

# 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 Hever Castle, the Royal Pavillion, and the Chattri Memorial, a visit from the Toy museum, a Harvest assembly and the most amazing Trench Brothers performance and experience! 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 couple of weeks at school were confident enough to join the rest of the school on the field at lunchtimes.

This term we have been developing our use of Character Strengths and our school 'Dojo's' as a system for rewarding those key learning strengths. The children have been overwhelmingly positive about the Dojo's and we will explain 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). 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 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



## Linking Up Learning - Online

### Safety

Digital technology is an everyday part of most people's lives and although it can entertain and educate in an amazing and effective way, children need to be taught about how to keep themselves safe when using technology. In our special edition of 'Linking Up Learning' that will be distributed next week we are bringing together some of what we see as the most relevant information and resources which can support you to do this with your children at home.

# 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 2 and 4 and listened to an inspiring talk from Dianne Hamilton (Trinity Church) about inequalities across the world

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 our children 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 from our orchard which the children have enjoyed tasting. Some of the Gold Gibbons made an apple pie using the apples they picked.

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

## School Council News

Following hard-fought elections our new South Malling School Council has been formed this term. We have 2 representatives from each class from Year 3 onwards. 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 continue to focus their discussions on how to promote healthy eating as part of our healthy schools development as well as leading all fundraising activities and providing feedback on learning in their classrooms.



Congratulations to the **Turquoise Tigers** for the best attendance in Term 1. They were at school for 98% of the time. Good attendance will impact on the children's learning as well as their enjoyment of the curriculum and their social interactions. Well done!

## Parents' Forums

We had a good 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 parents would like to know more about how we teach, particularly maths, and how we could increase the support for the Friends and our healthy snack policy. We look forward to discussing our behaviour policy, the character strengths and anti-bullying at our next meeting on Thursday 29th November at 9.00am.

## The world below the peace—a poem written as part of the Trench Brothers Project

### By Lex in Year 5

The umbrella stands proudly over me,  
Setting shadows on my soul.  
I gaze over the sea,  
My life scattered as ashes.

Calm.  
Calm is all there is,  
Sweeping around us like the larks trying to find their homes,  
But once,  
There was tension growing in the world below the peace.

The patterns.  
They felt like home.  
But the whiteness,  
The building I only just got to know,  
Mistakes are made.  
And then...  
Nothing.

And now,  
Here I am,  
The umbrella stands proudly above me,  
Setting shadows on my soul,  
I gaze over the sea,  
My life scattered as ashes.



# Looking Forward: Term 2

## Children in Need

We are supporting Children in Need this year on Friday 16th November. There will be a mega-market of games and activities in the hall during the afternoon where each class can come and spend their money to try to win prizes. The children can also wear any clothes with spots on or any yellow clothes to school on the 16th for £1.00.

There will be Pudsey merchandise on sale in the week beginning 12th November (headbands £2.50, pin badges and wristbands £1 key rings £2). In the first instance, children can purchase one item each, to allow everyone the opportunity to buy



## Decoration Days

During the week beginning 3rd December, the whole school will be involved in creating Christmas decorations for the classrooms and shared areas. Please see class newsletters for dates and details. We welcome as much adult support as possible. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you can spare some time on your classes decoration day to come and help us.



## Christmas performances and events

Reception and Nursery will be performing their nativity songs on Monday 17th December at 9.30 am.

Years 1 and 2 will be performing their nativity play on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December at 9.30 am.

Key stage 2 will be singing Carols on Tuesday 18th 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 18th 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 12th December.

## Anti-Bullying Week

This year Anti-Bullying week takes place during the week of 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November. The theme is 'Choose Respect' 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](http://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 in the Behaviour Policy on our website.



## Starting school in September 2019?

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

If you have a child due to start school in September 2019 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 and 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 Tuesday 6th November.

**Remembrance/ Bonfire Assembly** will be held on Friday 9th November. Children are invited to dress in their costumes for the assembly. Poppies, wristbands and other remembrance merchandise can be purchased in school from Wednesday 31st October.

