



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



NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love"

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 26th February 2024

St Mary's church for worship – Today year 3 and 4 walked up to church to share worship with Father Paul. The children learnt all about St David, as today it is St David's day. They learnt that St David is the patron Saint of Wales. He was from West Wales and was born on top of a cliff in a storm. He was a monk and then became a bishop. He spread the stories of Jesus and created new churches across England, Wales and parts of France. There is a place in Wales that is called St David and a cathedral is placed on the area where the first church was founded. Every church in Wales has either a stain glass window or a statue of him.



Christian values – This week whole school worship has been about walking in the steps of others and being compassionate. We never know what someone else is going through and in a world where you can be anything, be kind!

Kingfishers - Last year, Kingfishers and Ladybirds made two bug hotels in St Mary's Churchyard... and they now have lots of bugs in them! If you are interested, Mrs Smith and Christine Lindsay (our church eco rep) will be at the churchyard this Saturday morning (2nd March) between 10 and 11am so you can have a look at the wonderful wildlife in the hotels – you might want to wear your wellies though as its particularly wet after the recent rainfall. Christine is very knowledgeable and really brings the subject to life so it is well worth a pop in. Weather permitting of course! It would be lovely to see you there.

Hinduism - Years 5 and 6 have been learning about Hinduism in RE this half term. We have looked at the Hindu belief that there are four spiritual pathways to achieve moksha. We have also learnt about the celebration of Janmashtami – a festival which takes place annually to celebrate the earthly appearance of the Hindu god Krishna. This showed different ways that Hindus express devotion towards a deity. The children have made clay models of Krishna and decorated them using colours from traditional Hindu stories.



Curriculum maps – In this half of the spring term, UK and Thailand are learning about Space, India and Italy are learning about Memory Box and memories from the past. Year 3 have started Urban Pioneers, and Year 4 are learning about Misty Mountains, Winding River. Mexico, South Africa and Japan have started learning about 'Off with her Head'. These are great topics and so much new learning. Homework grids and knowledge organisers are on the class webpages.

Reflection – [Wisdom \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Ex-pupils – We are delighted to see that one of our ex-pupils, Jimmy Staples has been named in the England U18 squad for the England v France in the rugby. We wish Jimmy every success in his career.

Reading logs – Reading is the most important thing that can influence educational success and something that we are very keen to push.

Reading is a great habit. Like all habits, it needs repetition and regularity to establish itself. Because it needs quiet time, and our lives today are very short of this, parents need to create it for their children. This means consciously making time and keeping interruptions to a minimum. The earlier parents can start, the better as it allows the maximum time for their child to grow up with reading and for the love to take root, grow and become part of their life. And what an enriched life that will be. There is so much research but reading can have a huge impact on educational outcomes and so we love it when parents write in their child's reading log. This can even be a story that a parent/grandparent has read at bedtime.

Weald Book Awards - The Year 6 children Weald Book Award group attended the eagerly anticipated Finals Evening on Tuesday. Since commencing the project in October, the children have been set the challenge of reading six new titles and participating in a number of directed tasks based upon their reading material. During the evening, we were able to listen to four of the six authors (Jessica Scott-Whyte, Kirsty Applebaum, Thomas Leeds and Lucy Hope) speaking in person; the other two (Jennifer Killick and Kieran Larwood) joined via Zoom.

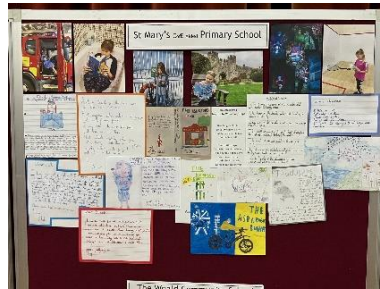
The following children were announced as competition winners, each receiving a certificate for their efforts:
Anna - Photo, Martha - Front Cover Design, Lexi - Poem, Aaron - Book Character, Olivia A - Letter.

