

Forward March!

UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the

*With God's help
we will
live kindly,
love each other,
learn and
laugh together!*

Autumn Term 2019 Newsletter 2

Dear Families of the March CE Primary School,

This half term is always one of our busiest with lots going on as we countdown for the Christmas break, this year is no exception. I hope you will be able to find time to join us in the many activities which are taking place between now and the end of 2019. I would like to thank all members of the staff at The March, it has been a very busy term so far and the dedication of the staffing team here ensure that we as a school are able to provide so many wonderful activities and opportunities for the children from after school clubs, wraparound, enrichment sessions and learning environments. Well done Team March.

I know the FET are really busy arranging the **Christmas Fayre** and you will be receiving lots of information over the next few weeks about events in the lead up to this. Our Christmas Fayre takes place on **6th Dec from 4.30- 6.30pm**, everyone is welcome to attend to enjoy the festivities. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Year R 1 & 2 will be busily preparing for their nativity, a wonderful memory making event for all families, KS2 will be preparing for christingle, whilst the whole school will be developing new DT and Art skills to create something very special for Christmas led by Mrs Burns.



On the **17th December** Chartwells do their **Christmas lunch** for children, Yr R 1 and 2 will already receive this but other year groups will need to book online via the Chartwells website. If your child wants to have their packed lunch on the day that is fine and they will still take part in the hall. If you have any spare crackers at home, please do donate them at the cracker drop off point in the office so that we can ensure all the children have a cracker with their lunch, this is something they really look forward to.



Anti Bullying week 11-15th November 2019

The theme this year from the Anti Bullying alliance was “ **Change starts with us**” and all classes took part in activities across the week. If you would like further information please see the link <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>

[Year 4 5 & 6 took part in a virtual reality Anti bullying workshop to give them skills to be able to tackle bullying behaviours that they might come across in their lives or with a person online.](#)

This interactive workshop encouraged the pupils and teachers to witness, dissect and negotiate a typical scenario of bullying behaviour to help decrease bullying behaviour. It was developed with experts from Bullying Intervention Group and created a safe environment to explore the backgrounds and motivations of each character. The other year groups have taken part in assemblies, video sessions and class lesson in PSHCE time to discuss a variety of anti-bullying issues



At The March we have **Worry Monsters across the school**. The worry monster is a soft toy with a zip mouth which can be open and closed. Children can if they want to, write down their worries and place them into the worry monster's mouth to "eat their worries". These could be worries about spiders, stories, friendship issues etc.. As sometimes children often find it difficult to share their worries verbally, the worry monster has been a fantastic resource in not only gaining children's views, but also contributing to their emotional well-being, this does not replace their relationship with the adults in school but gives them another way of sharing.

Mrs Boden will be training up a new set of **peer mediators in Year 5 next term**. The aim of the Peer Mediation Programme at The March is to get "Peers" to resolve conflict within the school playground using mediation. This important role can be extremely beneficial to the children in the playground as well as the peer mediators themselves. Anyone putting themselves forward needs to be committed to ensuring the children have an enjoyable and trouble free lunchtime.



Remembrance Service

We had a lovely service and 2 minutes' silence for Remembrance Day. The children sat as classes round Poppies and candles whilst thinking of past and current forces that had served the country and given up their lives and time for our futures. We were very proud of our children in uniforms who belong to organisation. They looked very smart and proud to be with the school.



What is Advent?



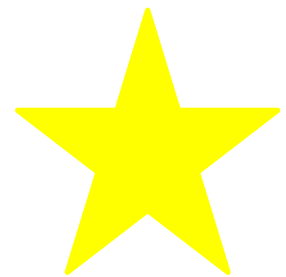
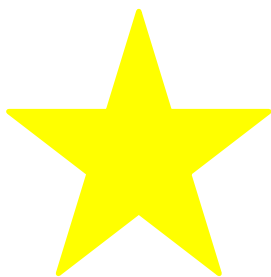
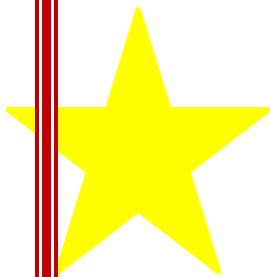
We hear the word 'advent' quite a lot every December – usually attached to the word 'calendar' and with the promise of chocolate attached! But what does one have to do with the other?

