

ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLDWALTHAM

with Chuckleberries Pre School

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Executive Head teacher: Mrs Lizzie Martin

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Learn, Discover, Achieve

Friday Flyer - 17th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of the second week of the term and it has been such a pleasure being back and feeling like school life is a little more like normal this year. I have been so impressed with the behaviour, attitude and friendliness of the children and, from my little pop-ins to classes, I can see that they are learning lots and really trying hard. This positive start to the year is lovely and we will continue to work hard to ensure the positivity and teamwork remains at this excellent standard all year!

Values Certificates

Congratulations to Eden, Harvey, Bella and Elena who received our first Values Ambassador Certificates in Celebration Assembly this morning. The certificates celebrate those who demonstrate our St James' values of positivity, teamwork, respect, honesty and kindness. The children have fully embraced learning about these values and are already referring to them as part of everyday conversation around school. A wonderful start to the year!

World Rhino Day – Wednesday 22nd September 2021

As you will be aware, the children's class names are linked to the animal each class have adopted as part of the WWF Adoption Scheme. As Wednesday 22nd September is World Rhino Day, the children in Rhinos will be celebrating this. As part of it, the children in Rhino Class thought it would be a great fundraising idea to have a Mufti Day with a voluntary contribution of £1 going towards the whole school fund for maintaining the adoptions. Penguins, Elephants and Jaguars have been invited to join with this fundraising activity so are warmly invited to also wear their own clothes for a voluntary donation of £1.

Please note that the Year 6 children in Jaguars will be unable to wear non-school uniform as they will be attending the MRC Experience Day on this date. Don't worry, Year 6, we will make sure you get your chance to wear your own clothes on another day!



KEEP THE FIVE ALIVE



Sports Day – Friday 24th September 2021

We are looking forward to welcoming parents/carers to our second Sports Day of 2021. This additional day has been arranged as parents were unable to attend our Summer term Sports Day. The gates will be opened for the arrival of parents at 1.30pm and the event is expected to end at 3.00pm. Grandparents and younger siblings are welcome to attend too.



Art Exhibition – Friday 24th September 3.00pm to 4.30pm

It is with great pleasure that I am able to let you know about an Art Exhibition that the Arun Villages Federation will be holding to celebrate the beautiful artwork created by the children from Amberley and St. James' in our Whole School Art Week at the end of last term. The theme of the week for St. James' was 'Summer in Coldwaltham' and the children were able to explore the local environment to inspire some tremendous pieces of art.

Mrs Gibson, my predecessor as Executive Headteacher, thought that it would be lovely to have these pieces of work framed and hold an Art Exhibition to celebrate the fantastic work and also give parents/carers an opportunity to buy a framed version of their child's artwork. She contacted a company (Mini Masterworks) and a date was booked for **Friday 24th September**. All the children's work will be on display to be viewed and purchased.

Following the Sports Afternoon, we would warmly invite you to make your way into the School Hall to view the art work. If parents/carers are unable to attend the Sports Afternoon, you will still be able to come into school at pick-up time to see it.

If you are unable to attend the exhibition, Mini Masterworks do have a pre-order system whereby you can still purchase your child's artwork (albeit without having viewed it!) I will send more details about prices and pre-orders when I have received them from Mini Masterworks.

Lunchtimes



St. James' is a growing school community and, as you aware, we have grown to four classes to accommodate the number of children that we have. Due to this, we have had to make some changes to our lunchtime arrangements in order to ensure that all the children have somewhere to sit comfortably to eat and to maintain staffing supervision at a strong level.

From Monday 20th September (this coming Monday), the children having hot dinners will be seated in the Hall whilst children eating a packed lunch will be seated in classrooms. ***This means that your child must know before coming to school whether they will be eating a hot dinner or a packed lunch as no hot dinners will be served in classrooms.***

If your child is going to have a hot dinner, they must be prepared to eat ***any*** item that is on the Chartwells menu that day if they are going to have a hot lunch. I am aware that parents/carers order meals or decide to take up the option of KS1 UFSM when there is something on the menu that their child particularly likes (for example, pizza, macaroni cheese or a roast dinner). However, ***this does not guarantee*** that your child will be able to have that particular item from the menu due to the proportion of the item that is allocated to the school by Chartwells.

