



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

9th February

Dear Parents/Carers

I can't believe what a short half-term it has been. Yet we seem to have packed so much in. I hope you have found this week's Parent Teacher Consultations really useful and I wanted to thank those of you that turned up to join us for Communion on Wednesday too. The worship was once again delightful to hear. You are as ever warmly welcome to join us for our clergy assemblies each Tuesday. Next, half term the theme for our main assemblies will be 'Forgiveness'.

We shall miss Miss Mardle sorely in Year 5 – as she heads off to enjoy her introduction to parenthood! However, we are pleased that it is just 'au revoir' for the time being, and we shall look forward to her return.

State of Play Meeting (repeat)

Following my 'State of Play' meeting back in January I have had lots of positive feedback and offers of support for which I am most grateful. However, I have also had a good many of you request a repeat of the evening as so many had been unable to attend. I am, therefore, on this one occasion going to offer a second opportunity for those of you who could not make the 18th January to come and hear my report regarding my discoveries about St. Mary's as well as actions that we have been undertaking and / or are planning to undertake in the light of these. This second (and final) opportunity will be offered to you on the evening of Tuesday 27th February.

Mr Beckett – Year 5: Meet the Teacher

Mr Beckett has proposed holding a **brief** Meet the Teacher session after school on Monday 26th February. This will simply be an opportunity for you to learn something of him and his teaching / expectations for the rest of this academic year. He is looking forward to welcoming any parents and their children at 3:30pm for an introduction.

Mrs Bateman

On the staffing front many of you will also be saddened to hear that Mrs Bateman has secured a new role at Woodlands Mead – the Special School in Burgess Hill. She is following her heart and is very much looking forward to working in classes full of children with ASD. She will be with us for four more weeks, to give us time to find a replacement and to train more staff to meet the needs of our children with ASD.

Fairtrade Fortnight

In preparation for our celebration of Fairtrade Fortnight your child is being sent home with a 'Banana Leaf' to decorate with as many Fairtrade logos and stickers as they can find. There will be a prize for the child in each class who has managed to collect the most stickers or cut out logos from packaging on their Banana Leaf.

On Wednesday 28th Feb Mrs Whiting and her 'Fairtrade Team' will be organising a Fairtrade breakfast – details to follow.

Year R Open Afternoon

Our EYFS parents are warmly invited to the Year R open afternoon, which will be held on Friday 2nd March from 2:30pm.

Office under pressure

Please do be aware that during the fortnight starting the 12th March the school office will be under a great deal of pressure as Mrs Fisher has been summoned for Jury Service and Mrs Sawyer will be out of school for personal reasons during some of this time too.

World Book Day

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day and I feel you deserve a heads up!

Dressing up is like Marmite - some parents love it and others hate it. So, to those of you who this will drive potty, my apologies, but I'm giving you due notice that we are planning a whole series of events to mark World Book Day this year including the infamous asking children to come in dressed as their favourite book character. A separate letter from Mrs Whiting will follow regarding all of the details of the day, which will also include an invite to you and the children to come into school for bedtime stories at 6pm.

Jewellery Sale

I am delighted to support Lorelie (and Poppy) Uwins, Rosie Stone and Emily Malyon (from Year 3) in their endeavours to raise money through a Jewellery Sale. The girls have taken much time and trouble to design and make beaded bracelets, keyrings and necklaces – some of which are just pretty things and others celebrate our school values or remind us that God is always with us. They are planning to sell these products on the path at the end of a school day. However, in the meantime, they are interested in taking orders from their peers on

the playground by exhibiting exemplars of their original designs. The products will retail at 50p per piece. The girls hope that they will have their products ready for sale after half-term. All funds raised going to The Governors' Friends of St. Mary's Fund.

Ukulele for Adults

Talking of fundraising, it was great to see a keen group of parents support Mr Gladman's Ukulele for Adults lesson last week, much fun was had by all. All who took part acquired a basic understanding of tablature and sore fingers! I wait to see further developments from an adult ukulele-learning point of view in the near future. All proceeds from the evening have gone straight to the Governors' Friends of St. Mary's Fund.

Christingle Collection

Rather belatedly, I am also pleased to report that the school's Christingle candle collection raised £134.67 for The Children's Society.

Bikeability for Year 6

I can confirm that this year's Bikeability Training for Year 6 will take place the week beginning Monday 21st May. More details will follow in due course. However, as a former Bikeability Instructor can I please recommend that if you are planning the acquisition of a new bike during the course of the year that this is not done just prior to the Bikeability Week. In my experience, many children who have been treated to a new bike 'to grow into' really struggle to control their new cycle and need time to become accustomed to them in order to be safe. This can seriously affect their chances of passing. Warning over: I look forward to seeing the learning and enjoyment the experience brings here at St. Mary's – it really is a far more detailed and challenging experience than the old Cycling Proficiency Awards that many of you will have memories of from school.