# News from our Community

## Thought for the term

by Al Pickering (King's Church Lewes)

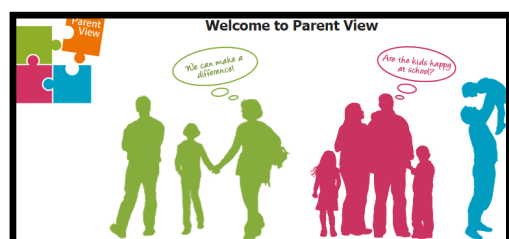
### **Lest We Forget**

This month we remember 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One. Just after World War II, my granny received a letter from the Mayor of a town in France. It said: *"It is probably very sad news for you but today I can't help but tell you about your soldier... Be sure that there are always flowers on their graves and they will remain forever in my memory..."*

The soldier was my grandad who died during an air bombardment at this town. He wasn't unique but it's one example of how grateful people are in war-times to those who died to protect or help them. A verse in the Bible says: *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* The most loving thing you can do for someone is to give your life for them. We're grateful to all who laid down their lives in conflicts past and present. We remember them.

But those words also remind me of Jesus. They were spoken by him and were about him. He laid down his life out of love for us in the greatest rescue mission ever. He died to bring us peace with God. No matter what conflicts, troubles or fights we face in life, if we put our trust in Jesus we can know his peace and help as his friends.

**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](http://www.parentview.ofsted.org.uk)



## Friends of South Malling

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the AGM last month. We reported another successful year, elected a new committee and class reps and discussed some exciting new ideas for events.

**New committee:** Mandi Ramshaw (Chair), Claire Champness (Vice Chair), Gavin Redshaw (Treasurer), Lucy McAskie (Secretary), Victoria Stringer, Chloe Prorok, Michelle Mason Moon, Rosalind Green, Martina Moss, Emily Hedley, Susan Moate and Steve Belfield.

**Disco:** Children and parents/carers had a totally awesome boogie to a fantabulous 80's soundtrack at the disco in October. We may have also set a record for the clear up time! Congratulations to Jenson Beal from Year 2 and Chloe (Tobi's mum) who won the prizes for best costumes. We raised around £725, so thanks to everyone who supported the event.

### **Events for term 2:**

Committee meeting Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> November Dorset Pub

Secret Present Shop – date tbc Children will have a chance to buy already wrapped presents for their families.

**Non-uniform day Friday 7<sup>th</sup>** December (children to bring in Christmas hamper items in their class colour)

**Christmas Fair Friday 14<sup>th</sup>** December (We will need lots of helpers for the fair, please let us know if you can give an hour on the afternoon – before, after or during the fair (cakes also most welcome!)

**Getting in touch:** The Friends represent the whole school community and everyone's views are welcome. If you would like to get in directly in touch (rather than going through your class rep), there is now a dedicated email address, checked regularly,

# Important information for Parents for 2018-19:

**Nursery:** The Lilac Lambs have been fortunate to receive a 'Healthy Eating and Physical activity' grant recently.

There are now many new physical resources inside and outside such as wooden blocks for construction, basketball nets, new balls and hula hoops which will support and encourage the children to be active.

There will be increased opportunities to learn about and practice the brushing of teeth and the Lilac Lambs have started to take part in a termly cooking activity which was introduced last term with bread making. They continue to have their daily 'Wake and Shake' sessions and have twice daily access to outside play.

The Lilac Lambs will be talking about the healthy choices for foods and learning about the foods they should have in moderation. Staff training has included an Early Years Phunky Foods activity programme which will inform the planning of fun and active learning focusing on being fit and healthy!



## Clubs

We're delighted that our Sewing club after school on a Friday is continuing. This exciting club for Year 2-6 children is in the Hall and costs £4.50 a session and there are currently a couple of spaces for this term. .

Our Creative writing club (Inkhead) is also continuing and has proved very popular .

If your child is interested in either of these clubs or if you need financial support to attend them please see the office.



## Cook needed!

Our catering company, Chartwells, has asked us if we could mention that there is currently a cover vacancy for the position of COOK due to the long term absence of the current cook.

If you have an interest in catering and working in the school please contact Pattie-Ann Silburn , Area Manger, Chartwells, Tel: 07920 136323 , or [Pattie.Silburn@compass-group.co.uk](mailto:Pattie.Silburn@compass-group.co.uk)



## Code of Conduct for Parents / Carers and Visitors

Our School encourages close links with parents and the community. We believe that children benefit when the relationship between home and school is a positive one. As role models, and for the safety and wellbeing of our children, staff, parents and other visitors are expected to behave appropriately when on school premises. Parents and other visitors are expected to show respect and concern for others and support the respectful ethos of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of the school community. Most parents, carers and others visiting our school set a good example and we are fortunate to enjoy very positive and constructive relationships throughout our community. Unfortunately we have been shocked and upset by a couple of instances where parents have been rude, aggressive and disrespectful to members of staff in the last term either in person or on the phone. Our Behaviour ( Promoting Positive Relationships) policy addresses those very rare occasions when behaviour is inappropriate. Please see our website for further details.