If your child would not be prepared to eat all menu items provided on a particular day, it may be advisable that they bring a packed lunch instead of having a school lunch.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of the children and the school with this; we know just how important children's experiences of lunchtime are and how it can affect their whole experience of school so we are very keen to ensure lunchtimes run smoothly and happily.

Polite Reminders

This part of the Friday Flyer is not my favourite part but is necessary to raise some matters to ensure that there is a shared understanding of responsibilities and expectations within the school community.



Church Lane

A parent has raised concerns regarding the behaviour of parents/carers and children on Church Lane and how it is impacting safety. They requested to know what the school were proposing to do about it and what risk assessment is in place.

I would like to remind parents/carers that Church Lane is a public highway and **the school has no jurisdiction or responsibility regarding it**. We contacted West Sussex County Council Health and

Safety in response to this concern and were told:

"The school is not responsible for anything that happens on the public highway and therefore would not need a risk assessment. You are responsible for the access and egress of visitors and staff into the school once past the school gate."

As a school, we take the safety of our children and parents/carers very seriously and spend a great deal of time ensuring that we are compliant with statutory regulations; we also strive to implement best practice where there is no statutory guidance. However, as has been explained many times before, we are unable to instruct parents/carers, churchgoers, residents or the general public how to behave on Church Lane as we have no right to do so.

As ever, I would implore and advise parents/carers to monitor the behaviour of their children carefully to ensure that there is no risk to the safety of them or others when walking up and down Church Lane. I would also like to remind parents/carers that they should not be driving up or parking on the lane at drop-off or pick-up times unless they are Blue Badge holders or have specific arrangements with either the school or a resident who lives on the lane. I would also advise parents/carers to ensure that they arrive at school **for** 8.45am at drop-off time and **for** 3.10pm at pick-up time when the gates open rather than arriving early and congregating on Church Lane.

Should you have any further concerns regarding the behaviour of parent/carers, residents, churchgoers or the general public on Church Lane, I would recommend that you contact either West Sussex County Council or Sussex Police to gain further advice and support. Thank you for your understanding of the school's position regarding this and for your support in ensuring Church Lane remains safe.

Parental Code of Conduct

As a school, we promote our five core values of respect, kindness, honesty, positivity and teamwork to the children and the wider community at every opportunity as we believe



that these values provide a firm foundation for our children as they learn how to function in the wider society around them.

I was therefore extremely saddened, when I was on the gate at the start of a school day recently, to hear a parent/carer speaking to a member of St James' staff in a way that I felt was highly inappropriate and contradictory to these core values. Their

manner did not reflect any of our core values in any way and it concerned me greatly that children and other parents/carers heard this.

As a staff team, we strive to always communicate in a polite, professional manner to all members of the school community and we would expect this courtesy to be reciprocated by parents/carers, *regardless of whether this is face-to-face, via email or in a phone call.* We would also expect parents/carers to behave in a respectful manner towards other parents/carers and their children.

Doctors' surgeries, hospitals and supermarkets will not tolerate disrespectful or abusive behaviour from patients or customers; as a school, we also have the same expectation. Please find attached the Arun Villages Federation 'Code of Conduct and Social Media Guidelines for Parents' which provides more information. I trust that you will read it so that you are aware of the policy and procedures in place; thank you.

Thank you to Mrs Singleton

We are very grateful to Mrs Singleton who worked with the children during July's Art Week to design this fantastic mural; the depictions of the values are based on the children's ideas and Mrs Singleton has combined various aspects of designs into some wonderful images. She painted it for us during the summer holidays and thank her for the considerable time she spent on it. The mural beautifully depicts the St James' school values and we cannot thank Mrs Singleton enough for the creativity and hard work that went into the completion of this project.



Penguins News

Please visit the Penguins page on the school website to see pictures of the Penguins classroom and their Learning Overview for this term. You can find this at <https://www.st-james-coldwaltham.w-sussex.sch.uk/Ash-Class/>

Elephants News

Elephants have been hard at work learning about their class adopted animal and have created a stunning elephant collage as a centrepiece for a display of their work. I was so impressed when I walked into the classroom and saw it, I instantly fell in love with it! Well done, Elephants!



