



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



NEWSLETTER

“A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum”

Telephone: 01798 872007

10th November 2017

Christian values for this half term are Hope, Perseverance and Courage

Open Afternoons

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Open Afternoons so successful. We had more visitors than ever before and they all left saying how impressed they were by what they had seen. In particular they liked the wide range of activities they saw children working on and they loved all of our outdoor learning spaces. Lots of them commented on how polite our children are and they all wanted to say a special thank you to the children from Years 4, 5 and 6 who took them on guided tours of the school.

We have a further Open Morning planned for Wednesday 22nd November when parents will be able to see our Forest School in action at any time between 10.00am and noon. The rest of the school will also be open and once again some of our older children will be asked to give guided tours.

Welcome

Next week we will be welcoming Mr Stevens as our new Premises Officer, he comes to us from another school where he has been doing a similar role. Some of you may also have noticed that Mrs Hancock has been working in school. She is currently with us on a temporary basis to provide admin support for the Governors.

Thank you

A message of thanks from all the staff in the school office to those of you who are now using the Office and PTA Post boxes; this has led to fewer parents queuing up at the reception desk in the mornings.



Hot School Meals

Congratulations to our team of three kitchen staff who, although employed by Chartwells, are very much part of the St Mary's team. They had an unannounced inspection this week and, amongst other things, were praised for the cleanliness of the kitchen, their excellent rapport and relationships with the children as they come through to be served and the way in which they and the school manage children with special dietary needs. This is all very good news and we won't be at all surprised if Chartwells send staff from other schools to visit St Mary's to see good practice.

Remembrance Day



It was lovely to see so many of our children wearing their Brownie, Beaver, Cub or Scout uniforms today at our service of remembrance. You will not be surprised to know that all our children remained absolutely silent for the full two minutes' remembrance this morning. In whole school worship this week we have been thinking about the sacrifices that others have made so that we can live in peace with one another. Our Christian values of hope, perseverance and courage are particularly appropriate at this time of the year.

UK class to Ingfield Manor

It has been reported in various newspapers and journals that children's contact with nature is diminishing at an alarming rate. A growing body of evidence shows that good quality learning experiences outside the classroom add real value to indoor learning. Spending time in naturally wild places can help children develop their concentration, while an element of risk and achievable challenge in their play helps to develop physical coordination and confidence. At St. Mary's we are lucky to have three fully trained Forest School leaders who help to inspire and enthuse our children by building on their inborn sense of wonder about the natural world.

This week U.K. class visited Ingfield Manor School which is set in 19 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside. David Spreadbury-Troy manages the five-acre woodland, part of which he has developed into an outside learning environment for the children at Ingfield Manor and we are fortunate to share Forest School sessions with them. Next week it will be the turn of Austria class to visit Ingfield Manor.

Seeing St. Mary's pupils interact with the children from Ingfield Manor School is a magical time – as well as being an excellent Forest School environment it also helps to break down the barriers between able-bodied and disabled children.

I would like to thank David and our wonderful group of volunteers who made our day possible.

Lee Callender – Forest Schools Coordinator.

Y5 group to Lodge Hill

Continuing with the theme of outdoor learning it was an absolute delight to see children from Year Five taking part in a series of outdoor adventurous challenges this week at Lodge Hill. With the support of the local Rotary Club we have been able to offer all the children in Year Five two visits to the Lodge Hill centre. Half of the children went this week and will go again in about three weeks' time. The rest of Year Five will be going in January. The first set of challenges included archery, the low ropes and the high wobble board. Children learned a great deal about teamwork, leadership and overcoming barriers. Whilst none of the children were forced to take part in any activity it was really encouraging to see the way they supported one another so that everyone was able to get a very real sense of personal achievement. We would like to say a special thank you to Matthew from the Rotary Club for arranging this visit and, of course, to the staff at Lodge Hill.



Mrs Brown

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

November		Time	Class
Sun 12th Nov	Remembrance Church Service at St Mary's Church	10.50am	
Mon 13th Nov	Anti-Bullying week - related activities all week		
Tues 14th Nov	Book Fair - Chance to buy Christmas presents.	2.45-4pm	All welcome
Wed 15th Nov	Forest Schools at Ingfield Manor	9.30am-2pm	Austria
	Parent consultaion afternoon	2.30pm-3pm	Appointment only
Fri 17th	Non Uniform Day in aid of Children in Need		All
	PTA BINGO Evening	7pm	
Wed 22nd	Tea & Chat (Numicon Maths related)	9am - 10am	All years
	New Parents Open Morning (Outdoor activities)	10am-12noon	
	Parent consultaion afternoon		Appointment only
Thurs 23rd	Tea & Chat (Behaviour focus)		
Tue 28th	PTA Pop up Christmas Shop (front playground)	3.15pm	
December			
Sunday 3rd	Christingle Service at St Mary's Church	3pm	All welcome
Fri 8th	School Choir - Christmas Carols at the Anchorage	1.30pm	Choir only
	PTA Pop up Christmas Shop (front playground)	3.15pm	
Mon 11th	Rock Steady End of year Concert	9am	All welcome
	UK & Austria Nativity in th School Hall	1.30pm & 6pm	2 Tickets per family
Tues 12th	KS1 Christmas Production	1.45pm & 6pm	2 Tickets per family
Wed 13th	School Choir - Christmas Carols at Riverside Court		Choir only
	KS1 Christmas Production	6pm	2 Tickets per family
Thurs 14th	Christmas Eucharist	9am	All welcome
	Team Party	2pm & 3pm	Winning Team

Fri 15th	Christmas Lunch	12.30pm - 1.30pm	All years
	Reindeer Run fundraiser (Chestnut Tree House)	TBC	All years
	Lead by a Star Leaving the Chequers	6pm	All welcome
	Arriving at the Village Hall	6.30pm	
Mon 18th	Pantomime in school	9.30am	All years
Tue 19th	PTA School Disco	5pm-6pm	KS1
		6.15pm-7.30pm	KS2
Wed 20th	Last day of Autumn Term		
January' 2018			
Thurs 4th	Spring Term begins	8.45am-3.15pm	All years