# DATES

**Please check dates in case any have needed to be changed since Newsletter 1 2018**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October return to school**

## November

**6<sup>th</sup>– INSET day. School closed to children**

Open Afternoons: Class and  
School museum see individual class newsletters  
8<sup>th</sup> Friends committee meeting  
9<sup>th</sup>– Remembrance/ Bonfire assembly  
12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Anti-Bullying Week  
14<sup>th</sup> Nursery coffee morning @9.15 am.  
16<sup>th</sup>- Children in Need Day  
**29<sup>th</sup>** – Parent’s Forum @ 9.00 am.  
Prospective parent visits Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00 pm.  
and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10.00m.

## December

Week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> -Decoration Days (see class newsletters)  
7<sup>th</sup>- non uniform day - children to bring in Christmas hamper items  
12<sup>th</sup> &13<sup>th</sup>-KS1 performances @9.30 am.  
14<sup>th</sup>-Christmas Fair  
17<sup>th</sup>- Year R and Nursery Christmas performance @ 9.30 am.  
18<sup>th</sup>- KS1 Church Service @ 9.45  
18<sup>th</sup>-KS2 Carol Concert @2.15pm. and 3.30 pm  
19<sup>th</sup> - Talent show  
19<sup>th</sup>- last day before Christmas holiday

## January

7<sup>th</sup> –children return to school  
9<sup>th</sup>– Prospective parent visit 10.00 am.

## February

7<sup>th</sup>-Year 4 show @2.15 pm.  
**14<sup>th</sup>** - Enterprise Fair: Open afternoon in the classes at 2.45pm. All welcome  
15<sup>th</sup>- last day before half term  
25<sup>th</sup>- children return to school after half term

## March

Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup>– Parent Consultations  
7<sup>th</sup>– After school consultations  
8<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day (dress up)  
14<sup>th</sup>- Year 3 performance @ 9.30 am.  
15<sup>th</sup> - Comic Relief Day  
28<sup>th</sup>– Year 5 show

## April

4<sup>th</sup> - Easter Service in Church for KS2 @ 9.45 am.  
5<sup>th</sup>- Easter cake competition  
5<sup>th</sup>– last day before Easter holidays  
23<sup>rd</sup> - return to school after Easter holiday  
26<sup>th</sup>- Grandparents tea party (9.30am. KS1 and 2.00pm. KS2)

## May

1<sup>st</sup>– Year 5 trip to Southeast  
**6<sup>th</sup> - Bank Holiday**  
Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATs  
24<sup>th</sup>—Fun Run  
24<sup>th</sup> - Last day before half term holiday

## June

**3<sup>rd</sup>- INSET day, no children in school**  
**4<sup>th</sup>-return to school for children**  
5<sup>th</sup>– 7<sup>th</sup> Bowles residential trip -Year 6  
13<sup>th</sup>– Music concert  
Class photos tbc  
25<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day  
26<sup>th</sup> - Reserve Sports Day  
29<sup>th</sup>-non uniform day; children to bring in fete items

## July

2<sup>nd</sup>-New Parents evening  
6<sup>th</sup>-Summer fete  
8<sup>th</sup> - Reports out  
18<sup>th</sup>- Year 6 Performances @ 2.15 and 6.00 pm.  
22<sup>nd</sup> -Celebration event  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Year 6 Leavers Assembly+ Tea  
23<sup>rd</sup> - last day for children before summer holiday

**Further news from South Malling can be found in the Parish Pump section of the Sussex Express newspaper every week under the Malling heading.**

## Help for the Friends

Can you help us out this term? We need help in November getting the children’s Christmas cards organised, ordered and printed. We will need lots of helpers for the Christmas Fair, please let us know if you can give an hour on the afternoon – before, after or during the fair. (Cakes also most welcome!) Also, lots of Christmas presents for the Secret Present Shop need wrapping. Can you give us a hand with some? Easy to do in front of the TV of an evening! If you can give a little time to help with any of these, please let us know.