



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Summer Term 2018

8th June

Dear Parents/Carers

It's great to see our children back (generally all in one piece) following the half-term break. And, to have awarded Headteacher Awards for enthusiasm and effort as well as thoughtfulness already.

School Improvement Partner Feedback

Following on from our Outstanding SIAMS Inspection report, I thought you'd also like to be kept abreast of other monitoring of the school that takes place.

As I explained earlier in the year, we are subject to monitoring by the local authority via a termly 'School Improvement Partner visit'. So, once again, I thought you'd appreciate hearing some of the headlines from his Summer Term report too, which had a focus on Leadership and Management.

Our Partner (Dave Cole) has stated that:

"The school's own evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses is very accurate. School Leaders and Governors have clear priorities for improvement based on raising the achievement of pupils.

The Deputy Headteacher (DHT), through consultation, has ensured that the school is working towards a shared school vision in relation to the role of effective subject leaders at St Mary's. He has achieved this through presentations and discussion during INSET days. A full sense of 'buy-in' is still a 'work in progress.' However, Middle Leaders are being targeted on an ongoing basis, based on priorities/need. This is a longer term priority that will bring about cultural change and is dependent upon individualised attention and commitment."

Dave went on to say that, "Governance at St Mary's is highly effective. Leaders and governors share high aspirations for the school and pupils. Governors monitor the school development plan closely, and they are acutely aware of their responsibility to hold leaders to account for pupils' outcomes.

Governors also spoke about improved communication/involvement with the Headteacher (HT) and DHT and staff on a range of areas, which has led to having a clear, consistent and well-informed Governing Body. The Governing Body are very effective in providing support/challenge to the new HT."

We are of course, as ever a work in progress and Dave Cole also highlighted our current longer term targets for improvement:

- to further strengthen the ability of subject leaders to articulate the impact of their work;

- Governing Body to create a 3-5 year strategic development plan taking account of stakeholder feedback.

He also agreed with our own Self-Evaluation Standard stating we are a Grade 2 School for both Leadership and Management and Overall Effectiveness (in old Ofsted speak this would be stated as being a 'good school'.

I hope you find this feedback helpful and shall endeavour to keep you posted of further.

Working Party – DATE CHANGE

Following the request in my previous newsletter asking for volunteers (adults) to help titivate our external environment on Saturday 7th July it has come to my attention that St. Mary's Church is running Who Let The Dads Out (WLTD) on that day from 9-11am. So we might lose a number of dads to this. Therefore, I am proposing a rescheduling of our working party to Saturday 14th July between 10am and 12noon.

Footpath Closure

Horsham District Council have been in touch to say that they have planned major path works in Mill Bay and the Garden of Remembrance (the green space between Sainsbury's and St. Mary's Church). These are due to commence on 11th June.

The work will involve closures to the path between the Sainsbury's site and our school, which may affect pedestrian routes for some of you for a period of approximately 3 weeks.

Instead of taking the path along the edge of the churchyard, pedestrians will need to take a short diversion along the Riverside Walk. Signs will be put up on the days affected but because the restriction may extend journey times by up to 3 minutes or so, we want to give you as much warning as possible.

Sama Karate

Our Karate Club providers would like me to point out that their numbers have been falling. They are obviously keen to recruit anyone who may be interested in this sport.

Their club, which caters for children from Year 1 upwards takes place in the school hall on a Wednesday afternoon from 5pm.

Please do contact them directly for further details on 07894 861250.

Cricket Team

Our Year 5 cricket team competed very well in the Horsham District Tournament earlier this week. They

made it through to the quarterfinals – narrowly missing out to Heron Way. En-route they also enjoyed matches against Warnham, Southwater Juniors and Holmbush.

The Great British Button Challenge

Wonderful news! Libby Keeble and Gwen Midwood have approached me regarding Hobbycraft's Great British Button Challenge.

They would like to teach interested children from Key Stage 2 to sew buttons on in order to enable them to take part in Hobbycraft's competition. More details of this can be found at:

www.hobbycraft.co.uk/buttonchallenge

Mrs Eason-Butler has kindly agreed to facilitate things for them, so Gwen and Libby would like to invite children along to their button sewing clinic on a first come first served basis on a Monday lunchtime (this will take place in a quieter corner of the playground while the weather is nice).

Food Boxes in the Summer Holidays

There are approximately 170 non-school days a year where children cannot access Free School Meals, putting a lot of financial pressure on families that rely on this. Many families also suffer with social isolation during the school holidays, as they cannot afford to do activities, take their children on days out, or invite their friends over, meaning children end up spending most of their holiday indoors. The charity Horsham Matters hope to be able to alleviate some of this pressure with the provision of weekly food boxes. They would provide families in need with a set of vouchers, one voucher for each week of the summer holidays, which can be redeemed at their Horsham Matters shop, or local Children and Family Centre (details to be confirmed). If you currently receive Free School Meals and are interested in this provision please do come and speak in confidence to me.

WSCC Draft School Effectiveness Strategy Survey

WSCC are inviting staff, parents and children – in fact anyone involved in education to comment on their draft School Effectiveness Strategy. This can be found by following the link below. Responses have to be made before the 29th June.

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/children-adults-families-health-and-education/draft-school-effectiveness-strategy-2018-2022/>

And finally

Another Slip, Slop, Slap (and cagoules) reminder – enjoy our British Summer time!



Mr A Bird

Other Diary Dates

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

June

12 Year 2 Little Big Sing @ Warnham 9.15am

12 Year 4 Dancing in the Park 6.45pm
14 Dancing in the Causeway 2.00pm
14 St. Mary's Church Flower Festival Opens
14 'History of Science' Theatre Group Visit
14 New Parents' Evening for those joining Year R 6pm
15 Year R Chesworth Farm Trip
15 Year 2 Class Assembly
18-22 Themed 'World Cup Week'
19 Year 4 Dancing in the Park (reserve date)
21 Year 1 Woods Mill Trip
22 Sports Day KS2 am KS1 pm
23 Summer Fayre 12noon-3.00pm
29 Year R Class Assembly & Open Morning
29 District Sports Day KS2

July

4 Prayer Group
5 Secondary School Induction Day
5 Year 2 Ovingdean Beach Trip
6 Year 5 Blacklands Farm Trip
10 Leavers Service for Year 6 @ Worth Abbey 10.45am
11 Year 4 Drusilla's Trip
12 Year 5 Connect with the Countryside Trip
14 Parent working party 10.00am-12noon
16 Year 5 Chesworth Farm Visit
16 Year 3 Fishbourne Roman Palace Trip
17 KS2 Dress Rehearsal
18 KS2 Performance 6.30pm
19 Children meet next academic year's teacher
19 KS2 Performance 6.30pm
23 Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
24 Communion in St. Mary's Church 2.00pm
24 Break up for Summer Holiday

September

3 INSET day
4 School starts