Advent is the first season in the church year. It is the period of time immediately before Christmas when Christians get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends with Christmas Day itself. The word 'advent' means 'coming': it is a period to reflect on God's coming to earth. During this time Christians remember when God came 2000 years ago in the person of Jesus, but also to look forward to the time when He will come again.

Over time, many traditions have sprung up around the advent season. Churches have always 'dressed' for advent, lighting candles each Sunday in preparation for the final candle representing Jesus, light of the world, which is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate his arrival. In the early 20th century, the first advent calendars were created as a way to look forward to the celebration of Christmas. As each day unfolds in advent, Christians are challenged to reflect on God's old promise to come and rescue His people, and think again about what Jesus Emmanuel, 'God with us', really means to them.

As the time of advent approaches we will be discussing the meaning of this with the children in worship and RE Lessons.

Bronze Award Winners



Maths



The Maths challenges below are a great way to get children thinking and reasoning about Mathematics.

They will also enable your child to develop many of the key problems solving skills of:


- Trial and improvement
- Working systematically (and remember there will be more than one way of doing this: not just the one that is obvious to you!)
- Pattern spotting
- Working backwards
- Reasoning logically
- Visualising
- Conjecturing

Have a go at one (or all!) of these and return them to **Mr Jackson** with a solution for a (large) house point reward !

Can you work out which 'Strategy' you used?

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Dotty Six




Here's a game to play with a friend, a 3 by 3 grid and a six-sided dice.

Take turns to throw a dice, then draw that many dots in one of the boxes on the grid. You can't split them up and a box can't contain more than six dots.

The person who completes a line of three sixes wins!

nrich.maths.org

Make 37



Four bags contain a large number of 1s, 3s, 5s and 7s.

Pick any ten numbers from the bags so that their total is 37.

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Noah



Noah saw 12 legs walk by into the Ark.

How many creatures could he have seen?

How many different answers can you find?

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Three Way Mix Up



Jack has three blue tiles, three yellow tiles and three green tiles.

He put them together in a square so that no two tiles of the same colour were beside each other.

Can you find another way to do it?

Can you find ALL the ways to do it?

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Top Tips - Reading for Pleasure by Mrs Lee.



Children love to read or to hear stories being read to them. Reading a story can create a world of imagination and joy. Reading stimulates curiosity. It encourages empathy and understanding of the world around us.

Here are some top tips to encourage your child to continue their love of reading:

1. Pick the right books

Making reading fun starts with selecting a book your child will enjoy reading. Ask your child what kinds of stories he or she likes reading best (Adventure? Fantasy?) Make a list of books in these categories and use it to help your child choose what he or she will read next.

2. Read aloud

Reading aloud with your child can add excitement to any book. Make the story more fun by using different voices for each character and an expressive voice for dramatic parts. You can also take turns reading aloud together, choosing a character you will each provide a voice for. Talk to your child about what is happening in the book, what his or her favourite part was, and what he or she thinks will happen next.

3. Let your child choose

Let your child choose what book he or she wants to read. Giving him or her a choice helps your child feel like he or she has more control, so your child will be more excited to sit down with the book he or she has chosen.

4. Choose books about his or her interests

Reading something your child enjoys makes reading less of a chore and more of a fun activity he or she will want to do. Help your child choose books that are related to his or her interests—whether it's sports, animals, space, or something else.

5. Encourage all forms of reading

Reading doesn't always have to mean picking up a book. Magazines, graphic novels, comics and newspapers are other great reading materials that feel less like "work" to your child—but they still help your child practise and improve his or her reading skills.

