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November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Congratulations to our first golden STARS (Success, Teamwork, Aspiration, Resilience, Respect and Responsibility) of the half term from each class – these children are chosen for their work and behaviour over the whole half term. The first winners of 19/20 were:

Kestrel Belle

Sparrowhawk Nora

Buzzard Lola

## Parents' Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended parents' evenings before half term. A brief overview of the meeting's notes will be sent to you over the next couple of weeks. These are built on throughout the year and by summer form an end of year report. If you were unable to make the dates, please book an appointment with your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

## Bury Boo Fest

A huge thank you to FOBS for another great event as they held the Bury Boo Fest over the half term holidays. If you would like to get involved with FOBS more in any capacity, please do express your interest to the chair, Mrs Creber, or email [FOBS@bury.school](mailto:FOBS@bury.school)

## Small Schools Funding and the West Sussex Consultation

Before we broke up for the half term I was asked to present to the county council regarding the impact of the National Funding Formula (NFF) on small schools. I should stress that due to our increasing pupil numbers, the detail of the funding is not adversely impacting on us at this point – however it means we are receiving less than other larger schools per pupil. Following the presentation to the council, I had already set up a meeting with our MP, Nick Herbert and our finance governor, Athalia Atkins sharing, the impact of the NFF on small schools nationwide and therefore across the South Downs and West Sussex. Nick Herbert was keen to get this message to government and over the half term invited me to share my concerns with the schools' minister, Nick Gibb. Yesterday afternoon I visited the House of Commons to present my concerns to Nick Gibb and members of the Department for Education where he



said there had been an oversight with how the new formula negatively impacts small schools. He tasked the DfE members with looking into how this could be rectified. He was vocally very supportive of small schools and their place in the education system. As to whether this will result in any significant change in future I wait to see.

I will stress again that we are not in a precarious financial position due to our increasing numbers. I am only too aware that there are other small schools across the country that are not in a similar position. Having worked in both large and small schools, I firmly believe that the all-round quality of education and experiences which a small school can offer cannot be replicated in a larger setting, and that for some parents this makes the small school the ideal environment for their child. I firmly believe this is a preference which must remain available for parents when choosing their child's school and as such felt I had to take the opportunity to explain the issues to the schools' minister and the DfE.

As I say, the minister acknowledged the oversight with the new funding formula and hopefully this has a long-term positive impact on small school funding across the country.

The local authority (LA) is currently consulting on the 'Proposed Reorganisation of Rural and Small Schools in West Sussex'. Five schools have been identified by the LA and form part of the consultation: Clapham and Patching CE Primary, Compton & Up Marden CE Primary, Rumboldswyke CE Infant, Stedham Primary and Warninglid Primary. The LA have requested that schools in the wider area share this consultation with their families so that a wider view is sought.

<https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/strategic-planning-and-place/rural-and-small-schools/>

Whilst I think you will find it very hard to comment on the specific schools in question, there is an email address which you can share your views on small schools and the many strengths they have. If you would like to share your views, please do so by emailing:  
[schoolconsultations@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:schoolconsultations@westsussex.gov.uk)

## Children in Need (15<sup>th</sup> November)

To support Children in Need we will be having a multi-day, please bring a donation for whatever you can afford. This week's cake raffle proceeds will also go towards Children in Need so please bring an extra £1 for a strip of tickets.

## Birthdays

For our new parents. Children can wear their own clothes for the day (or a day either side of the holiday) when it is their birthday. Historically, lots of sweets such as small bags of Haribo have been brought in to give out at the end of the day. The sweets invariably produce a huge amount of rubbish and are gone within seconds. In its place, we thought that instead of sweets



it would be a good idea to buy a book for the school/class. The children then present the book to the school in assembly before placing it in our school library. If there was a message inscribed it would keep reminding the child of their birthday every time either they or a friend borrow the book. The link below is an Amazon wish list where the staff and children have selected some books that they would like for school.

## [Birthday Book wish list](#)

Please don't feel constrained by the list, nor feel you have to get them through Amazon – locally we have great bookshops in Arundel and Petworth both of which have a very good selection of children's books.

Please do add your views to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. It is incredibly helpful to us for you to share the positives of what is going on at Bury CE Primary; if you have the time and would like to share the good work we are doing then please do add your feedback. Excerpt below taken from ParentView website.

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected.

We will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when.

Click 'Give your views' to register and complete a survey to help your child's school improve.

It is parents' responsibility to inform the school of any changes to consent to administer medicine.

It is parents' responsibility to keep us informed of changes to your personal data and where the school process personal data solely on the basis that you have consented to the processing, you have the right to withdraw that consent.

## Diary Dates

I will try to give you as much notice as possible about forthcoming events at school. We will try not to change dates and times, but sometimes we do need to due to circumstances beyond our control.

Please keep checking these dates and times as I will update them every week. New dates added are in bold.

Date	Event
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Inter-Faith event at Easebourne Primary (Yrs 5 and 6)</b>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Children in Need</b>
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Buzzard Class Residential to Hindleap
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	14:45 Kestrel Class music performance to parents
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Splash Assembly – All welcome
Tuesday December 10 <sup>th</sup> PM (14:00)	Kestrel's Nativity
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas Craft Enterprise (more to follow)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> AM (9:30)	Kestrel's Nativity



Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Singing to the village at the annual village lunch – all children collected from village hall
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christingle at Church 14:30
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET
Thursday March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Author Visit
Friday May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sports Morning
Monday July 20 <sup>th</sup>	INSET

Thank you for your continued support.

Thomas Moore,  
Headteacher