We were excited to learn that 'Jayben and the Golden Torch' by Thomas Leeds was voted as this year's overall winner. Thomas inspired us all with his extraordinary life story; as a young adult, he suffered a serious brain injury in an accident, which resulted in him losing all of his memory. This also left him with epilepsy and he had to learn how to read and write again. Thomas wanted to write an adventure narrative in which the main character has a hidden disability, and the story of Jayben is based on his own life experiences. His book is a story of hope and courage, and his talk concluded with the key message, 'If something is not impossible, then you can do it!'

Congratulations to the following children for their commitment to the project throughout the year:

South Africa: Olivia A, Martha, Aaron, Scarlett, Rowan, Niamh

Japan: Lexi, Flynn A, Elani, Anna, Olivia L



Word Millionaire – Dan P is now on 6,342,769, Bea G is on 2,057,179 and Niamh R is on 1,052,771. Martha B is 2,348,314, Rowan S is 1,646,631 and Ella C is nearly there on 953,801!

Stinger Netball – Well done to the Netball Team who played at The Weald in a ‘Stinger’ tournament this week. Oscar (Mex), Daisy (SA), Martha (SA), Toby (Mex), Anna (Jap), Rex (Mex) and Elani (Jap) participated and came 3rd out of the 9 schools competing - we are very proud of their achievements. Thank you to Miss Sleat for taking them.



Tag Rugby – A group of Year 3 and 4 children went to Horsham Rugby Club to take part in a Tag Rugby Festival. They had a great time and we are very proud of them for being presented the ‘Spirit of the Games’ award for demonstrating great sportsmanship and team values. Well done Freddie O, Freddie B, Freddie N, Max H, Anthony, Poppy, Delilah, Archie-Deane. Thank you to Mrs Castle for taking them.



Tanbridge Boys Football – Friday was an emotional day as the Year 6 Boys' football team travelled to Tanbridge



House for their final tournament representing St Mary's in the Horsham Primary Schools District. The boys recovered from a 4-0 thrashing in the opening game against eventual winners, Heron Way to register a 2-0 victory over Castlewood with both goals coming from the in-form Leo D. The boys had a difficult start in their third game leaking three goals early on before going down to a 4-0 defeat against

Kingslea. A much improved second half performance in their fourth game resulted in a 2-1 win against Leechpool B with Leo D grabbing both goals. Some fine saves from the Southwater B goalkeeper denied the boys a third win as their fifth game ended 0-0. This led to a 5th/6th place play-off game against Northolmes. Just as the boys began their journey together as a team in October 2021 with a 2-0 win so they ended it with the same result and goal scorer to finish in fifth place. Well done on another great team effort - Leo D (c), Harrison P, Rylee J, Dexter B, Endre D, Joseph S, Franco F, Flynn F and Jens C.



Easter chicks – It is a long standing tradition at St Mary's to hatch our own Easter chicks before they head off home with one of our staff members to live out their lives on a lovely free range farm. The eggs are in the incubator and we are looking forward to watching them hatch ... give it a few weeks!



PE – Mexico class have been experimenting with balances, jumps and rolls and have been using the equipment to really challenge their own ability. Their confidence really developed during the sequence of lessons.



VR Headsets – Italy class, India class, SL class and Ireland class used the VR Headsets this week to further embed the learning in class and find out more and give them an up-close and personal experience. India did some polar exploring and looked at polar animals up close, Sierra Leone visited mountains around the world so we now know what mountains look like and Ireland class visited some famous landmarks in Australia such as the Barrier Reef and Sydney.



Henry Adams competition – Dee from Henry Adams came to visit this week to tell us about an exciting completion they are running with a theme of this summer's Olympic Games. Details are attached below and we would love the children to take part if possible.

Sierra Leone – Jewellery sale for Sierra Leone – Thank you to everyone who came to the jewellery sale for Education West Africa. There were some lovely bits.