6. Make connections between books and life

Make connections between what your child is reading and your child's own experience. Read adventure books before you take a camping trip, dinosaur books before you visit a museum, and so on. This will help make reading (and learning) more exciting for your child.

7. Listen to audio books

For children who find reading frustrating, audio books are a great alternative to help make reading more enjoyable—while still helping your child improve his or her comprehension skills and develop their vocabulary.

8. Take a trip to the library

The library is a great resource where your child can find lots of books to read. Take advantage of the selection at your local library by letting your child pick or choose a book that catches his or her attention.

Remember we have a selection of good library books for your child to choose from. Come and sit in the Enquiry Centre, make yourself comfortable and read with your child.

We also have a stack of adult books in the Reception area that you can also borrow.



Key dates for the next Half term

29th November	Non uniform day in return for Jolly Jars and Luxury Hamper gifts
2 nd December	FET meeting 3-4
3 rd December	Choir at Cathedral - times to be confirmed
4 th December	All nativity costumes to be in
6 th December	Last Karate until 10 th January
6 th December	Christmas Fair 4.30 – 6.30
8 th December	Last Day to order Chartwells Xmas dinner
9 th December	Last week of clubs
10 th & 11 th December	Nativity Performances at 1.30pm to parents.
11 th December	Last Pompey Football
12 th December	Last swimming or Y4 & Y6
17 th December	Christingle for School only at the Church
17 th December	Xmas Lunch at school by Chartwells
19 th December	Y4 Cake Sale
20 th December	Carols around the Tree at 2.20pm. END OF TERM
6 th January	Return to school
9 th January	Swimming Y3
10 th January	Karate starts again
4 th & 5 th February	Parents Evenings 3- 5.30

14th February **INSET Day**

Half term 17th – 23rd February

24th February Return to school

3rd April **INSET Day**

Please support us in achieving great attendance at The March

We are asking for your support in helping your child get to school on time at 8:50 a.m. every day this year. The gate opens at 8.35am. Your child needs to be in school and engaged in learning to reach his or her full potential. Yet, we realize that every family faces challenges. **Please let me know if your family is struggling to maintain good attendance for your child.** We will do our best to help you and your family ensure that your child's school attendance stays on track. We do understand at times children may be ill and this will affect your child's attendance.

You are strongly urged to avoid booking a family holiday during term time. Following government guidelines, we can only grant leave for exceptional circumstances. Please note that unauthorised leave of absence could result in legal action and a Penalty Notice being issued. You will find our Locality agreed Attendance Policy on the school website. Unauthorised absences for holidays in term time will be reported to the Local Authority and you may be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice by the Local Authority

Why Regular Attendance is so important:

It is widely known that the link between a student's attendance and attainment is irrefutable. Early poor attendance habits follow through into secondary school and employment. Any pupil's absence disrupts teaching routines so may affect the learning of others in the same class. Ensuring your child's regular good attendance at school is your legal responsibility and permitting absence from school without a good reason creates an offence in law and may result in prosecution.

Promoting Regular Attendance: Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility - parents, pupils and all members of school staff.

To help us all to focus on this we will:

- Award certificates to children with good attendance
- Inform you if your child's attendance or punctuality falls below the acceptable level for our school. Call you in to speak to Mrs Metcalfe
- All parents will be notified in end of year reports about their child's attendance and punctuality

November Attendance for classes

Year R	97.01%
Year 1	97.55%
Year 2	98.14%
Year 3	97.42%
Year 4	98.76%
Year 5	97.14%
Year 6	96.87%

Finally

If you would like to talk to me about anything, please do stop and chat or make an appointment if you would like more privacy or a longer length of time. I am here to help and support you all.

Thanks for taking the time to read this fortnight's newsletter. If you would like to discuss any items from the newsletter in more detail, please do not hesitate to come and see me, my door is always 'Open'.

Mrs Nicky Metcalfe

Head Teacher

