



NEWSLETTER

Telephone: 01798 872007

July 2016

Pupil Premium Funding/Free School Meals

If you think your child might be eligible for the Pupil Premium Funding please take some time to look on the following website www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals. The site is very easy to follow and you can find out quickly if your child is eligible. Although the site only refers to Free School Meals the benefits of the Pupil Premium Grant go much further than that. At St Mary's children whose parents have registered for Free School Meals are entitled to benefits including **free school uniforms (including school shoes), free school visits (including residential visits), book tokens and in some cases free music tuition**. In order to receive the benefits of the Pupil Premium Grant parents **MUST** register for Free School Meals. This applies to ALL children including those in Reception, Year One and Year Two who get a free meal anyway. **Under current guidelines once you have registered for Free School Meals your child is then entitled to the Pupil Premium Grant for the following six years even if your circumstances change.** A separate application must be completed for each child in the family.



Early Birds Club

This club will run every morning from Tuesday 6th September. Places will be limited and allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis so you will need to book in advance to be sure of a place. For a fee of £4.00 per day children may be dropped off at school from 8.00am onwards. Children will no longer be able to be left at the School Office in the mornings. The club will not be a breakfast club, however children may bring a healthy early morning snack with them if you wish. A booking form will be sent out automatically next week to all those parents who returned the slip saying they were interested in the club. If you are interested in the club but did not return the slip, please ask at the School Office for a booking form.



early birds



KS2 Sports Day

We finally managed to complete our Key Stage Two sports day on Monday 4th July. Congratulations to Green and Yellow teams who were the joint winners. Thank you to Mr Partis and all the staff who rallied round to make this event so special.



Bring your Teddy to School Day



Thank you to everyone who joined in. The School Council raised £136.75 for FSW. Congratulations to Henry W who correctly guessed the name of the Bear – it was Marshmallow. Thank you to Mrs Robinson for organising this.

Parent questionnaire

Attached to this Newsletter you will find the Parent Questionnaire that Ofsted recommend is sent out to parents every year. It would be helpful if as many parents as possible could spend a few moments to complete this and return it to school before the end of term. In order to make it even easier to complete paper copies will be sent home with every child on Friday. The questionnaire is anonymous, but if you would like individual feedback, please enter your name at the end of the questionnaire.



Weald Reading festival.



Many thanks to Mrs Gooda and the Year 8 students from The Weald who came to St Mary's on Monday 4th July to share the books that they had made with our Year One children. Children from Thailand and Canada classes spent a very enjoyable hour sitting in the sunshine on the field listening to the stories the Weald students had written. Particular favourites included the story of a fish called Freddie, a dog who didn't like having a bath and a frog who travelled around the world.

Steel Band Carnival of the Animals.

Year Four put on a fantastic show inspired by both their current topic and the Rio Carnival. They wore magnificent headdresses that they had designed and made themselves depicting rainforest plants and creatures and performed their very own samba music and dance.



Billingshurst Garden Competition



Final judging for the Billingshurst Garden Competition took place on Monday 11th July. Mrs Callender and some of the Reception class children took the judges on a tour of our Peter Rabbit-inspired gardens which included real rabbits, a special visit from Mr McGregor and giant sunflowers that had been made by children in Year One. We have been assured by the judges that it was a very strong field and we came third. We will receive a cheque for £25 as our prize. Well done to everyone for their hard work!

Alice, the Musical!

Many thanks to all the staff, parents, children, ex-pupils and friends who came to help put up the Big Top on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July. It was really good to see some new faces as well as the experienced 'crew'. Watching the Big Top go up was certainly exciting but then the real work of putting up the stage, the scaffold towers, the lighting and the sound system began – not to mention putting out all the chairs, curtains, stage props and costumes. Of course, having set everything up, it all has to come down again. If you are able to help on either Saturday 16th or Sunday 17th, please let us know.



School reading books



Please could everyone have a really good search at home for any school reading or library books. We spend hundreds of pounds every year on books and it would be nice to think that this money was increasing our stock of books rather than just replacing books that have gone missing.

