



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



NEWSLETTER

A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum

Telephone: 01798 872007

September 2016

This term's Christian value is: Love

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our pupils and parents, both new and existing. I hope that you are all refreshed after a lovely summer holiday. The term has started well and there are currently 350 children on roll.



Fr. Paul's retirement

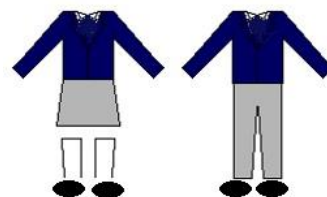


After 15 years of dedicated service to Pulborough, Fr. Paul is retiring. His last Eucharist at school will be a special Harvest Eucharist at 9.00am on Thursday 29th September. We hope to see as many parents, grandparents and friends as possible. The children will be preparing a special farewell for Fr. Paul which will be shared with him at that service. His last Sunday services with a sermon will be at 8.00 am and 10.30 am on Sunday 25th September. There will be refreshments afterwards. You are most welcome to attend. On October 1 there will be

an afternoon tea in the Village Hall between 4.00pm and 6.00pm to say goodbye to Fr. Paul and his family. His last Sunday will be 2nd October with services at both 8.00 am and 10.30 am when Sunday School will be in church along with some Uniformed Groups. Refreshments will be served after that service, too. Again, you are welcome to attend. Fr Paul has been a great supporter of St Mary's over the years and has been a very visible presence in the school, at school assemblies, in the support he gives to staff, his role as a Governor, the presence he has on the playground and the way he has helped families in his friendly and approachable way. He will be sorely missed by us as a school. We will be presenting him with gift vouchers at the Harvest Eucharist and if any parents would like to make a contribution to his leaving gift, donations can be left at the School Office. Please bring in any donations for Fr Paul by Friday 23 September.

School Uniform

A very big thank you to everyone for following the school guidelines on tying children's hair back with discreet blue, black or white ribbons, bows, slides, etc. Please also make sure that your child has the correct PE kit – blue / black shorts, a white T-shirt and plimsolls. Leggings and football shirts will not be allowed. I would like to remind you that school shoes should be black – please do not send your child in wearing coloured trainers. When it begins to get cold and children need to wear boots for walking to school, they will need to bring a pair of indoor shoes to change into. Children will not be allowed to wear their boots indoors.



Meeting with teachers

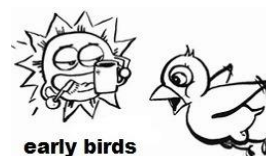


May I ask that if you wish to have a chat with your child's teacher, you do **not** go into the classroom first thing in the morning. It is a very busy time for the staff as they get their classrooms ready for the day. They are happy to make an appointment to see you after school, but please arrange this with them directly as Mrs Hancock doesn't have their timetables. There will be a 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday 21 September at 7.00pm. This is not a Parents Evening where you discuss your child's progress – those take place in the Spring and Summer terms.

We would also ask you not to bring your child to their classroom if they are in Year 2 or above. As a school we encourage independence in our pupils and coming into school on their own is a good start to this. Please wave them goodbye in the front playground and let them walk round to their classroom on their own. If your child finds it hard to leave you, please talk to Mrs Brown or their teacher for further advice and support.

The Early Bird Club

This club has got off to a flying start. This week, amongst other things, the children have designed the logo and signage for the newly commissioned Pulborough Neighbourhood Warden's van. Their artwork will soon be on display wherever the Neighbourhood Wardens go. If you wish to enrol your child in this club to aid your work schedule, please ask at the School Office for details.



A Day to Change the World

Last week we had a really exciting start to the new school year, featuring a Day to Change the World. This was sponsored by the local Lions and presented by '7 Billion Ideas Education'.



Children from across the school spent the day thinking of wonderful inventions that would really change the world. These included boats that could sweep the ocean floor of debris and contamination making our oceans cleaner and safer for the animals living there; ingenious devices that would help disabled people get dressed in the mornings; houses that were built to hover so that they could easily be transported from one place to another and many, many more. The winning team came from USA class where Isabelle, Josh, Reuben and Fleur came up with the idea of a Tremendous Telescope that would enable anyone unable to travel to see any parts of the world that interested them. The Tremendous Telescope could be used by disabled people, people who were unable to get a Passport,

people with a phobia of flying and people who could not afford the cost of travel, to name but a few. Next month Isabelle, Josh, Reuben and Fleur will present their idea at the finals to be held at The Weald School. Well done to all of you for your fantastic ideas.

