



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017

22nd November

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I'd like to apologise to any parents that have been trying to get hold of me during the last week. Not only have I been out of school at various Headteachers' meetings and events, but we have been experiencing some issues with the IT here at school, which mean that our email or indeed access to the internet of any sort has been very hit and miss – generally miss! We hope to get caught up soon and hope you'll forgive any communication issues in the meantime.

The Home School Association

I am so grateful to all who have been involved with the HSA this term, in planning and manning the events they've held to date, as well as to those who have managed to get to and support those evenings too. The money raised is so desperately needed in school. It is great to have people willing to put the effort in to supporting our plans this year with some cold hard cash: we have already begun spending money on the library and its stock of books, as well as in beginning to add to our stock of iPads and Computing equipment to support learning across the curriculum. The HSA's money will also be used towards our plans to develop the outdoor learning areas later in the year.

The atmosphere at the Shopping Evening was lovely and the high quality of products and services that were available to one and all was fabulous – I've never been to an event like it at a school (and believe me I've been to a few).

A week before this Peter James had captivated his audience – it felt like a tremendous coup to have such a famous author supporting our school's fundraising efforts. He entertained us thoroughly and even auctioned off the chance to be part of his next book.

The School Discos were also a joy, it was super to see so many of our children dancing and singing the night away.

Please do support the Christmas Fayre in any way you can – as ever do follow the HSA Facebook page: 'St. Mary's C of E School (Horsham) – HSA Page' and if you are willing and able to get involved please speak to Nigel Van Yperen, Blaise Tapp, Nicola Palmer or Celia Hurren on the school path. I am very keen to get more of our families from the younger years included before we lose the wealth of fundraising experience that will go with the many Year 6 parents currently running things.

Christmas Fayre

While on the subject of the HSA – the Christmas Fayre will be held on the 1st December, between 5pm and 8pm.

I understand that many of you make all sorts of donations and contributions to help make the event a success. On the day itself, the children will be allowed to come into school out of uniform in exchange for bringing in a bottle for the Bottle Stall. The HSA would also love to receive your highest quality cast offs for their Toy/Book and Games Stall. Please do only send in 'Good as New' items that you'd be willing to buy yourself!

The HSA will be mailing out shortly with all of the details.

The Governors

It is with a great degree of sadness that I announce that Celia Hurren has taken the decision to stand down from the Governing Body. She has been a great asset to us in chairing the governing body alongside Claire Swarbrick, and was obviously key in my own appointment to St. Mary's. Since I have been in post she has served in so many ways not only in attending or chairing our meetings, but in taking on a great many of the actions that have been decided upon as a result of our discussions. She will be missed. However, I am delighted to say that she is still going to be most active within the school – continuing her role with the HSA as well as being a Midday Meals Supervisor. I am sure we will see plenty more of her servant-heartedness.

I am pleased to announce that Dan Humphreys has been appointed to the Governing Body and will indeed be joining us for his first Full Governing Body meeting tonight! Dan may be known to many of you having a son in Year 1. I look forward to his involvement in the years to come.

ParentMail Problems

I'm delighted to have heard much positive feedback about the new ParentMail App. However, I am also aware that many people are still experiencing a few teething problems with it. If you haven't received the letter about the Pantomime then your ParentMail App isn't working correctly. The solution is at hand though! Please could you bring in or notify the school office of your most up to date email address and then they can sort the issue out for you.

Fingers crossed!

across the Horsham District. Seventeen Schools are competing – so we hope for even more success to come in round two.

Volunteers Meeting

My thanks to the plethora of you that made time to attend Mr Ellis' Volunteers Meeting – your presence and offers of help for the future are indeed much appreciated!

Packed Lunches Only Days

Please do remember that on the days of our Christmas Party and of our attendance at the Capitol Panto children will need to bring packed lunches into school unless they are KS1 children who have opted into Universal Free School Meals or a Junior who receives Free School Meals.

Flu Vaccinations & Catch-Up Clinics

As previously communicated, these are taking place this Friday afternoon for children in Years R to 4. If your child misses the opportunity through ill health, please be aware that they can attend a Catch Up Clinic with no prior appointment being made. Please see the attached document outlining when and where these clinics are taking place.

Christmas Jumpers and Christmas Dinner Day

On the 13th December we shall be enjoying Christmas Dinner in school, to mark the occasion children may come in wearing a Christmas Jumper and/or festive headwear. A letter from Easy Lunch is attached regarding the menu, which is available to Key Stage 2. If your child is in Key Stage 1 and you have opted out of Universal Free School Meals please would you endeavour to send them in with a special packed lunch.

Christingle

The annual excitement of Christingle is scheduled to take place on the evening of December 14th at 7pm. This is a service which will be led by the KS2 children and they are all expected to attend. Those children in KS1 are very welcome to attend with their parents.

Every child in the school will be making a Christingle - in order to enable the children to make their Christingles we ask that you send them in with an orange on the morning of the 13th December. Please do ensure that it is a good sized orange, as satsuma, clementines, etc. really don't work!

The children will be given a collection box which can be filled with coins in support of the work of The Church of England Children's Society – an organisation which helps vulnerable and disadvantaged children by running street work projects and family centres.

KS1 will bring their Christingles home with them on Thursday, 14th December, ready to bring to church with them if you plan to come. As the KS2 children are all involved in the service they will carry their Christingles with them from school on the evening. More details will follow regarding drop-off and pick-up arrangements for those KS2 children.

District Sports / Hockey News

In the first of three events at Tanbridge House School our Hockey Team played three other schools. I am delighted to report that they ended up topping their group with thirteen points out of the maximum fifteen available and so progress to the next round of matches, in which they will play all of the other group winners from

Christmas Tree

I'd like to thank Newbridge Nurseries Garden Centre for supplying us with a lovely Norwegian Spruce once again this year.

Open the Book

We are very fortunate to have a group of volunteers join us on a regular basis in delivering assemblies retelling Bible stories. They come from an organisation called Open the Book. Their reputation for enhancing Worship in schools has spread and they are now being asked to provide people to perform in other local schools. As such, they have asked if I would be kind enough to advertise their need for more volunteers. So, if you are interested in re-enacting Bible stories in some of our local primary schools during their assembly times, please do have a look at the Bible Society's website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/otb-volunteers/>

St. Mary's Church, Christmas Craft Party

Please see attached flier from St. Mary's Church advertising their Christmas Craft Party scheduled to take place on the 23rd December before their Crib Service.

Plea for Help

Janet Green, mother of a child in Year R is really suffering at present. She has undergone an unsuccessful operation and is struggling greatly with her mobility. Therefore she is finding it more than challenging to get her son into school. A few of you have been doing all you can to help her to date. However, I feel this is something we can all help with as a community and would ask that anyone who is able to offer assistance contact the School Office for further details so that a rota can be organised. She lives in the area between Depot Road, New Street and Highlands Road.

With all good wishes for a great Advent!

Mr A Bird

Other Diary Dates

Please do make a note of these dates as reminders will not necessarily be sent.

November

24 Year R-Year 4 Flu Vaccinations

December

1 HSA Christmas Fayre 5.00-8.00pm

5 Prayer Group (Leslie Room in St. Mary's Church 9.00am)

5 & 7 Infant Nativity 6.30pm

12 The Pantomime

13 Christmas Dinner Day

14 Christingle Service 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

19 Christmas Parties

20 Communion Service 2.00pm at St. Mary's Church

20 School breaks up

January

4 Children return to school

9 Prayer Group (Leslie Room in St. Mary's Church
9.00am)

11 Year 3 Swimming Starts

15 Closing Date for Starting School September 2018

22 Clubs Start