23rd: Forest School - Cherry Class

29th: Collective Worship 9.30am church

30th: Forest School - Willow Class 31st: Lilac Class Assembly 9am

February

5th: Collective Worship 9:30am church

6th: Forest School - Lilac Class

6th: Community Café 2:00pm - 4:00pm

March

6th: World Book Day



Please note end of term -Friday 20th



Nativity information

There are two identical performances of the Nativity this year, at 9.30am and 2pm on Tuesday 17th December.

This is not a ticketed event, but space will be limited, so we do ask that you only attend one of the events please.



St Mary's Star Skills



"Skills for learning, skills for life"



Star Skills

Each week, one pupil from each class is recognised for their 'star skills' development. This year, to ensure we celebrate with clarity, certificates are given when a child has shown amazing growth in a particular area, which is then recognised in Celebration Assembly on Fridays.

Celebrations for this week:

Abbie - You always **Listen** so attentively and this means you learn so quickly and can apply your new skills. Keep it up!

Khaleesi - For **Aiming High** and creating a lovely story board in English about how the camel got his hump. You concentrated on your handwriting as well as creating beautiful drawings to go alongside these.

Rosie - for **Staying Positive** when you found some areas more challenging, however, you overcame these and took part in tasks that you had been asked to complete.

Lander - for **Teamwork** - you showed other children in the class how to make a junk modelling rocket and helped them if they needed help.

Well done to you all!

School Values

Love: love and respect yourself and all others, treating them as you would like to be treated.

Luke 10: 25-37

Strength: recognise people's strength and use your own to be resilient and the best you can be in all that you do.

John 6: 1-14

Faith: have faith in yourself and others, and be honest and truthful. Believe that you never know what you can achieve until you try.

Luke 5: 1-11



Each week, one pupil from each class is recognised for their engagement within our school values which underpin our vision of 'being the best we can be, in a thriving community, following the example of Jesus'. Again, these are recognised in our Celebration Assembly on Fridays but we want also to celebrate them with. This term:

Henry—Strength—for trying lots of new activities with a 'can do' attitude. Henry is getting better at not giving up. Well Done!

Tuppence—Faith—using and applying her knowledge that she has learnt to believe that she can complete challenges. Tuppence has shown faith in her abilities! Well done Tuppence.

Charlie—Faith—for writing a lovely prayer for the Remembrance Service, and being able to read it out so clearly to the rest of the school. When writing his prayer, Charlie was able to show great compassion and empathy towards the soldiers.

Teagan—Faith—you have shown great faith over the last week in Maths and made such brilliant progress. You keep trying even when it's been super tricky. You show just what having faith in yourself means!









Headteacher Awards

When the children display extra-ordinary prowess through their time within school, they celebrate their success with our Headteacher, Mrs Robinson and they will discuss whether it should receive a Headteacher Award. This week, we have six children who have received this:













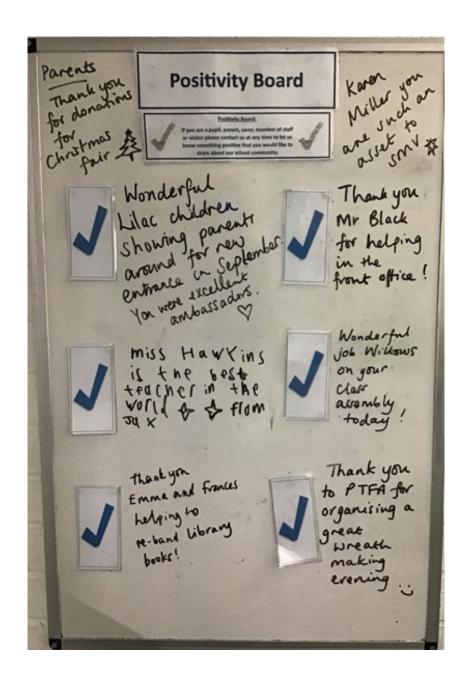
Huge congratulations to Well done!

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.



Cherry Forest School

Thursday 21st November 2024

Cherry class set off to Forest School on a chilly afternoon on the hunt for as many different fallen leaves as they could find. Using ID sheets of different leaf shapes the children were able to work out what the

leaves they had found were and what trees they belonged to "I found a Hazel leaf".



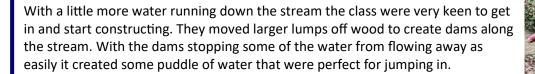


Once in the woods some of the children chose to use the tins they had brought in to make a mini bug hotel. They did this by gathering small sticks, leaves and some moss. They then places their gathered materials into their tins making sure to pack it well so that it doesn't fall out. As a group we talked about how important it is to create somewhere dry and out of the cold for bugs to hide "I'm making mine for a woodlouse" was said by one child as the placed sticks into their tin.

