



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

April 23rd

Dear Parents/Carers

What a difference a holiday makes! Great to see the sunshine out and so many well-refreshed faces about the school.

Suncream

Mentioning lovely weather obviously brings to mind the need to get children sun-creamed before school. I really appreciate those of you who I can see have already been remembering to 'Slip, Slop, Slap' before school – as we do ask the children wear one of the long-lasting protective suncreams to avoid them bringing bottles of lotion into school.

Summer Uniform

While the weather may remain changeable, as it seems to be at the moment, I am very happy for you to decide when it is appropriate to allow your child to wear summer uniform. We would generally expect all children to be in summer uniform by half-term.

I understand that only girls in Years 5 and 6 are allowed skirts and polo shirts as summer uniform, all other girls should wear the blue checked dresses. I understand a dress is now available that looks exactly the same as this dress, but is more like a skirt in its lower half construction. Therefore, some of you have asked if this would be allowed as part of the summer uniform – if the product looks exactly the same as our usual summer dresses then I am more than happy for these to be worn instead (though I wouldn't envy the girls the added challenge this may bring in the loos)!

Year 6 will need their winter uniform one more time when we go to the Diocesan Leavers Service on July 10th.

Please ensure that all items of clothing, especially cardigans and jumpers, are named. We always have a lot of lost property left at the end of term. We cannot continue to store it all so it is being donated to second-hand uniform and to a charity shop if it is not claimed after the tables have been left out.

Photographs Day

Regarding the class/team and leavers photos on Wednesday: please do ensure that your child comes in with their winter uniform in its entirety so that the children will look as smart as possible.

Elizabeth O'Shea – Parenting for Success

I am delighted to announce that Elizabeth O'Shea has offered her services to the school to run a parenting session entitled 'Managing your Child's Emotions' on the evening of Tuesday 22nd May. She will provide a presentation and then allow time for Q&A. This event will run in the school hall from 6.30pm to 7.30pm all are welcome.

Elizabeth is known as something of a 'parenting guru' often appearing on the BBC she is a parenting coach, author and speaker as well as Director of 'Parenting for Success'.

Head Teacher Awards – Badge Amnesty

If your child has been the recipient of one of our Headteacher Awards to date, you will be aware that in addition to their certificate they do receive a badge (which they are allowed to wear for a week). However, last week I was unable to present the badges to those nominated for an award by their teachers as we have had insufficient badges returned. I think this may be a result of the combination of having had a holiday and a change in weather / chosen uniform. So, if you think it may be a possibility that one of these is stashed away at home, would you be kind enough to have a search and hand the badges back in at school – thank you.

Home School Association

All are welcome to come and join the AGM of the HSA – fundraising ideas and volunteers always welcome. They are due to meet in school at 7.15pm on Wednesday 2nd May.

Speaking of the HSA, we have been considering changing their name to something either more catchy and memorable or to a name that makes their support and fundraising role more obvious. To this end the HSA would like to run a Renaming Competition. Please submit your suggestions to the office / school foyer by the 31st May so that the group can decide on its new name at the AGM

HSA – Easyfundraising Page

St. Mary's Home School Association has an account set up with easyfundraising. If you join easyfundraising you can collect free donations for the HSA every time you buy something online. It won't cost you a penny extra so please help us to raise funds, simply follow this link to set up your account with them:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmaryscep/schoolhorsham/>

(Please do ignore the peculiar suggestion on the website that makes it appear as if we are based in Ellen's Green. This is indeed the correct link and the HSA are in the process of getting easyfundraising to correct this.)

Autism Support Day

Those of you who have any involvement with autism may be interested to attend the Autism Support Day being offered by Manor Green College in Crawley. This is due to take place on Tuesday 8th May between 10am and 3.30pm. They have kindly provided an open invite to anybody that would be interested. The event is completely free, but they would ask you to pre-book your place by calling 01293 582111 or 01293 520351.

Raspberry Pi

Six children from Year 5 went to London on Tuesday to participate in the national final of the Raspberry Pi Coding Competition. Despite not gaining the overall first place prize, I know they had a great time. The children represented St Mary's in an exemplary manner and were complimented on their outstanding behaviour and conduct by many people including the judges and other representatives of Raspberry Pi.

Well done to Rebecca, Jack, Katie, Ethan, Gwen and David.