Science days – We have science days on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th March – do you have a career that is based on Science? Could you run a science workshop for a group of children? Carry out an investigation? Do let the office know if you can help in any way.

Celebration assemblies - Spring term – These will start at 9am.

Thur 7th Mar – NZ

Thur 14th Mar – Ireland

Thur 21st Mar – India





Vine leaves – Audrey (SA) for wisdom as her reading is flourishing, what a fantastic log of her reading activities and how much she is reading. **Bailey (Ita), Ted (Ire)** and **Georgie (Jap)** for perseverance as their guitar playing is accelerating so quickly due to the effort they are putting in. **Rosie O (Mex)** for her humility as she kept encouraging others to push themselves. **Victoria L (Ire)** for compassion as Victoria always looks out for others, and tries her best to make sure everyone feels included. **Imogen (Ind)** for showing wisdom and perseverance with her multiplication and division work. **George (Ind)** for showing courage and perseverance with forming his letters correctly. **Alfie (Ind)** for showing service by always offering to help me and his friends in class. **Aurelio (Ita)** for humility as Aurelio gave up his seat and a VR headset when his friend was upset. **Sienna (Ita)** and **Macie (Ita)** for wisdom as the girls excelled in our maths topic and were able to support their friends to succeed too. **Delilah (SL)** and **Freya (SL)** for perseverance. They both always follow the class charter and always work to the very best of their ability in every subject or activity. **Lacey (SA)** has been awarded for bravery as she has coped so well after an incident this week. **Minnie (SA)** for kindness as you have helped another child with their learning brilliantly this week. **Lily (SA)** for wisdom as you have listened carefully to feedback and used this to help you improve. **Ivy (Mex)** for humility as she was the only child that cleared up without being asked to do so.

Kindness Shield – MARCH – Skye T (SA) - I could list a million qualities that you have but I will start with compassion, kindness, thoughtfulness, humility, faith and peace. We have watched you grow during your time at St Mary's and you have always been 100% committed to these values. Keep being you Skye as the world can learn lots from your example.

Chartwell's Easter Celebration Meal – Don't forget to order your child's Easter meal. Booking for this **must** be done by **Thursday 14th March**.

March Cut off Dates

Thur 07/03 for w/c 18/03
Thur 14/03 for w/c 25/03
EASTER HOLIDAYS



April Cut off Dates

Thur 04/04 for w/c 15/04
Thur 11/04 for w/c 22/04
Thur 18/04 for w/c 29/04

Dates for your diary – SPRING TERM

- **Monday 26th February** – Fairtrade Fortnight
- **Monday 4th March** – SPLASH at school
- **Thur 7th Mar** – World Book Day – Come to school in costume dressed as a book character
- **Thur 7th March** – Steyning Book Shop - Book Sale – the children can use the £1 voucher towards a book 3pm onwards
- **Friday 15th March** – Reports come out to parents
- **Friday 15th March** – Red Nose Day and donation of £1
- **Monday 18th March** – Weald and Downland Museum – Italy and India
- **Tue 19th and Thur 21st Mar** – Parents' Evenings 3.30 – 6pm – these will be back in school with a book look at the same time, so please be aware of this.
- **Friday 22nd March** – Thailand/UK to church
- **Tue 26th Mar** – Easter Play Y3/Y4 – Perform to parents
- **Thur 28th Mar** – Last Day of term – Easter Eggstravaganza and Easter Eucharist (Easter bonnet competition)

Hettie S (ind) – received two new badges at Beavers; one for learning about Space and one to celebrating a Beaver for one year



Olivia A (SA) – awarded 'Swimmer of the Month' at Atlantis Swimming Squad - 'Olivia has shown brilliant commitment to significantly improve her swimming, and has attended every session this month. She also consistently demonstrates great technique'

Dan P (SA) - qualified for several events at the Sussex County Swim Championships. He came home with a bronze medal for the 4x50m freestyle relay, 4 PBs, and a top-12 finish in 100m butterfly, 50m backstroke and 400m freestyle.

