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Issue 169

## Upcoming School Events

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	9am	Assembly to Introduce Puppet Theatre Project with Berwick Church
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	2.30pm	Violin & Brass Assembly
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	All Day	Census Day
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	3.15pm	Brass Lessons Information Meeting for Parents with Mrs Kearley
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	4.30pm	Full Governing Body Meeting

Dear Parents/Carers,

## 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
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	92.77%	6.60%	0.63%	1.10%

Week Beginning	Class	Attendance	Late	Traffic Light
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	Pearl	96.88%	1.04%	
	Ruby	96.67%	0.00%	
	Sapphire	95.56%	1.67%	
	Emerald	83.89%	1.67%	

Unfortunately our attendance figures were affected last week by several children being unwell. Like much of the local community, we seem to have been hit by seasonal illnesses.

## Puppet Theatre Project

This term the children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to take part in a puppet theatre project being run by Rust and Stardust Productions with Berwick Church. Eleanor Conlon and Katie Sommers, from the puppet theatre company, are performing a 15 minute show, which they have created especially for the school, this Friday during celebration assembly to demonstrate the sort of thing that the children will be involved in. Parents are warmly invited to attend the assembly. All the children from the school will be involved in a whole school creative day on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February and will contribute to the show. A letter will be sent out next week outlining the project and inviting the Years 5 and 6 pupils to sign up to the afterschool clubs.

## **Art Sessions**

A letter was sent home at the start of this week to children in Emerald Class regarding art sessions for this term. Please can a reply slip be completed for every child and returned to the office by tomorrow.

## **Maths House Competition**

Yesterday we held a maths competition for the whole school. Great teamwork was displayed by all the teams and lots of fun was had with the overall winner being Windover.

## **Clubs**

A separate letter regarding the clubs for this term was sent home at the end of last week. Please complete the reply slip for your child/children if they wish to take part in any of the clubs (Lego Club is now full). Please note that a new reply slip is required for this term even if your child took part in the club last term.

## **Netball Tournament**

The Alfriston All Stars will be taking part in a netball tournament later this term. A letter has been sent home to team members. Please can the reply slip be returned to the school office as soon as possible if your child/children would like to take part.

## **Cricket Competition**

Later this term we will be taking a team of Years 5 and 6 children to compete in an indoor cricket competition, which is being organised and run by Sussex Cricket, against other local primary schools. The overall winner of the competition will then be invited to attend the County Finals. If your child has received a letter inviting them to play at this event, please return the reply slip to the school office as soon as possible.

## **Violin Lessons and Brass Lessons & Assembly**

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

## **Census Day**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, please advise the school office by 9am on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> January. If your child usually has a school meal on Thursdays, then there is no need to do anything.

Please note that for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS)

Email [friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com)

Our first meeting of the new year saw us discussing a variety of events and activities to take place over the next few months up to the Easter break. This term will be quite quiet for us then we hope to have another **'Curry and Race Night'** after the half term break with a provisional date of Friday 23rd February. A 'Curry and Race Night' is a fun, adult only evening that we trialled for the first time last year – obviously the 'Curry' is a Curry dinner but the 'Race' involves a race track, wooden horses, hurdles, hedges, water trenches, some giant dice and a whole lot of betting! Great fun! More details to follow if we can get it booked. We are also planning an **Easter hat workshop** and a **drawing/colouring competition** – this time for the children 😊. For the summer term, as well as the usual sports day and summer fair, we are planning a **'Family BBQ and Quiz Night'** on 6th July. Again more details to follow! Mrs Hudson joined us for our meeting and we discussed what we would spend our money on. The school are currently getting quotes to renovate and extend the children's **outdoor/playground activity trail** and we hope to be able to fund that. We are also buying a new **gazebo** to replace the one that was damaged after sports day. Mr Gratwick has requested some funds to allow him to hire hall space to organise an **inter-school football challenge** AND we are trying to organise a FoAS funded whole school **day out** probably in the summer term. As well as all this we are investigating cost effective options that will reduce the running costs of the **swimming pool** and so save us money in the long term. If you would like a 'children's self-portrait' **canvas bag** and haven't commented on our Facebook page thread then please get in touch ASAP.

**Flapjack Friday** is back tomorrow - and every Friday throughout the term - and thank you so much to all the people who have volunteered to bake! 😊

Do get in touch via our **Facebook page or email** – our address is [friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalfristonschool@gmail.com)

Our next **100 Club** draw will be Friday 26th January and our next **meeting** will be Friday 2nd February.

Love Eleanor and the FoAS committee 😊

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher