



St Mark's CE Primary School

Newsletter 9

Spring Term
31st January 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Diary Dates

7th Feb	FOSM Valentine Disco
11th Feb	KS2 Inclusion Festival
12th Feb	Maths Challenge @ Ardingly
17th Feb	Half Term
21st Feb	Full Governors Meeting
24th Feb	Fern & Bluebell Trip To Drusillas
25th Feb	Parents Evening
26th Feb	Parents Evening
27th Feb	FOSM Bake sale
3rd Mar	Cricket Festival
5th Mar	Ardingly Fern Quickstick Hockey 3/4 Laurel
10th Mar	Trip to Hindu Temple FOSM Bake Sale
17th Mar	FOSM Bake Sale
18th Mar	Ready Set Dance - Ardingly
20th Mar	Oathall Multi-Skills KS1
24th Mar	Choral Day © Christ Hospital Year 5 Netball Festival Year 3 & 4 FOSM Bake Sale
7th April	Easter
21st April	Holidays
22nd April	Children Return to School

Parents/carers Evening - Wednesday 26th February and Thursday 27th February.

We are holding parents/carers evenings on the above dates. You will be able to access MCAS (My Child at School) from Sunday 19th January at 5 pm - Friday 21st February at 9 am to sign up for your appointment. Due to time restraints we are only able to offer one appointment per child, therefore if parents are separated we request that they attend together. If this is not possible please contact the school office to enable us to arrange an appointment on different day/time. If you wish to see our SENDCO, Sophie Davies, you will be able to book a 10 minute slot on Thursday 27th to see her. If you need a longer meeting with her, please feel free to contact the school office to book an appointment with her on another Thursday.



Lost Property



1 rainbow hairband

1 large black scarf

All above unnamed and in the school office.

Please remember if not collected by Friday 14th February, this item will be disposed of.

Forest School - If any kind parent has a group of round logs they would like to donate to Forest School for our children to sit on during their fun time in the Forest, please let the school office know.

Worship spot

This week as part of our work on creation, we have been thinking about climate change and the impact on our planet with the question 'Who should be involved in key decisions for the world?'. Lots of thoughtful comments from children considering that everyone should have a voice and that it is all of our responsibility to look after our creation. Some children considered that sensible voices should be prioritised. This linked very well to our new Eco Club being run by some of our Laurel children who had a very successful second meeting today at breaktime.

Safeguarding spot—If your child is too ill for school

Please remember to call, email or use Bromcom to let us know if your child isn't coming into school by 9:30am. This avoids us having to ring you to see where they are or visit your home to do a welfare check if we can't reach you via phoning.

Together, in God's love, we will shine



Allsaints Church - Handcross. Build a Church (Lego)

On Saturday 15th February 2 pm - 4pm. All children

welcome to join in our Build a Church.

Cross Country Finals

Congratulations to Hugo and Harvey who did fantastically at the Cross Country finals for Mid Sussex. Hugo came 4th overall and has made it into the West Sussex final in March!

Builder Church



all saints
HANDCROSS

Using Lego® to explore faith and the Bible

February 15th
All Saints Church
2-4pm

A Family Event

All Welcome!

Light Refreshments



Basketball - Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6

We have had two basket ball events for children from Bramble and Laurel class over the last two weeks. Children got a chance to play some mini games and work on their skills.



Guitar Lessons Year 3 - 6

We have one (rare) space for Guitar lessons from after Half Term with Robert.

Meet Robert

Please find attached a flyer explaining how things work and a link to apply.

Applications will be taken in order of arrival and if you do not get a place now we can hold you on our waiting list for the next intake.

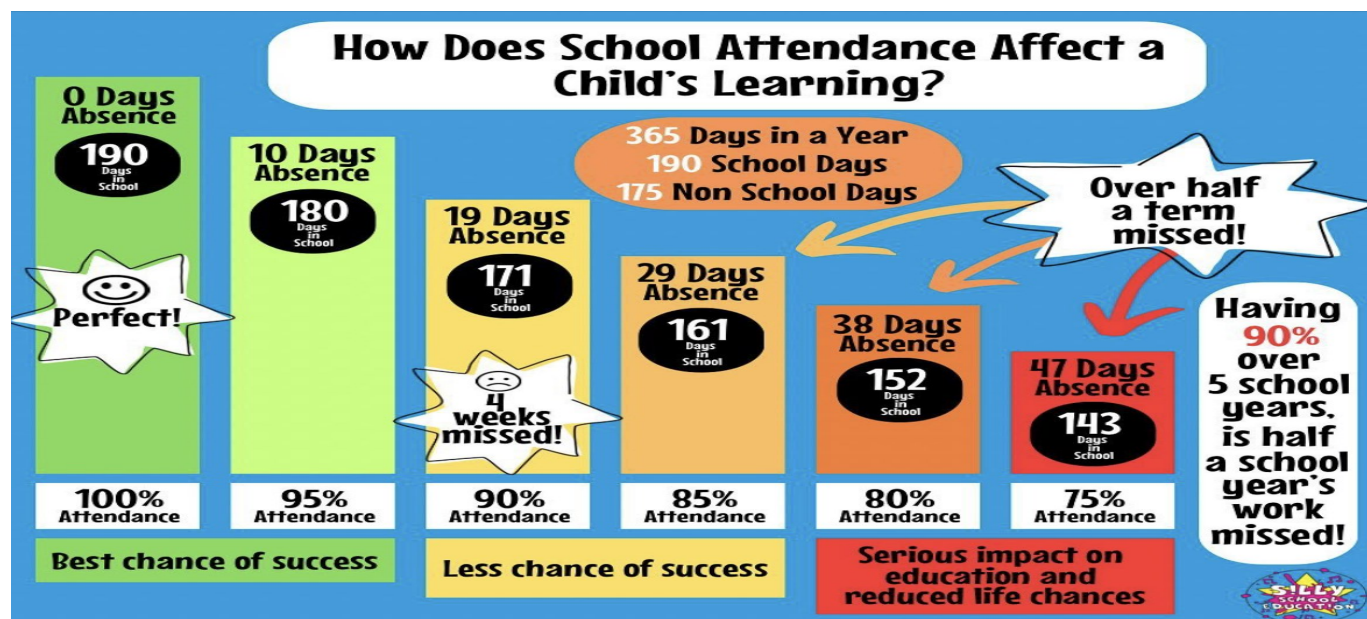


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Message about pupil attendance We understand that absences due to sickness and unexpected circumstances are unavoidable, but there is a high level of absence due to term time holidays which is a cause for concern. This can have an affect on children's learning, and not just on the learning and progress of the children who are absent but also on other children.

When a child returns to school after a holiday their teacher has to spend time helping that child to catch-up on missed lessons and this, inevitably, means that the learning that has been planned for the whole class is affected. Whilst an isolated absence may have limited impact, the effect of frequent absences is significant.

For this reason and the negative impact that unnecessary absence has on children's social interactions, and on their perceptions of the importance of school education the governors ask parents not to take term time holidays.



Laurel Residential next year

We currently haven't booked a residential for Laurel class next year due to a couple of concerns. Recently, one of the biggest residential providers in the country went into administration and lots of schools and parents lost the money they had paid. The issue is, all providers want you to pay deposits and then other money up front and we know parents (and school) aren't in the position to lose this money if providers go into administration. Also, when we approached our usual provider, they have put the prices up and this would impact parents when we know times are tough. Over the last few years, school have ended up paying towards the residentials and we cannot afford to continue to do this with our current budgets. If parents have any ideas or thoughts on this topic, we'd be keen to hear them and look for suggestions or solutions to overcome these issues.

Parking at Drop off/pick up

A few parents have complained about some dangerous parking from two white BMWs parking on the zig zag lines, across the pavement and blocking next door's drive. The person who reported it thought they might be grandparents so please if you have other people doing the school run for you, can you pass on the messages about parking safely to protect all our school community. I do not want to be telling you about an injured child before the situation improves.

Praise Postcards

The following children have received a postcard in the past few weeks:

Georgia Bentley, Billy Bickerdike, Daisy Billington, Winnie Booth, Bea Brewer, Bruno Carlisle, Harper Clayton, Isaac Dove-Wallington, Emily Durrant, Barnaby Gaynor, River Green, Isabella Hartfield, Amara Heaver-Lewis, Ambrose Hobden, Thomas Holloway, Olivia Horner, Hazel Hutchins, Hunter-Blu Kelly-Wise, Aiden Khazanehdari, Rose Koureas, Scott Langridge, Jaycee Lee-Ansell, Hugo Martin Perez, Edward Mills, Bryce O'Brien, Ivy Neen-Gurney, Rafael Parisi, Daisy Payne, Aidan Pears, Alfie Pears, Rex Ponsford, Phoebe Ramsden, Edward Szajdzicki, Maia Taylor, Ethan Tyler-Tarrant, Edward Walker, Hardy Young

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