



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum"

FORGIVENESS, HUMILITY, SERVICE

Telephone: 01798 872007

8th February 2018

Attendance at school

Sadly the attendance figures for children at St Mary's are significantly lower than those of many other schools both in the locality and nationally. This is something that the Governors, the Local Authority and I are keen to improve but we can only do this with your support. Obviously, if your child is unwell then they should stay at home. The problem really comes from the number of children being taken out of school for family holidays and birthday celebrations, (either their own or those of other members of the family). All of these days out of school soon mount up and we now have a worrying number of children whose attendance has dropped below 85%. If your child is only in school for 85% of the time then they can only make 85% of the progress expected.

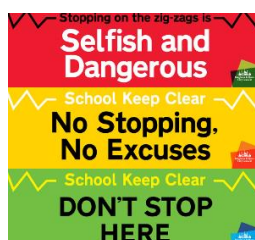
School Matters!



School Keep Clear

You may be aware that WSCC are proposing to introduce/formalise "School Keep Clear "road marking outside the school. If you would like to comment on this proposal then this must be done by 1st March by following the link below.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/tro



Cat's Protection Visit

On Monday we welcomed Lin from Cats Protection in Chelwood Gate to talk to the children in Reception, Year 3 and Year 4. Lin talked about the work that the charity does and gave us some useful information about how to keep cats safe, healthy and happy. We also learnt more about their body language and behaviour.



Birds of Prey – Hawking about

After half term Year 3 are looking forward to a visit by "Hawking About", who will be bringing in a variety of birds of prey so the children can see them fly and handle them.



Advance notice of Grounds Working Party – 10th March 9am -12noon

Yes, it's that time of year again! The School Grounds Working Party is taking place on Saturday 10th March. We are grateful for any time that you can spare, even if it is only half an hour!

We would be grateful if you could complete the slip below and return it to the School Office by Wednesday 7th March to give us an idea of numbers and amount of cake to buy!!

A message from China class

Children in China class would like you all to know that Friday 16th February is Chinese New Year. This year will be the Year of the Dog which represents luck and prosperity. When the children return from the half term break they will, as part of their learning about China and the Chinese culture, be researching how the Chinese New Year is celebrated around the world.



Learning about Sierra Leone

Children in KS2 enjoyed a special visit this week from Mrs Heath who came into school to talk about her recent visit to Sierra Leone. The children learned about the poverty endured by the people of Sierra Leone and were shocked by the poor conditions of even the best houses where running water is only available for three days each week and there is a constant presence of cockroaches and mosquitoes. They all agreed that later in the year they would like to do something special to raise money for the school in Sierra Leone.

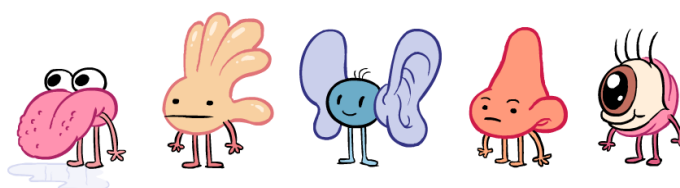




Fitbits in school

A number of children have asked if they are allowed to wear fitbits in school. The answer is yes they can. However, parents must be aware that school cannot accept responsibility if fitbits are lost or damaged in any way. Whilst fitbits are a good way of encouraging children to take notice of the number of steps they take there is a danger that, like a watch, they could get tangled with clothing or equipment or even another child during a PE lesson. Therefore, if your child wears a fitbit in school they may only take it off for a PE lesson when it will be your child's responsibility to give it to the teacher for safekeeping.

Please bear in mind that fitbits that are enabled to link up in any way to a smart phone or other technology may NOT be worn in school.



Year One 'Senses Day'

This week in Year 1 we had a 'Senses Day'. They had a fun day investigating their senses of touch, taste, smell, sight and hearing. They tasted bitter, dark chocolate, sour lemon, sweet haribo and salty crisps. Everyone liked the smell of the lavender and the shaving foam but the vinegar was very strong!

Weald Book Awards

Last Wednesday, a group of Year 6 attended 'Meet the Author' as part of the Weald Book Award experience. They met Ross Montgomery, author of 'Perijee and Me', and were truly inspired by what he had to say about how he became a writer and how ideas like Perijee become books. It just so happened that Ross's visit coincided with the Super blue moon, and if you know, or look up, the meaning of Perijee you will see why this is so significant. If you are looking for a good read, the Book Award children would highly recommend 'Perijee and Me' - keep reading!



~~Mrs Berry~~ Chartwells Catering vacancy

Are you interested in school catering that fits around your family life?
If so, why not join our friendly, professional team!



Position is term time only at St Mary's School Pulborough

Appropriate training will be given and smart uniform will be provided. DBS checks will be carried out on successful applicants.

For more information please contact

Laurey Davis, Area Manager on 07919165984 or email Laurey.Davis@compass-group.co.uk

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

We are seeking **volunteers** to support the services we offer within our centres and in the communities we serve. If you or someone you know is looking to give some time as a volunteer, we would be pleased to hear from you. Our 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 |

Dates for your diary

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| February | | | |
| Fri 9th | INSET DAY | | |
| Mon12th-Fri 16th | HALF TERM | | |
| Wed 21st | Year R - RSBP Pulborough Brooks | All day | RSPB Pulborough Brooks |
| Thur 22nd | Horsham District Primary Cross Country Event | 12.15 - 3.00pm | Christ's Hospital |
| Tue 27th | PTA Film Night - KS1 | 3.30pm - 5.15pm | See posters for more details |
| | PTA Film Night - KS2 | 5.30pm - 7.30pm | See posters for more details |
| March | | | |
| Thur 1st | World Book Day - Book costumes required | | |
| Sat 3rd | PTA Race Night | 7.30pm | |
| Tue 6th | Year 3 - 'Hawking About' | During school day | School hall |
| Thur 8th | Steyping Book Shop - Book Fair | 2.00pm - 4.00pm | School Hall |
| Sat 10th | Grounds Working Party | 9am - 12noon | |
| Sun 11th | Mothering Sunday Service | | See Church website for details |
| Sat 17th | Spring Flower Show | 2.00pm - 4.00pm | Village Hall |
| Mon 19th | LAST WEEK OF CLUBS | | |
| Mon 19th - 23rd | Year 6 Bikeability (Letter to follow) | | |
| Mon 19th | Mr Satchwell Cornet Concert | During school | |
| Tue 20th | Parents Evening | 3.30pm - 6.30pm | School Hall |
| Thur 22nd | Parents Evening | 6.00pm - 8.30pm | School Hall |
| Sun 25th | Easter Play | 10.00am | Church |
| Mon 26th | Easter Play | 2.00pm | School |
| Tue 27th | Easter Play | 2.00pm | School |

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|--------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| March | | | |
| Wed 28th | Team Party | During the day | School |
| Wed 28th | DISCO - KS1 | 5pm - 6pm | School Hall |
| | DISCO - KS2 | 6.15 - 7.30pm | School Hall |
| Thur | Easter Eucharist - All parents welcome | 9.00am - 9.45am | School Hall |
| Thur 29th | Last day of Term | | |

We're Hiring!

YBC are looking for an enthusiastic Cleaning Operative to join our award winning Operations Team:

- Local Areas: Pulborough, West Sussex
- Mon-Fri
- 3 hours 20 minutes daily
- £7.50 per hour

Successful Applicants will be required to obtain an Enhanced DBS, via YBC, prior to starting work.

To apply or for more information please contact Nadine on 07766 080423 or Evie on 01252 338873.

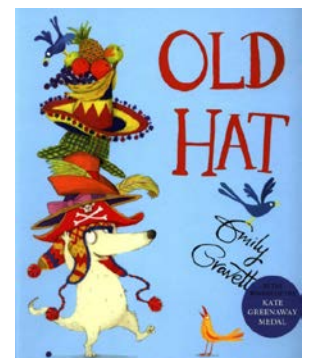
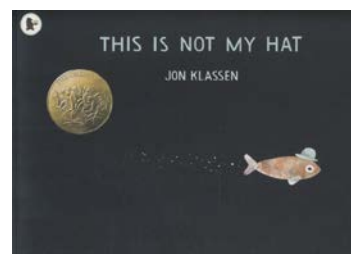
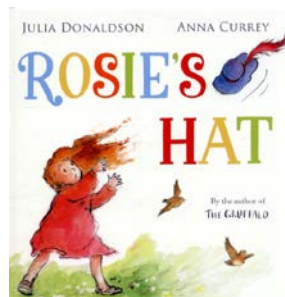


Hats off for half-term!



Thursday 15th February
10.30am - 11.30am

Wear your favourite hat and join us at the library
for fun stories and craft



Tickets are free but please reserve your place to avoid disappointment.
Donations are welcome.