This is the fifth year in a row that St. Mary's have made it to become one of the top three schools nationally – a wonderful achievement. A video clip of highlights of the competition can be viewed here if you are interested:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=JhRJRLeThYM%3Frel%3D0

I would like to say a really big thank you to Mr Tyler-Moore, Mr Thomas, Mr Midwood, Mr Rowlands, Mr Feitz and Mr Laurenson for mentoring the team so well, and to Miss Mardle and the parents who supported the children.

Mardle Addition

Speaking of Miss Mardle. I am most grateful that she gave up a day with her new addition in order to accompany the Pi Pipers to London. I should have told you all before the Easter break that congratulations were in order:

Violet Marie Elizabeth entered the world at 3.59am on the 5th March (ten days early), weighing in at 6 pounds nine ounces. Her very proud grandparents looked after Violet in order to release Miss Mardle to go with the team.

Midday Meals Cover Staff

I did mention this role in a previous newsletter, but I am still short of possible emergency cover for our Midday Meals Staff. This is a role that may mean you'd only be called upon 'once in a blue moon' or possibly more regularly and even on certain days of the week that would suit you. Literally, if we are missing one of our usual team we could do with a group of people we could call upon to come in and cover for these lunchtime supervisors. If you are interested – please do ask me for more details. Please do note that any such appointments are still subject to our usual stringent safeguarding processes and that an enhanced DBS will be required to work in the school in this role.

UNICEF

Our UNICEF Right of the half-term is Article 29 which states:

Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures. It should also help them learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people. Children have a particular responsibility to respect the rights of their parents, and education should aim to develop respect for the values and culture of their parents. This fits in very nicely with our current assembly focus on the Beatitudes and taking responsibility.

Year 4 Church Visits

Those of you with children in Year 4 may be interested to know that as part of their studies regarding places of worship the class will be off to visit the URC, St. Mary's, St. John's and the Brighton Road Baptist Churches during the course of this term.

Communion Services

These will be held in St Mary's Church at 2.00 pm on Wednesdays 23rd May and 24th July. All parents and families are welcome to join us. Year 6 parents will be invited to take Communion or receive a blessing with their child/ren on 24th July.

New Parents Evening

This will be held at 7.00 on Thursday 14th June in the school hall. This is the meeting for all parents of children starting in Reception Class from September. It is advisable to attend this even if you already have other children in school as some arrangements may be different this time round and it is also an opportunity to meet the parents of all the other children too.

What Matters to You? West Sussex County Council Survey

The council are trying to collect public opinion via their What Matters To You Survey.

They say that: your answers will help shape West Sussex County Council's future priorities and inform how the budget is set for 2019/20.

The survey starts on Monday 16 April 2018, and takes a few minutes or so to complete – depending on how you fill it in. It asks for your views on priorities in the West Sussex Plan, as well as for your opinion on Council Tax levels.

Helping us to understand your priorities can help others too! By taking part you can enter a free Prize Draw to win a £500 donation for a West Sussex-based registered charity of your choice.

Survey Link: www.westsussex.gov.uk/whatmatters2018

Link to children and young people's version of the survey: www.westsussex.gov.uk/wmty2018

Closing date for both surveys: Monday 16 July

You can get a paper copy from your local library, by calling 01243 777100 or by emailing us at haveyoursay@westsussex.gov.uk. Alternative formats also available upon request.

And finally

Enjoy the summer term – I am most grateful to the HSA for their sales of ice-lollies in the hot weather. What a treat!



Mr A Bird

Other Diary Dates

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

April

16 Term Starts
25 School Photographer (Class/teams/Leavers photos)
28 St. Mary's Got Talent @ The Barn 2.00pm

May

2 Home School Association AGM 7.15pm
7 Bank Holiday Monday
14 SATs week for Year 6
21 Bikeability Week for Year 6
22 Elizabeth O'Shea (Parenting for Success) 6.30pm
25 May – 3 June Half Term

June

4 INSET Day
6 Prayer Group
12 Year 4 Dancing in the Park
14 Dancing in the Causeway 2.00pm
14 St. Mary's Church Flower Festival Opens
18 Themed 'World Cup Week'
19 Year 4 Dancing in the Park (reserve date)
22 Sports Day
22 Summer Fayre 5.30pm-8.00pm
29 District Sports Day

July

4 Prayer Group
5 Tanbridge House School Induction Day
10 Leavers Service for Year 6 @ Worth Abbey 10.45am
24 Term Ends