After-School Care

Mrs Claire Walters, an experienced childminder who many of you will already know, has let us know that she may have some vacancies in September. If you are looking for a childminder from September please call in at the School Office to collect one of Claire's cards. She is also available throughout the summer holidays.



Private Fostering



We have been asked by the Local Authority to include this message in our Newsletter to all parents.

Do you provide a home for someone else's child?

*If you have an arrangement to care for someone under 16 who is not your own child for 28 days or more and you are **not** a close relative, this is called Private Fostering (a close relative would be a grandparent, aunt, uncle or adult sibling).*

It is an offence not to notify your local authority of a private fostering arrangement. So if you – or someone you know – have a private fostering arrangement in place, please don't ignore it.

West Sussex County Council can provide advice and support about the arrangement –including mentoring, childcare information and legal advice.

To notify us of a private fostering arrangement, or seek further advice, please call us on 01403 229900 or e-mail MASH@westsussex.gov.uk.

Classical guitar lessons

Conor Miles, an ex-pupil of St Mary's, has recently completed his music degree and is now offering private classical guitar lessons. Conor has many fond memories of St Mary's, including being taught by Mrs Callender, Mrs Copus and Mrs Berry. In September Conor will be coming into school for a special Assembly when he will play the classical guitar to the whole school. If you or your children are interested in starting classical guitar lessons, please call in at the School Office to collect one of Conor's business cards.



School uniform

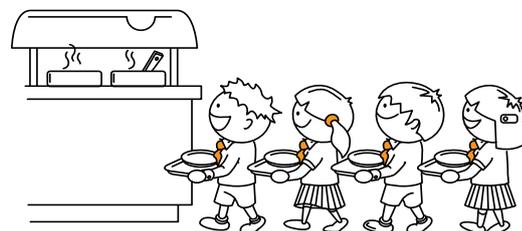


In the last few weeks of the summer term we have been extremely accommodating over school uniform. However, from the start of the Autumn term the expectation will be that **all** children wear the correct St Mary's uniform of grey trousers/skirts/pinafores, white polo shirts and navy sweatshirts/jumpers/cardigans. Shoes should be black and socks/tights should be black, grey or white. Children with long hair

should have it tied back with discreet blue, black or white bands, ribbons or clips. Glittery bows and head bands will not be allowed.

Chartwells Job vacancy

A catering vacancy has arisen in the school kitchen. Term time only, lunch time hours (2 hours per day), uniform and training supplied in advance. A full DBS check will be carried out prior to acceptance. For further information please call Nicola Eves on 07917 210121 or email nicola.eves@compass-group.co.uk



Missing uniform

Whilst on the subject of uniforms please could you take a few moments to check that your child has not picked up someone else's sweatshirt. A number of sweatshirts have gone missing even though they have been clearly named. If you discover that you have the wrong one, please return it to your child's class teacher so that it can be returned to its rightful owner.

Class names and teachers for next year

Class names and teachers for next year will be as follows:

Reception – Mrs Callender in UK and Mrs Huntley-Hart in Austria

Year One – Mrs Nethercleft in Canada and Miss Field in Thailand

Year Two – Mrs Martin-Wells in Jamaica and Miss Wilkins in India

Year Three – Mr Fletcher in New Zealand

Year Three/Four – Miss McElduff in Ireland

Year Four – Miss Turner in USA

Year Five – Mrs Robinson in China and Mr Rogers in Mexico

Year Six – Mr Partis in South Africa and Mrs Berry in Japan



On the last day of term Year Six leavers may bring a spare T-Shirt to school for signing by their friends and staff. Children in Years R to Five will visit their new classes on the afternoon of Wednesday 20th July and next year's Reception children will also be coming in. Letters informing you of which class your child will be in next year will be sent home on Friday 15 July.

Next term will start on **Tuesday 6 September 2016.**

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy and restful Summer break and also to thank you all, staff, parents and children, for making me so welcome in my first year at St Mary's.