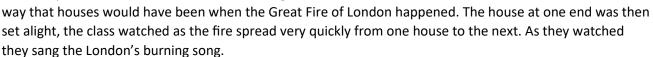
The Impact of Forest School for the children is the knowledge the children have gained from the Forest School experience.

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.



To finish off Forest School Cheery class had brought with them the houses that they had made last term when they learn about the fire of London. The class chose to place their houses in rows with small gabs between the rows the same









Combined Forest School Years 3+4

Thursday 28th November 2024

Today all the year 3 and 4 children from 3 different schools met for a Forest School adventure in the woods. They set off making their way across grass fields covered in frost and then along the forest way where the children spotted some spider webs sparkling in the sunshine as they were also coated with a layer of frost.





Once we were in the woods, we started with a tour of Forest School area to learn the boundaries and look at some of the activities waiting for the children to try, we also went over some safety rules for Forest School. The children were



then divided into groups ready to set off to explore by themselves, all groups of children would then rotate round giving then all the opportunity to fire light and have s'mores, construct in the stream or have

free time to explore for them-

selves.



At the fire circle the children had the opportunity to help light the fire using a

flint and steel. They did this by scraping the flint and steel together to create a spark to light a piece of cotton wool, which would then be added to the fire in the centre of our fire circle. Quite a lot of the group found it a little tricky; however, they did not give up trying until they had managed to achieve that spark and light their cotton wool. It was great to see them encouraging each other to keep striking, and those that had already done it were giving advice to the children that were finding it a little trickier. The children watching would then cheer and clap when the person struggling finally lit the cotton wool!

With the fire now roaring away the children were able to come in a roast a marshmallow. Once it was looking nice and gooey and maybe a little charred around the edges the marshmallow was placed between two chocolate biscuits ready to be enjoyed.

There was a large lump of clay that the children could use to have a go at making some leaf prints by rolling over a leaf onto of some clay, then peeling it away to leave the impression of the leaf behind. However, the use of the clay went a very different way with the children creating some amazing things. We had mugs, a bowl with its own lid, a sheep and so much more. One child decided to recreate the stone picture she had on the group label: this was of many flat stone

stacked on top of each other. She made many different sized balls of clay then flattened then before stacking them on top of each other in size order biggest to smallest.

With all the rain we have had there was a good flow of water making its way down the ditch that runs through Forest School. The children enjoyed sliding down the muddy banks into the water that they then waded through, mixing up the mud the bottom of the ditch and turning the flowing water to a muddy brown colour.



Parents.... Any volunteers to help us 're-band' our books in the library?

(We are looking for any parents who are already signed up as a volunteer to come in and help!)

Please let Mrs Robinson know if you are available.

Thank you!

Maple Class also need volunteers for 1:1 reading... please ask at the office about how to get a DBS check!



Staffroom Puzzle Success!!



This recently donated puzzle with a picture of an elephant from Sheldrike Trust, (from where we have adopted Toto) has finally been completed by staff.

This was a great team effort and brought much joy (and some frustration at times!) to the staffroom at lunchtimes, so thank you Mr Black. We look forward to starting the next challenge.



PTFA







N.B Pinocchio is a PTFA organised event - please pay
PTFA using their <u>NEW</u> bank account:
Sort Code 517012, Account no. 86533436, Account name
'St Marys School Hartfield PTFA'



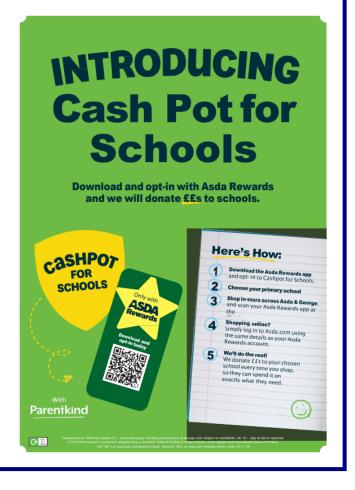
PTFA



No cost opportunity to support your PTFA and therefore, your children! Sign up before your Christmas shop!

No cost opportunity to support your PTFA and therefore, your children!

This offer expires at the end of November so please, sign up now!









Lunch and Learn Webinars with

'Me & My Mind'

Do you have an anxious child who worries a lot?

If you do, these FREE bitesize webinars maybe for you.

Supporting a Child Who Worries (ages 7-11)

50-minute webinar, 1:00pm to 1:50pm

Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Thursday 27th February 2025

Wednesday 11th June 2025

Moving up to Secondary School

50-minute webinar, 1:00pm to 1:50pm

Supporting a worrying child with transitions

Wednesday 21st May 2025

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



www.tickettailor.com/events/mental healthandwellbeingineducation

If you have any questions please email mhst.info@eastsussex.gov.uk

These webinars are perfect to watch whilst eating your lunch, whether you are at work or home. You can keep your camera and microphone off.

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

UK Rhino Challenge at Pippingford on the Ashdown Forest on 4th May 2025.

