

WELCOME TO TERM 2



We have had a busy start to the new school year with lots of learning and fun throughout the school. We have already enjoyed a Victorian Day, a trip to Fishbourne and the Anne of Cleves House, a visit from the Toy museum, a Harvest assembly and various sporting events! Throughout the school the children have settled extremely well into their new classes. It has been lovely watching the new Reception children (Red Rabbits) settle in. They have made an impressive start and after only a few weeks at school were confident enough to join the rest of the school on the field at lunchtimes.

This term we have successfully introduced our school 'Dojo's' as a system for rewarding key learning strengths. The children have been overwhelmingly positive about the Dojo's and we are looking forward to explaining more about them to parents after their class's Friday assembly in the coming terms. .

It was great to see parents at our coffee mornings for each class and we had nearly 100% attendance at our parent teacher meetings (there are just a few families left to see). At our Friday 'tea parties' the children in Years 3 -6 have told me that they feel coming to the parent consultations helps them with their learning and how they like hearing what their teacher has to say about them. Parents at our Parents Forum have also said how helpful it is although they, and the teachers, would like longer time slots so things are less rushed—we just need 25 hours in every day! Without such positive partnership between home and school the children certainly wouldn't be making the progress they are now. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Jo O'Donoghue, Headteacher

Fairer Funding Campaign

You may have already seen that East Sussex County Council has launched a fairer funding campaign – *Stand Up For East Sussex*. We're urging people across East Sussex to stand up for their county by calling on the Government to give them a fairer deal. We're asking residents and businesses to sign a petition to the Prime Minister which calls for an urgent rethink on the resources the county receives. In 2014 Ofsted rated 64 per cent of primary schools in East Sussex as good or outstanding. In 2017 its 91 per cent and we want the Government to give us a long-term funding plan to maintain that success. The campaign also highlights how adult social care, transport, and jobs and the economy would benefit from a fairer funding deal. For further information please see the link below:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/stand-up-for-east-sussex>

**STAND UP FOR
EAST SUSSEX**



Sign our petition
and show your support

Looking Back: Term

Harvest



Thank you for the many donations of food for our Harvest assembly. During the assembly, we sang a selection of modern and traditional songs, enjoyed performances based on Bible themes from the children in Years 4 and 5 and listened to an inspiring talk from Neil Chisholm about helping those who have less than we do.

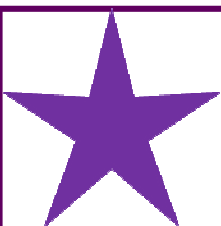
After the assembly, the food was packed up by our very efficient Year 6 children. Each year we decide on a charity to support and ensure we vary where our donations go so that the children can begin to understand about a range of different needs. This year the gifts were donated to the Newhaven Foyer and will be distributed to those in need in the coming weeks. Thank you!

Since we returned to school in September we have also been harvesting our own crops. There have been an abundance of apples and plums from our orchard which the children have enjoyed tasting.

Thank you to Mrs Swan for arranging a beautiful Harvest display which included of our own fruit and produce .

School Council News

Following hard-fought elections our new South Malling School Council led by Mrs Burch, has been formed this term. We have 2 representatives from each class from Year 3 onwards (3 from Year 6!) Their photos are on the board in the corridor. This year we also have a Chair, (Year 6) who does a great job feeding back to Mrs O'Donoghue and the staff. This year they will be focussing their discussions on how to promote healthy eating as part of our healthy schools development.



Congratulations to Seren and Dylan for the most improved punctuality last term and to the **Gold Giraffes** for the best attendance at **97.03%** . Well done!

Parents' Forums

We had a great turn out at the first Parents' Forum this year. Thank you to all the parents that attended and contributed their ideas. We reviewed how transition and the beginning of the year had gone. It was very useful to hear how positive the beginning of the year was and how well the meet the teacher coffee mornings had been received. It was also helpful to get feedback on how we could improve our information for parents about how we teach (particularly maths) and how we could increase the support for the Friends so that we can increase the crucial funding that comes to the school. We look forward to discussing our behaviour policy, the Dojos and anti-bullying at our next meeting on Thursday ^{23rd} November at 9.00am.

The SEND parent's forum for parents of children with a Special Educational Need is held each term to share ideas and information. We strive towards an inclusive and personalised approach for those children who need it and we value your feedback and ideas. Please join us at 2:45 on 7th Dec for our next meeting.



Outdoor Learning News

This week the Lemon Lions made their first visit to Malling Down. After a brisk walk across the road and up the hill the children explored the down land, finding some interesting flowers, wildlife and woodland. They climbed further and were able to spot the school field, Lewes castle and their own homes. After a short rest in the dew pond, no water at the moment only a sea of purple flowers, they continued up and around the ridge. They watched the crows fly high in the sky, listened to the skylark singing and practiced their fox walking, in an effort to sneak up on a fox. Although they were all very quiet, sadly Mr Fox wasn't there.

