



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017

6th October

Dear Parents/Carers

Time really flies: I find it hard to believe that the first half-term break is nearly upon us!

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of you, as well as finding out so much more about the school and its community. I have popped in to see some fabulous lessons and the work produced as a result thereof. Our 50th Anniversary Celebration went off well and it was great to see so many folk in attendance. I was delighted with how well our children sang and it was most encouraging to hear those of our pupils who had spoken parts read so clearly.

Congratulations Miss Mardle!

I am sure you will join me in offering sincere congratulations to Katie Mardle who has announced that she is expecting her first child early next year. She hopes to be working with us right through until February half-term (2018). At which point she plans to commence maternity leave. I shall keep you posted regarding arrangements for a teacher to cover for her throughout her period of leave.

Pupil Premium Funding

Please do be aware that there is additional funding available to the school to support the education of any pupil whose parents claim free school meals. To find out if your child qualifies please see the attached sheet for more details – this money can make a big difference.

Packed Lunches / Drinks

Please ensure that your child is sent in with just water in their drinks bottles. It's not that we're wanting to be miserable about this, but the impact of those who have snuck in with squash, juice or sugary drinks has been two-fold in school: some of these drinks do noticeably effect behaviour and when they are spilled they invariably make an awful mess that is tricky to remove / clear up especially from our carpets.

DODI (Drop-Off Drop-In)

St. Mary's Church would like it to be known that they are offering a warm welcome to any of you following school drop-off for a cuppa in the Leslie Room (the modern extension to the church, which can be entered via their western side door).

They will be serving tea and coffee between 8:30am and 9:30am on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. You are welcome for a chat, a quiet sit down or to meet with others who have children at the school (or nursery). All are welcome – including babies and toddlers.

Parent Consultations

Last year the school introduced an online booking system and received much positive feedback about this change to the way appointments were made. I attach a Parent's Guide to this system, which I think explains clearly how to make your appointments.

This term the Consultations are scheduled for either Monday 30th October from 4pm to 7pm or Thursday 2nd November from 1:30pm to 5:30pm. Appointments can be made from 8pm on the 11th October and will close the day before the respective evenings take place.

Please visit:

<https://stmaryshorsham.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>
to book your appointments.

The link for the parents evening system is also given on our website on the 'Parents' Notice Board' page.

If you wish to amend an appointment that you have made you will need to do so online as you will be the only person able to edit your details.

HSA

Plans for the Christmas shopping evening are well under way, with tickets going on sale on Monday 16th October. They can be purchased from the office or from Celia Hurren and Emma Sullivan on the path.

We still have a few stalls available so if you know of any local businesses that may be interested, please email celiahurren@hotmail.com.

Finally if anyone is happy to help on the evening for half an hour either serving refreshments, selling raffle tickets or manning the doors their help will be greatly appreciated. Again please email celiahurren@hotmail.com.

Jeans for Genes Day

Thanks to all who supported our efforts to raise money for Jeans for Genes Day. I am pleased to report that we raised £210.73 for this good cause.

Class Assemblies

You will remember that I have decided to cut back on the number of class assemblies that take place during the school year – limiting these to one class assembly during the course of the year. This being the case I thought you would appreciate a ‘heads-up’ to say that Year 5 are scheduled for theirs on Friday 8th December and that Year 6 will be leading an assembly on Friday 10th November reflecting on their time in France.

Children in Reception Class will start joining us for Worship after half term and along with the other year groups their first Class Assembly will be held later in the academic year.

We hope that you will be able to join us at our Advent Communion Service on Wednesday 20th December. This will take place in St. Mary’s Church at 2.00pm.

Nativity

Lots of you have been asking me about the dates for the Nativity. This has been scheduled to take place on the evenings of the Thursday 7th and Friday 8th December at 6:30pm. This involves all of the children in Years R, 1 and 2. Details to follow.

Starting School September 2018

We will be holding our Open Morning for prospective parents of children starting school in September 2018 on Thursday, 9th November at 10am.

Applications need to be made on-line at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions and must be submitted by Monday 15th January 2018.

No letters will be sent from WSCC this year to remind people to apply.

Secondary School Applications

If you are applying for a secondary school place for September 2018, again applications need to be made on-line at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions the deadline for these applications is October 31st 2017.

Year R Information Meeting

There will be an Information Meeting for parents of Year R children on Thursday 19th October from 9:00am - 10:00am(ish). We will talk to you about reading, writing, phonics and behaviour as well as general aspects of school. This will also be a chance to meet Mrs Woods who is due to return from her maternity leave later in the year.

Restart a Heart - In The Barn

Did you know? The chance of surviving a cardiac arrest goes up by about 75% with early access to Defibrillation, CPR and First Aid.

St. Mary’s Church are running a very short course in The Barn for anyone wanting to learn how to Restart a Heart. This will take place on Sunday 15 Oct between 10:45 am and 1 pm.

First Aid trainers will give you a 5-minute 1:1 tuition about what to do to get someone’s heart restarted. There will be refreshments and cakes, and a play area for the children.

Donations will be given to the Thanks-a-Million project.

School Council – Film Night

The School Council are organising a ‘Film Night’ on Friday, 13th October. They will be showing “Despicable Me 3” (Certificate U).

The cost of entry to the Film Night will be £2.50 per child which will include a drink and a packet of crisps.

The film will start at 3.30 pm and we would ask you to pick up your children from the hall at 5.30pm prompt. Children staying to watch the film will be supervised straight after school so there will be no need to collect them at 3.15pm.

The School Council will divide the profits from Film Night between their chosen charity and funding projects within school.

Please fill in the form attached if you would like your child/children to attend Film Night and bring it into school with your £2.50 in a sealed envelope marked Film Night by Friday 13th morning break time. There will be a post box in the foyer for this and the box will be removed by the School Council after break time. Please enclose exact money as change will not be given. Please note that the School Office is not involved in the organisation of this event – the children are taking responsibility for making it happen.

If I don’t get to speak to you beforehand: have a great half-term break!

With Best Wishes

Mr A Bird

Other Diary Dates

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

October

11 Harvest Communion 2.00pm St Mary’s Church
16-20 Year 6 in France
23-27 Half Term Week

November

3 Year 5 Visit to Brighton
6 HSA An Audience with Peter James
9 HSA Committee Meeting 7.15pm
14 HSA Shopping Evening
24 Year R-Year 4 Flu Vaccinations

December

1 HSA Christmas Fayre
12 The Pantomime
14 Christingle Service 7:00pm
20 Communion Service 2pm at St. Mary’s Church
20 School breaks up

January

4 Children return to school
11 Year 3 Swimming Starts