Jens C (Jap) – moved up to stage 10 in swimming

James H (Ind) – received a medal at rugby

MULTI-SPORT SCHOOL

 THE WEALD SCHOOL, RH14 9RY

 8TH, 9TH, 10TH APRIL

 9AM - 3PM

1DAYS: £25 2DAYS: £45 3DAYS: £60

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AGED 4+

DAY OF SPORT

- FOOTBALL
 - NETBALL AND BASKETBALL
 - DISC GOLF
 - CRICKET
- AND PLENTY MORE!**

INFO@1-1PC.CO.UK
TO BOOK TODAY



REACH THE
ULTIMATE



Autism and Social Communication Advisory Team

Exploring Autism for Parents and Carers

A new and updated programme
offering up to date thinking and links
to research-based evidence for parent
carers of autistic children
and young people.



Sessions to explore Autism and strategies to support acceptance, empowerment, and relationships in family life.

Are you a parent/carer of a child or young person, aged 8-16 years, who is autistic or on the social communication pathway and have not attended this course before?

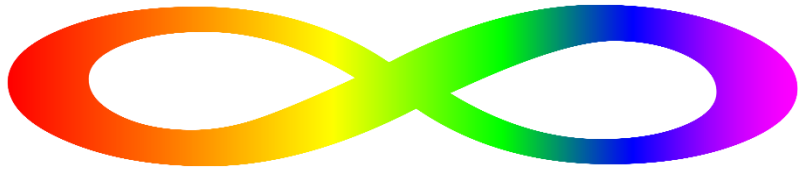
This NEW programme has been redeveloped to ensure that it is current and up to date. The course is an excellent source of information for those new to Autism or for those requiring a little more in-depth knowledge. Parent carers and the facilitators will learn and collaborate together. The programme is free of charge to families of children in West Sussex maintained schools and academies, at this time.

Course aims:

- to give a broad and balanced and positive view of how autism and social communication differences may impact on the child/young person's life and that of the family.
- to explore key practical strategies that can support autistic children.
- to provide a forum for families to share their experiences and expertise together.

Course outline:

The six sessions will be focused on both theoretical and practical aspects of autism and the resulting strengths and challenges. These recorded sessions can be watched when convenient to the family, followed by the one hour weekly group meeting. This provides opportunity to participate in discussions and ask questions via an online platform. We ask that parents attend each of these weekly online discussion groups.



In order for participants to fully benefit from this course we ask that they attend **all** sessions.

Topics covered by session:

Session 1: Autism Acceptance

Develop understanding of autism, discuss experiences of getting a diagnosis and identify how autism can affect families.

Session 2: Communication

Develop understanding of communication difficulties and strategies to improve communication and interaction skills for the autistic child/young person.

Session 3: Sensory Needs

Consider how sensory information and experiences may be processed differently by those who are autistic, share strategies to help with sensory differences.

Session 4: Anxiety

Improve understanding of the signs of distress that autistic young people may display and consider approaches to support self-regulation.

Session 5: Social Thinking and Masking

Explore the differences autistic young people may have with socialising and developing relationships. Look at ways to develop social thinking, explore the idea and impact of masking.

Session 6: Adolescence and Independence

Consider ways to encourage independence and manage adolescence challenges including puberty, sensory impact and social differences.

Exploring Autism Welcome Video:

<https://youtu.be/JqGPImJH8Ms>

Dates:

Spring 2: Every Thursday 12-1pm from 22nd February to the 28th March 2024.

Summer: Every Thursday 6.30-7.30pm from 18th April to the 23rd May 2024.

Summer 2: Every Wednesday 1-2pm from 5th June – 10th July 2024.

Summer Holidays: 6.30-7.30pm Dates TBC

For further details please contact:

Email: ASCT@westsussex.gov.uk

Please note there are a limited number of places on this course.