All the Lions behaved impeccably, they demonstrated much interest, enthusiasm and exuberance that was still in evidence the following day. Back in class they worked collaboratively to build a bank of descriptive words to write about their experience, some children just didn't want to stop, even at the end of the day! Thankfully the weather was kind and the children really enjoyed their autumn expedition to Malling Down. A special thank you to all the parents that accompanied us and we are all looking forward to doing it again next year. Mrs Hunt .

Looking Forward: Term 2

Children in Need

We are supporting Children in Need this year on Friday 17th November. There will be a mega-market of games and activities in the hall from 10-11:30 where each class can come and spend their money to try to win prizes. The children can also wear any spotty clothes to school on the 17th for £1.00.

There will be Pudsey merchandise on sale in the week beginning 13th November (headbands £2.50, pin badges and key rings £1). In the first instance, children can purchase one item each, to allow everyone the opportunity to buy something should they wish to do so.



Decoration Day

On Thursday December 7th, the whole school will be involved in creating Christmas decorations for the classrooms and shared areas. We welcome as much adult support as possible. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you can spare some time on the day to come and help us.



Christmas performances and events

Reception and Nursery will be performing their nativity songs on Monday 11th December at 9.30 am.

Years 1 and 2 will be performing their nativity play on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December at 9.30 am.

Key stage 2 will be singing Carols on Tuesday 19th at 2.15 and 3.30 pm. You are welcome to come and join them!

There will be a Christmas service in the Church for Years 1 and 2 on Tuesday 19th December. Unfortunately space is limited so we are only able to host parents that help walk the children down to the Church.

Our Christmas Lunch will be served on Wednesday 13th December.

Anti-Bullying Week

This year Anti-Bullying week takes place during the week of 13th-17th November. The theme is 'All Different, All Equal' and we will be holding assemblies and planning lessons around that key statement. It would be great if you could discuss the work with your child and use website www.antibullyingalliance.org.uk to develop any of the themes. If you have any concerns about bullying please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or Ms Schulte or Mrs O'Donoghue. Details of our Anti-bullying policy can be found on our website.

The theme this year is



New Parent Visits

We are holding our open days for prospective parents on Tuesday 28th November at 10.00 am and Wednesday 29th at 2.00 pm.

If you have a child due to start school in September 2018 please come and join us!

Other news:

We are holding our termly Open Afternoon on a selection of dates throughout November. Please see your child's class newsletter for more information. The school will be transformed into museums, music festivals you will be taken back in time to different periods of history! You will also be able to see all the work your child has been doing around our Time Travellers Learning Journey.

Inset Day: Our next Inset day is on Monday 4th December.

Bonfire Assembly will be held on Friday 10th November. Children are invited to dress in their costumes for the assembly.

E-Safety

Gaming Devices

The UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternet.org.uk) has some excellent advice for how to keep children safe online.

Gaming devices provide a variety of interesting activities and ways for young people to engage with their friends and families. However, it is important to be aware of what these devices can do and how you can talk with your child to help them to use this technology in safe and positive way. All modern gaming devices offer parental controls to help you manage how your child uses their device, but these do need to be set up in order for them to be operational.

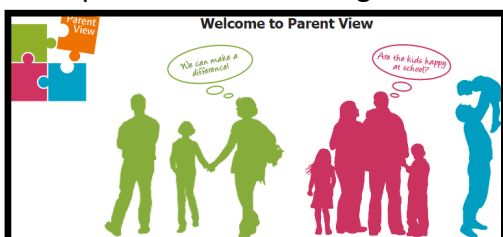


Three steps for parents:

- 1) Understand the capabilities of gaming devices and how you as a parent can support your child to be smart and safe in their gaming.
- 2) Find out about the parental controls available - it helps if you are the one to set up the gaming device so you are in control of these. Gaming devices have parental controls to help parents manage their children's gaming, for example, to prevent internet browsing or restrict access to age-restricted games. Find out about [PEGI age ratings](#) to help you decide which games are appropriate for your child's age.
- 3) Talk with your child about safe and responsible gaming and agree a set of family rules. Perhaps you could agree rules with your child about how long they are allowed to play for, how they should behave towards other gamers and agree rules about not meeting up with people they have only met online. Remember that gaming devices like the Xbox 360, Wii and PSP connect to the internet, so the same advice and rules for keeping safe online apply.

