



4th January 2018

Issue 168

Upcoming School Events

Friday 5 th January	8.45am	FoAS Meeting
Monday 8 th January		Violin & Brass Lessons Re-Start
Friday 12 th January	9am	Assembly to Introduce Puppet Theatre Project with Berwick Church
Monday 15 th January	2.30pm	Violin & Brass Assembly
Thursday 18 th January	All Day	Census Day
Monday 22 nd January	3.15pm	Brass Lessons Information Meeting for Parents with Mrs Kearley

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas Thanks

On behalf of all the staff I would like to say thank you very much for the lovely cards and gifts you kindly gave us for Christmas. The carol service in the church at the end of term was a fitting start to the Christmas Holidays. Now we are looking forward to 2018 and to seeing the children continuing to work hard and experience success with their learning journeys.

Attendance

As per our most recent Ofsted report which stated ‘leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that all pupils have good, regular attendance’, we will be publishing attendance and punctuality figures each week in the newsletter for each class as well as for the whole school. Each class will use a traffic light system for attendance where green is for 100% - 98%, yellow for 98% - 96% and red for less than 96%.

Our whole school target is 96%. Figures for the whole school:

Week Beginning	Attendances	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Lates
11 th December 2017	96.42%	3.11%	0.47%	1.23%

Week Beginning	Class	Attendance	Late	Traffic Light
11 th December 2017	Pearl	97.50%	1.88%	
	Ruby	96.67%	1.33%	
	Sapphire	96.67%	1.00%	
	Emerald	95.33%	1.00%	

Celebration Assembly

As usual there will be celebration assembly tomorrow at 9am when all family and friends are welcome to attend, however we will not be announcing any Stars of the Week due to it being a short week upon our return from the Christmas break.

Cross Country Tournament

On the 14th December the school was represented by a group of our Year 5 and 6 children in a cross country tournament competing against other local primary schools at Cradle Hill School. The team comprised of Andrew, Evie, Jack, Lola, Lorcan, Oliver and Ted. They all did amazingly well and, as a result, many are going on to represent the school at the next level of the competition. We are very proud of them all for their efforts, with special mention to Lola who came 1st in the competition out of 24 girls and to Andrew for coming 2nd out of 31 boys! We look forward to reporting on how they get on in the next stage of the competition, the South Downs Area Finals, in due course.

Clubs

A separate letter regarding the clubs for this term will be going home today. Please complete the reply slip for your child/children if they wish to take part in any of the clubs. Please note that a new reply slip is required for this term even if your child took part in the club last term.

Violin Lessons and Brass Lessons & Assembly

Violin lessons with Mrs Cane-Hardy and brass lessons with Mrs Kearley will re-start on Monday 8th January. On Monday 15th January, there will be a violin and brass assembly at 2.30pm, to which parents and carers are invited. The following week, on Monday 22nd January, Mrs Kearley will hold a meeting after school for parents who are interested in brass lessons for their child/children.

Census Day

Thursday 18th January is national School Census Day. The Government currently funds a universal infant free school meal for children in Key Stage 1 and the funding for these meals is based on the number of infant children who have a school meal on census day. The school only receives funding for the amount of free school meals actually eaten on census day. Consequently, if your child doesn't have a school meal on this day, but does on any other day within the school year, the school must fund the school meals from our teaching and curriculum budget. We are keen to avoid this especially at a time of challenging budgets. Therefore we would like to see as many children as possible from Pearl and Ruby Classes having a school meal on 18th January. To help with this, our meal provider, Chartwells, has decided to offer a special, popular menu to the children for lunch. The meal choice for Census Day is: fish fingers or bean and potato burrito, both served with chips, baked beans and garden peas or a jacket potato with a choice of fillings. Dessert options are soft cheese and biscuits, fresh fruit or yogurt. If your child doesn't usually have a school lunch on a Thursday, but would like to on the 18th, please advise the school office by 9am on Monday 15th January.

We are allowing children in Sapphire and Emerald Classes to have a school meal and enjoy this special menu as well if they would like. If they usually have a packed lunch, please send in £2.10 per meal to the school office in an envelope with your child's name by 9am on Monday 15th January. If your child usually has a school meal on Thursdays, then there is no need to do anything.

Please note that for Friday 19th January the meal choices have changed and they will be organic beef bolognese or vegetable biryani, both served with sweetcorn and fresh broccoli as well as jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings. The dessert options will be carrot and pineapple cake, fresh fruit or yogurt.

Bad Weather Procedure

We thought we would remind you of the procedure for bad weather as we start another year. In the event of snow or flooding, the school will take a decision as early as possible about whether to open or not. Please be assured that the decision to close the school is never taken lightly, but is based on the health and safety of children, parents and staff travelling to and from the school, the ability to operate the school safely during the day and the conditions in Alfriston itself. If a decision is made to close the school, this is put on:

- the school website, <http://www.alfriston.e-sussex.sch.uk>
- the list of closed schools on the East Sussex website www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/schoolclosures
- local radio, Heart FM on 102.4-103.5FM and at <http://www.heart.co.uk/sussex>
- an Eschools email or text is sent out
- a notice on the school gate/door (only possible if a member of staff can get to the school).

If the decision is made to open the school, children should come to school equipped to play in the snow – good coats, wellies, hats, gloves and scarves. If the school is open, but your particular circumstances make it unsafe to travel to school, please let us know. In this case absence is authorised. Please make sure the school has up to date contact details including mobile phone numbers and if possible an alternative local contact. Hopefully we will not have to close the school at short notice.

News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS)

Email friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to our first **meeting** of the new year this Friday, 5th January, at 8.45am in the library. We will let you know what exciting events and activities we have planned in next week's newsletter. Please do come and join us!

December's **100 Club** winner was Mr Windsor whose lucky number 56 won him a bumper £36.50! Woo hoo! Our next 100 Club draw will be Friday 26th January.

The schools 'children's self-portrait' **canvas bags** were a real hit - so much so that we have made enquiries to order some more. If you would like a bag, and haven't commented on our Facebook page, then please get in touch ASAP – we only need to order 6 more bags to meet the minimum required order number.

Flapjack Friday is back tomorrow - and every Friday throughout the term - and we would love some more volunteer bakers please (expenses are covered!). Please let us know if you could bake something for us. 😊

Do get in touch via our **Facebook page or email** – our address is friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com

Love Eleanor and the FoAS committee 😊

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher

Community Events

Rotary Photo Competition – Seaford Rotary Club are holding a Young Photographer Competition which is the first stage of a national competition run by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland. The aim of the competition is to encourage young people to experiment with photography, use digital or traditional methods of photography, show interpretation of their chosen topic and express their ideas through the medium of photography. The competition is open to students in full time education and is divided into 3 age groups (as of 31st August 2017): junior (7 - 10 years), intermediate (11 -13 years) and senior (14 – 17 years). The task is to produce a portfolio of 3 photos based upon the theme, 'A Different Perspective'. There will be prizes awarded to each age group. Entries must be accompanied by the official competition entry form and will close on Sunday 14th January 2018. The forms are available at www.seafordrotary.org.uk or from Fotobox at 22 Broad Street, Seaford. There is no charge to enter.