Hot school meals



Please remember that these must be ordered well in advance. If your child requires a special diet it is very important that you share this information with Chartwells who will then inform you when they are able to meet your child's needs. While you are waiting for confirmation, we would recommend that you provide a packed lunch.

Can you help?



We have parents who live in Billingshurst who are finding that the times of local buses do not fit conveniently with school times. If you think you might be able to help with providing lifts to and / from school, even in the short term, please let Mrs Brown know.

PTA AGM – 4 October 3.30pm

Our PTA is a very active group who raise considerable sums to enhance the school environment; in recent years they have provided funds for the Trim Trail and they also provide funding for the school swimming pool in the summer. You are warmly invited to come along to their AGM for refreshments, especially if you might be interested in joining the committee, or if you just have some new and interesting ideas for fund-raising.

Time off for Illness



Please may I remind you that if your child is sick (vomiting) or has diarrhoea they **must** be kept away from school for 48 hours after the last episode. By implementing this we will prevent contagious diseases from spreading through the school.

Cancer Research Appeal

Thank you to everyone who supported us last term in our fund-raising for Cancer Research. We were able to send them a cheque for £175, a brilliant result.



Mrs Hancock's Abseil



During the summer holidays, Mrs Hancock and her eldest son went to Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth and abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower. Although she has abseiled before from 10m while on residential with Year 5, this was considerably higher as the starting point was 94m (approx. 300ft). She has raised over £1200 for repairs to the tower of St Mary's Church, West Chiltington so far. If you would like to make a donation towards this worthy cause, please speak to Mrs Hancock. "It was a fantastic experience, the weather was marvellous and the views were stunning. I would do it again!" she says.



Free Food Friday



Once again we are working in partnership with Tesco supermarket in their 'Free Food Friday' scheme. Every Friday they kindly donate fruit and bread products to the school which are then divided up and distributed to every classroom for the benefit of the children. Many thanks to Tesco!

Pulborough Harvest Fayre – 24 September

This is an annual event celebrating village life, rural crafts, food & drink & farming. Attractions include traditional funfair, animal displays, a bake-off, zip wires, fun dog show, scarecrow competition, tractor display and local foods and craft beers. It takes place between 11.00am - 5.00pm on the East Glebe Field, Pulborough RH20 1AD (opposite the Chequers) and in the Church. Entry to the Fayre is free and we look forward to seeing everyone there. The Scarecrow competition is always a highlight of the Fayre – if your child enters a scarecrow for the competition they may bring it into school on Monday 26 September where they will be shared with the whole school in our morning Assembly.



Christian Values



Every term we choose a Christian value to be a focus for the whole school. This term's value is Love and there is a splendid display in the Reception area featuring the hearts that have been created by the children. Do pop in to have a closer look.

Harvest Eucharist

This year's Harvest Eucharist will take place in School on Thursday September 29 at 9.00am. You are all very welcome to attend, the more the merrier. We will be donating tinned and dry goods to FSW after this year's service. If you would like to make a donation, please send it in with your child on September 29th. No baked beans, please! Other items could include toiletries, dry goods, such as biscuits and cereals, tinned fish and vegetables. Please do not send any fresh items, such as fruit and vegetables, as they cannot be stored. Thank you for your support.



Car Parking

Yet another plea to ask you to be careful about where you park when dropping off or collecting children from school. If you see cars parked partly on the pavement, on the yellow zigzag lines or blocking driveways, please either contact Operation Crackdown (www.operationcrackdown.org.uk) or pass the registration numbers on to the school. I would also ask that parents do **not** use the entrance to the school car park as a dropping off point or turning area. Again this poses a threat to children's safety and persistent offenders will be reported to Operation Crackdown. Please do NOT park where children and parents will have to walk out into the road to get around your car. The



Sports and Social Club have kindly offered us the use of their car park in the morning and afternoon – please take advantage of this offer and walk across the Rec to get to the school.

School Website

Don't forget that all the dates for the rest of this term are available on the school website. Please check it for information. It is regularly updated with photos, sports events, dates, newsletters, etc. It can be found at www.st-marys-pulborough.w-sussex.sch.uk



School Photographs



Tempest Photography will be coming in to school to take the individual photographs of the children on Wednesday 28 September. Please ensure that your child has clean school uniform for this. If your child has long hair, please make sure that it is tied back with a discreet hair tie.

School Gate

If you have to come into the school during the school day, please, please make sure that the blue gate closes behind you. If you try and slam it, the gate will bounce away from the magnet. It might take a couple of pulls for the magnet to catch, but please be patient. It is of the utmost importance that the gate is not left open, the security and safety of your children is paramount.