Parent View

Thank you to all those parents who managed to complete a Parent View survey during our parent consultation evening. You can now view the school results at: www.parentview.ofsted.org.uk



What is Parent View? Parent View gives you the chance to tell us (and Ofsted) what you think about our school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time, just visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

Important information for Parents for 2017-18:

Nursery: Starting earlier...the term after they're two?

We are looking into whether there are any families who would consider sending their child to nursery earlier than our current system of 'after their third birthday'.

This would mean changing the starting term for our children to anytime after their 2nd birthday. If this of interest to any of our current parents or you know of parents with children waiting to start, we would love to hear from you.

Because of the funding, which only starts in the term after the child's third birthday, we would require parents to pay for any sessions their child attends for during this time.

Please speak to Catherine if this is of interest. Thank you



New Clubs!

We're delighted to introduce 2 new after school clubs this term. After much searching we have now found somebody to coach Years 1,2,3 football sessions on a Thursday after school. The cost for this club is £3.00 per session.

We are also introducing a Sewing club after school on a Friday. This exciting club for Year 4-6 children is in the Hall and costs £4.50 a session. If your child is interested or if you need financial support to attend please see Sara in the office.



Lunchtime Club

At the Parent's Forum there was a question about our Lunchtime Club (Sarah's Club). Children go to the club for a variety of reasons including: they are finding play-time a bit daunting, they have had issues on the playground or with friends, they benefit from some quiet time or 'checking in' with an adult before going out to play or they may want to speak to an adult for a bit. Children can either ask to go to the club or will be asked to go. There may be times when there isn't enough space on a particular day so they can book a place. The aim is always that attendance at the club is a temporary measure and that with support and guidance children will be able to enjoy being outside at lunchtime playing with their friends.

From this term, Sarah will contact you if your child has been asked to attend the club and inform you why that is the case.



Friends News

Following a lively AGM with lots of wine and cheese it is with great pleasure that we can announce and welcome a new committee for the Friends of South Malling for the 2017-18 school year.

Chair: Mandi Ramshaw **Vice Chair:** Clare Champness **Secretary:** Martina Moss

Treasurer: Gavin Redshaw

Staff representative: Maxine Hunt **Nursery representative:** Catherine Hann



DATES

November

6th-10th: Nursery parent meetings

Open Afternoons: Class and School museum see individual class newsletters

6th-Friends committee meeting

10th- Bonfire assembly

13th-17th Anti-Bullying Week

8th- Nursery coffee morning @9.15 am.

17th- Children in Need Day

23rd – Parent's Forum @ 9.00 am.

24th- non uniform day - children to bring in Christmas hamper items

Prospective parent visits Tues 28th @ 10.00 am. and Weds 29th @ 2.00 pm.

December

4th - INSET day, no children in school

7th-Decoration Day

7th SEND Parent's Forum 2:45

8th-Christmas Fair

11th- Year R and Nursery Christmas performance @ 9.30 am.

13th &14th-KS1 performances @9.30 am.

15th-Secret Present shop

19th- KS1 Church Service @ 9.45

19th-KS2 Carol Concert @2.15pm. and 3.30 pm

20th - Talent show

20th- last day before Christmas holiday

January

2nd- INSET day, no children in school

3rd –children return to school

5th– Prospective parent visit 10.00 am.

8th-12th: BE Week

15th- Friends committee meeting

12th– BE Assembly

February

8th-Year 4 show @2.15 pm.

9th - Enterprise Fair: Open afternoon in the classes at 2.45pm. All welcome

9th- last day before half term

19th- children return to school after half term

Week beginning 26th– Parent Consultations

26th- Friends committee meeting

March

1st - after-school parent consultations

2nd - World Book Day (dress up)

9th- Coins along the Corridor

15th- Year 3 performance: the Iron Man @9.30 am.

23rd - Comic Relief Day

28th– Year 5 show

29th - Easter Service in Church for KS2 @ 9.45 am.

29th- Easter cake competition

29th– last day before Easter holidays

April

16th - return to school after Easter holiday

23rd-- Friends committee meeting

27th- Grandparents tea party (am. KS1 and pm. KS2)

May

3rd/ 4th - Year 5 trip to Southeast

7th - Bank Holiday

Week beginning 14th Year 6 SATs

25th—Fun Run

25th - Last day before half term holiday

June

4th- INSET day, no children in school

5th-return to school for children

6th– 8th Bowles residential trip -Year 6

11th– Friends committee meeting

13th Class photos

14th– Music concert

26th - Sports Day

27th - Reserve Sports Day

29th-non uniform day; children to bring in fete items

July

3rd-New Parents evening

7th-Summer fete

9th - Reports out

12th- Year 6 Performances @ 2.15 and 6.00 pm.

19th-Celebration event

20th - Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea

20th - last day for children before summer holiday