Rights Respecting School Award

As mentioned before Mrs Whiting is leading our endeavours to earn the Rights Respecting School Award this year. The UNICEF Rights of the Child Article being promoted next half term will be Number 6: Children have a right to live a full life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

School Budget

Many of you have been asking me if you could make further direct contributions to the school, which really is appreciated. Something, which has become increasingly common practice in other local schools. And so, reluctantly, but with a degree of relief that so many of you are willing to help out too, I am able to announce that we will have a facility on ParentPay that will mean that such donations can be made any time that you log into your account. A message will appear on screen, to remind you of this opportunity.

As I mention regularly too: if you'd like to get involved in the school's fundraising efforts please do let the HSA (Home School Association) know. This is their email address:

stmaryhsa@hotmail.co.uk

Further information about their activities can be found in their newsletter also being sent out today. Their next gathering will be in school on the evening of Wednesday at 7:15pm.

Volunteering Opportunities and "Back to Work Support" through your local Children and Family Centre

WSCC are seeking volunteers to support the services offered within their centres and in the communities they serve. If you or someone you know is looking to give some time as a volunteer, they would be pleased to hear from you. Their current vacancies are listed below and new opportunities also arise. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact

Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk

WSCC's Children and Family Centres also offer support to any parent who is thinking of returning to work, or changing careers. If you feel that you would benefit from some advice, accessing free training, help with cv and applications, interview skills support or work experience to improve your cv, then please get in touch. Support is FREE. To arrange an informal chat, please email Julie.dutton@westsussex.gov.uk.

Where?	When?	What?
Needles Children and Family Centre, Horsham	Tuesdays from 2pm to 3.30pm weekly	Meeting and greeting families using the Child Health Clinic, assisting parents/carers with self-weighing of babies and recording
Needles Children and Family Centre	Monday mornings weekly 9.15am to 11am, or through to 12.30pm	Assisting with setting up activities at the Play and Learn session, supporting the children and their carers to access these
Needles Children and Family Centre	Monday mornings weekly 9am to 12.30pm or Friday mornings	Signing in families to the building, giving out information, general office duties. Must have previous office experience
Horsham Children and Family Centre, Harwood Road, Horsham	Thursday 9.30am to 11am weekly	Assisting at the Explorers' group for the youngest children – setting up, clearing away, supporting children and carers to use the activities.
Billingshurst Children and Family Centre	Friday mornings weekly from 9.15am to 12 noon	Assisting with setting up activities for the Play and Learn session, supporting children with activities
Steyning Centre next to the library	Mondays weekly 9.30am to 11.15am	Setting up and putting away resources for the Stay and Sing group, helping to lead singing, welcoming parents/carers.
Henfield Free Church Hall	Thursday mornings weekly 10am to 12.30pm	Helping set up activities for the Play and Learn session, register, welcoming and engaging with families, putting all away at end of the session
Across the Horsham District	Negotiable – half day per week or fortnight	Driving our Sensory or Toy Library bus to groups around Horsham District. Must have C1 on full driving licence

New School Phone

One of our very generous governors has donated a mobile phone to the school, which will improve communications particularly for Miss Fandrejewski and Mr Ellis who work away from the main offices most of the time yet still need to communicate a lot. However, please do be aware, that if they are trying to phone you the number will be withheld, as incoming calls still need to enter the school via the office.

And finally

Thanks so much for all of the positive feedback about the article in the County Times regarding the school funding crisis. I so appreciate the way that the community is rallying behind us and the other schools in the area in a desire to see our children fairly treated too.

Have a wonderful half term.



Mr A Bird

Other Diary Dates

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

February

- 12-16 Half-term
- 19 INSET Day
- 20 Year 2 SATs Evening 6.30pm
- 21 HSA Meeting in School 7.15pm
- 27 Year 2 Bocketts Farm trip
- 27 State of Play Meeting 7.00pm
- 28 Fairtrade Breakfast 8.00am

March

- 1 World Book Day
- 1 Bedtime Stories for all 6.00pm
- 2 Year R Open Afternoon 2.30pm
- 3 HSA Quiz Night
- 6 Prayer Group (Leslie Room in St. Mary's Church 9am)
- 8 Year 3 Dance Fest @ The Hawth 7.00pm
- 16 Year 5 Forest School Sleepover
- 22 Year 6 Novium Museum Trip
- 23 Fairy Tale Ball in Year R
- 26-28 Prayer Spaces
- 27 Year 6 Junior Citizen @ Drill Hall
- 28 Communion in St. Mary's Church 2.00pm
- 29 INSET Day
- 29 End of term – school breaks up for Easter