

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy fortnight and we have had a lot going on as you will see from the reports in this newsletter.

It has been so lovely to have our volunteers back in supporting classes and hearing children read. We look forward to seeing those who can make it this afternoon to catch up on what classes have been doing during STEM week.

We have also had a number of visits from external advisers as we are due Ofsted shortly and whilst we don't do things for Ofsted we want to make sure that we are prepared to share all that we do. Our last Ofsted was in April 2017 and the report can be found on our website under Statutory Information. They will be asking parents and carers to share their views on a short survey through this link <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> so please take a look and fill in your responses, it is fine for this to be done at any time, thank you.

ATTENDANCE



Congratulations to Holly Class who attained the highest attendance last week and this.

Please can we ask that you ensure that your child/ren are in school ready for register at 9a.m. It is difficult for children when they have to walk into their classroom with everyone else settled and knowing what to do. The gate is shut at 9a.m and those arriving late need to go to the front of the school. It is very time consuming for office staff to keep coming to the gate to let people in. The back gate is open from 8:45 a.m every morning and all children can arrive from this time. Many thanks for your support with this.

GOLDEN BOOK

Week commencing 28th February

Cherry Torren for fabulous writing using commas
Marley for super maths work

Beech Kiki for showing courage coming into school and always working hard in class, showing resilience in all her learning
Levon for becoming even more independent with his writing this term.
Levon has been having a go at lots of tricky spelling in his writing!

Holly Lily K and Fin for their amazing work on fractions. They have shown a deep understanding and have really challenged themselves this week

Week commencing 7th March

Cherry Orsen making the right choices and listening on the carpet
Phoenix H - listening carefully to instructions and making the right choices
Abeni - being a really good friend to younger children

Beech Lowen and Mabel seriously impressive description in their setting description of Pompeii

Holly Bea - great working with others during STEM week
Willow - great working with others during STEM week and careful designs

Diary

March

15th Yr 5 Swimming
16th March Ye 5 Forest School
17th Full Governing Body Meeting
18th Red Nose Day
22nd Yr 5 Swimming
23rd March Yr 5 Forest School
30th March Yr 5 Forest School

April

1st Last day of term
1st Easter Church Service 2pm

TODDLER GROUP

Ms Ness will be running our Toddler group again after the Easter holidays starting on **Thursday 21st April from 9 until 10am.**

SINGING ASSEMBLY

Dan led a fantastic singing assembly today showcasing two of his pupils, Torren and Talullah who gave a brilliant rendition of the Jimmy Cliff classic 'I Can See Clearly Now'. You can view the video on the News Page of the school website.

STEM WEEK



The children have had a great week learning about the STEM subjects and using their design skills. 'We did loads of activities such as planting sunflowers to see which grow tallest using different growing mediums. We also made scarecrows using levers and pulleys!' Dolly

RAINBOW TEARS

Radio, television and newspapers and still taking donations! Pearl's achievement appeared in the Financial Times and has so far raised over £3000 for the Ukrainian relief effort.

Her fantastic picture is of an eye and entitled 'Rainbow Tears'. As the world is watching the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia she would like to sell her prints via Just Giving and for the proceeds to go to the established charity 'British-Ukrainian Aid'.

She was inspired after seeing this advertised in The Times newspaper <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-to-help-ukraine-uk-v8grddrs8?shareToken=1772e130882f9f0319a5ba4a0c47dec2>

If you would like to donate then the link is below

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dan-dwift?utm_term=KGDrEd4q5&fbclid=IwAR1lr1XvSjGhUi_4J42RQ5q0d9QL1m1PEnwrNdL63EPdWGGzH8YpU3E_ZY

COVID UPDATE

We now have air purifiers in our classrooms and whilst we are continuing to ventilate them it is not to the extreme that we were doing before. All classes have a CO2 monitor and this is regularly checked by staff to ensure there is good airflow. In line with the living with Covid guidance which came out at the end of February we are no longer sending out warn and inform letters if we get a positive case in school. However we will send them out if we get an outbreak. Please continue to self-isolate for 5 days and test negative on a LFD before returning to school. Children can still come to school if another member of their family is positive but please be careful and check daily if this is the case.

UNIFORM

We would like to re promote our school uniform as after being able to wear additional items for cold weather we are now returning to the expectation that all children wear the correct uniform. This is:

Green cardigan or school sweatshirt with logo White polo shirt or shirt

Smart dark grey/black school trousers, skirt or shorts (no jean type trousers)

Green gingham summer dresses

Plain socks/tights in white/green/grey/black All black shoes (no trainers, crocs or open toed sandals), flat-heeled black boots may be worn between October and March.

From September 2021 we have asked that all children wear their house colour t shirt for PE. These are available to order from the online shop. <https://myclothing.com/firle-church-of-england-primary-school/27270.school>

Our PE t shirt colours correspond with our house groups:

Kites

Peregrine Falcons

Sparrow Hawks

Kestrels

We will be carrying out spot checks and putting children's names in to a hat if they have the correct uniform on. We will then draw names each term of those who had the correct uniform and those children will receive a £3 WH Smith voucher.

If you have any difficulties with the expense in being able to provide a uniform for your child then please speak to the school office as we are more than happy to help.

SPARE UNIFORM

France has very kindly volunteered to coordinate the collection and distribution of spare school uniform. If you would like some second hand uniform or if you would like to donate some please contact France on 07974 565245 or fcouelle@yahoo.com.