This cycle orienteering challenge will raise money for Rhino Ark's important conservation projects in Kenya. <u>See our work here</u> Families can enter individually or if two or more teams from St Mary's sign up collectively then your school could win the special Youth Group prize. More details on <u>www.ukrhinochallenge.co.uk</u> or book at early bird prices <u>here</u>









Opportunity



*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that MUST be attended to complete this full

time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria

Fussy Eating Free online workshop





As parents we want our children to eat well – and to enjoy mealtimes together

Come along and get support and new ideas for:

- How to encourage your child to try new foods and begin to enjoy them!
- Child-friendly foods that provide what they need to grow and be healthy
- Happier family mealtimes

vent details:

Delivered by the East Sussex School Health Service, to join Call: 0300 123 4062 Complete:Online referral

https://www.kentcht.nhs.u k/forms/school-health-ser vice-east-sussex-referral-form/







Lunch and Learn Online Workshops and Inperson 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

Thursday 27th February 2025, 1pm, to 2pm

Wednesday 11th June 2025, 1pm to 2pm

How to support a worrying child with transition to secondary

Wednesday 21st May 2025, 1pm to 2pm

Small group in-person sessions

Supporting primary school children with anxiety and worry

Wednesday 2nd October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Tuesday 8th October 2024, 10am to 12pm @ Uckfield Family Hub

Monday 27th January, 10am to 12pm @ Hailsham Family Hub

Thursday 30th January, 10am to 12pm @ Devonshire Family Hub Wednesday 5th February, 12pm to 2pm @ Sidley Family Hub

Monday 10th February, 12:30pm to 2:30pm @ Peacehaven Family Hub

Monday 10th March, 12:30pm to 2:30pm @ Lewes 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/mentalhealthand wellbeingineducation

If you have any questions, please email mhst.parentteam@eastsussex.gov.uk

Opportunity

Contact the Early Help 0-19 Parenting Team on EH.0-19parentingteam@eastsussex.gov.uk if you would like to book.



Fear-Less 10+

For parents/carers with children experiencing moderate to severe anxiety Appropriate for pre teens/teens 10-19 years

Fear-Less Triple P is designed for parents/ carers of children with high levels of anxiety that cause significant distress or negatively impact on their everyday lives.

- Fear-Less Triple P has four main goals:
- To help parents/carers set a good example of coping with anxiety
 To assist parents/carers to coach all their children to become emotionally resilient
 - To help parents/carers develop a toolbox of strategies for supporting children to manage their anxiety more effectively
- To help parents/carers choose effective ways to respond to their children's anxiety

Thursday 21st November to Thursday 23rd January 10:00–12:00pm (8 sessions over 10 weeks)



Secure attachments
Robust learners • Building futures
WWW.YOURSPACETHERAPIES.ORG

ANXIETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS WEBINAR

SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025, 10AM- 12 MIDDAY

LEARN PRACTICAL TIPS AND STRATEGIES TO HELP PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT

THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH ANXIETY IN THIS ONLINE EVENT!

Are you feeling overwhelmed by your child's anxiety? Join us for this online event where Your Space Therapies will provide you with practical tools and strategies to help you support your child. Emma Connor, Child Psychotherapist will share valuable, easy to implement strategies to navigate through challenging situations and promote your child's well-being. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and connect with other parents and carers facing similar experiences. Register now and equip yourself with the **tools** to better understand and manage anxiety in your child.

Price: £27.80

For more information and booking please scan the QR code:







FREE - Decreasing Depression FREE - Anxiety Explained	25 NOV 20 JAN
What is ACT?	26 NOV, 21 JAN
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 NOV
Supporting a Child with ADHD	5 DEC, 2 JAN
Understanding Anger	16 DEC, 13 JAN
Facing Defiance	17 DEC, 14 JAN
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	19 DEC, 16 JAN
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	7 JAN
AUTISM: Improving Communication	9 JAN
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN
Improving Family Communication	4 FEB
Introduction to OCD	18 FEB



Winter 2024/2025 Newsletter

FREE until JAN 25



Understanding the Teenage Brain Watch this recorded session in your own time, to learn why our teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

Thursday 5th Dec 19:00 - 21:00



Supporting a Child with ADHD Challenging the stereotypes and giving

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday 17th Dec 19:00 - 21:00



Facing Defiance
Effective interventions for handling defiant
behaviour. ADHD, ODD and PDA relevant as
well as regular challenging behaviour.
Introduction to the FACE programme Facing Defiance - 6 week course

Tuesday 7th Jan 19:00 - 21:00 £24

Anxiety-Based School Avoidance
Understanding and supporting children
who are anxious about school.
Steps you can take to help them back
into the classroom.

Thursday 9 Jan 19:00 - 21:00



AUTISM: Improving Communication Looking at how small changes in how we communicate with children on the

facefamilyadvice.co.uk.

spectrum can lead to big improvements. info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

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.





Opportunities at St Mary the Virgin Church