Jaguars News – The Ickabog

Jaguars have been reading "The Ickabog" by J K Rowling and have enjoyed creating their own Ickabogs from clay. The children used the information from the text and their own imaginations to create their mythical monsters. How fantastic are they?! Truly grotesque! What I really like about these is that, although different, it is clear to see how well the children have extracted information from the text as the main features are evident in all the monsters but they are all unique.



Inset Days and Term Dates

Inset Days have been scheduled for the Spring Term on **Tuesday 4th January 2022** and **Tuesday 3rd May 2022**. West Sussex County Council has also amended the term dates of the Summer Term so that we will now finish on **Thursday 21 July 2022**. This is due to the addition of a Bank Holiday in June half term, which is to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Unions raised the fact that children and staff in schools would not benefit from this extra day off as they were off already so, to recompense, the academic year has been shortened by a day.

Please see the 'Dates for your Diary' section below for more key dates of events, trips and productions. This is not comprehensive and there will be more dates added as the term and year moves forward; however, I hope that with notifying you of some key dates now, parents/carers may be able to organise any time off work needed or just be aware that something a little different is happening.

Parent Governor Vacancy

As has been advertised in the Friday Flyer previously, there is a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join the board of governors of the Arun Villages Federation. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of our Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Martin, Mrs Kirby or Mr Armitage) or visit <https://schools.westsussex.gov.uk/Page/1354>

The role is highly rewarding and gives parents/carers a fantastic insight into the world of education (which is possibly one of the strangest you will ever encounter!) I have served as a governor in two schools and I really can say it helped me, both as a



professional and as a parent, to understand why many decisions are made that may seem counterintuitive to every day thinking but are necessary due to the legislation surrounding education. Please do give it some thought and enquire if you would be interested.

As ever, there is so much more that I could include in the Friday Flyer but I am aware of 'information overload'. During the week, I will be sending out information regarding Covid-19 guidance and protocol so that, as a community, you are aware of what is in place regarding testing and absence guidelines and contingency planning should there be a local outbreak.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and I will look forward to seeing you all next week!

Kind regards,

L. Martin

Mrs L Martin
Executive Headteacher, Arun Villages Federation

Important Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 22 nd September 2021	Year 6 Experience Day at Midhurst Rother College – school uniform to be worn by Year 6
Wednesday 22 nd September 2021	Whole School Own Clothes Day in support of WWF Adoption Sceme - £1 voluntary donation requested.
Thursday 23 rd September 2021	Harvest Celebration - 9.00am - School Hall, St. James'
Friday 1 st October 2021	Jaguars' Class Assembly – 9.00am
Monday 11 th October 2021	Jaguars – Drumming Poets Workshop at Petworth Park. Further details to follow.
Tuesday 19 th October 2021	Parent Drop In – parents are invited to drop into the classroom from 2.45pm to look at their children's books and the classroom displays.
Friday 22 nd October 2021	Elephants - Bignor Roman Villa Visit – more details to follow
Monday 25 th October to Friday 29 th October 2021	Half-term
Friday 5 th November 2021	Elephants' Class Assembly – 9.00am
Monday 8 th November 2021 and Tuesday 9 th November 2021	More details to follow regarding times and booking.
Friday 19 th November 2021	Individual School Photographs
Friday 3 rd December 2021	Rhinos' Class Assembly – 9.00am
Monday 13 th December 2021	Nativity Dress Rehearsal – Time TBC
Tuesday 14 th December 2021	Nativity Performance – Time TBC
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	Nativity Performance Time TBC
Friday 17 th December 2021	Term ends

Tuesday 4 th January 2022	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Start of Spring Term
Monday 21 st February to Friday 25 th February 2022	Half-term
Friday 8 th April 2022	Spring Term ends
Monday 25 th April 2022	Start of Summer Term
Monday 2 nd May 2022	May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3 rd May 2022	INSET Day – school closed to all children
Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June 2022	Half-term
Thursday 21 st July 2022	End of Summer Term and School Year