PANCAKE RACES

It was lovely to have this event back in school again and thank you so much to all those that made it possible.

'Our pancake races were really enjoyable, lots of people watched including parents and carers. It doesn't matter if you come last or drop your pancake because it's all just for the fun!' Eva



WORLD BOOK DAY

The picture of our children dressed up for World Book Day will be printed in The Argus on Friday 11th March and on sale in all Supermarkets and newsagents at 85p per copy. If you are unable to purchase a copy on the day you can call the customer services department of The Argus on 0800 953 0227.



SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Our Friends of Firle are collecting items to send to the families of Ukraine. If you would like to donate something please bring to school pick up at 3.15pm Friday 11th March where items will be gathered and taken to the collection point over the weekend. Here is a list of things needed:

coats

hats

nappies

Tooth brushes & tooth paste sanitary stuff

Toiletries

First aid etc

Colouring books and pens/pencils. If you can bring in a box or bag (not loose) that would be very helpful. The van leaves Firle on Monday! It's OK to send your donation in with your child tomorrow. Items can be stored in the office until the end of the day.

In school we are being very careful when answering children's questions and referring to what is happening in Ukraine. Staff have been sent links to guidance in how to talk to and reassure the children of their own safety. Please see attached link to a helpful article that may support you at home <https://metro.co.uk/2022/02/24/how-to-talk-to-children-about-whats-happening-in-ukraine-16163133/>

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Just a reminder that after school clubs resumed this week.

Monday Football (Full), Tuesday Modelling Club, Thursday Fencing and French, Friday Spanish and Street Dance
If you would like a space at any of our after-school clubs, please contact Mrs Horan.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

International Women's day falls in Women's History Month which we are celebrating this year with a competition running across the Federation! We are asking as many children as possible to create a fact page on a significant female figure through history. The pages will be bound together and made into a book to present in the school library. The focus for this competition is discovering, documenting and celebrating Women's lives and achievements. Please find the details for this on the poster attached.

GRAPEVINE SPRING 2022 ISSUE IS NOW OUT.

It is filled with ideas of things to do SPRING 2022, containing tips where to find bluebell woodland in Sussex, back-to-nature camping as well as a special egg[cases] hunt; we are also offering fantastic 3 competitions for a chance of winning some fabulous prizes. The magazine is available to view online and to download here: <https://thefamilygrapevine.co.uk/eastbourne-wealden-lewes/see-a-copy/>

IN REMEMBRANCE

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you all that Claire Sumners the founder of Plastic Free Seaford has passed away peacefully in her sleep.

Claire worked closely with us during our 'This is me' topic, and came to both schools across the federation to do assemblies

Claire was passionate about the campaign and was persistent in never giving up fighting for the planet.



TEA AND CHAT- INCLUSION SUPPORT FORUM

We would like to invite you to an informal meeting with Vicki Brown (Head of School, SENDCO and Thrive practitioner) and Lynn Filtress (Inclusion TA and Thrive practitioner) on Tuesday 15th March at 2.15pm.

We are an inclusive school but we know that we can always do better.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas as important members of our school community in understanding how we can develop inclusion across all areas of our school community.

We hope that you will be able to help us shape inclusion at our school by joining us for a cup of tea (or coffee!) to discuss your experiences and to explore ways we can be more inclusive, as well as finding support and advice. We hope to make this a termly event. If you are interested in joining us on Tuesday 15th March at 2.15pm, please let the School Office know.

If you have any ideas of things that would be useful to include in these sessions, then please do share these with Mrs Brown- these can be shared by email via the school office. Many thanks.

RED NOSE DAY

This year our School Council have decided what we will do to raise money on Red Nose Day, 18th March. For a donation of £1 per treat the children can

- Wear home clothes
- Bring an unhealthy snack for break time
- Have their break time on the school field (in PE shoes)

They are also going to arrange an after-school bake sale

THREADWORM

We still have cases of threadworm in school; they are tiny worms in your poo. They're common in children and spread easily. You can treat them without seeing a GP. You can get medication from the chemist and the NHS recommends following these steps at home:

- wash hands and scrub under fingernails - particularly before eating, after using the toilet or changing nappies
- encourage children to wash hands regularly
- bathe or shower every morning

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- rinse toothbrushes before using them
- keep fingernails short
- wash sleepwear, sheets, towels and soft toys (at a hot temperature)
- disinfect kitchen and bathroom surfaces
- vacuum and dust with a damp cloth
- make sure children wear underwear at night – change it in the morning

MISSING CALCULATOR

Mrs Groves has lost a shiny gold calculator that she has had for a number of years and it was last seen in its box in her desk draw. If anyone locates it please can they return it, as it has sentimental value. Many thanks.

CRISP PACKETS

Unfortunately, we can no longer collect crisp packets for recycling due to a change in the organisers terms. However you can take them to Tesco's in Lewes or Sainsbury's in Newhaven. If you go on to the Walkers website they can let you know where your nearest recycling point is.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL CLUB

Albion in the Community, receive funding from the FA to run the Girls' Football Clubs, which is why they are able to offer them for free. However, as part of this, they need to create reports for the FA to include information such as attendance, sign-up figures and various other criteria. Without the players signing up for the club online, they are unable to evidence our delivery, which could ultimately affect their funding. So please sign up using the following link

<https://bookings.albioninthecommunity.org.uk/soccerschools/courses/courses.htm?coursesSearch=search&clientCode=ASC-FIPS-24>

Kind Regards

Rachel West, Vicki Brown