



Forward March!

UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

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

Easter Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I really can't believe that we are now at the end of the second term for this year! Easter is approaching, hopefully spring is too while it is being battled with the Beast from the east! Despite this, we have remained open and the children and staff have worked so hard on their fabulous topics. It has been an incredibly busy term for the children, with the swimming gala, music concerts, netball matches, trips and visits! We are very lucky here that the staff never seem to stand still, support and arrange so many events and clubs.

Thank you for your continued support with all the events we run, as a team together we are making a positive difference to all the children.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Easter break with your families and we look forward to seeing you all on your return

Mrs Metcalfe



New Members of the school

Throughout all the learning you may have heard that we have 8 new members of the March Family!

5 Bantam Chicks were born in Reception class and we have fostered Reg the Rooster and his two ladies! The children and staff are so excited to see them and what a wonderful learning opportunity these are, both in terms of caring for others, life experiences and hopefully an egg production which will self fund the long term project!



Sorry to see you go ANDwelcome back.

Mrs Haig in the school office will be leaving us next term to start a wonderful new full time job at Steyning Grammar school. She has been wonderful in the school office, always ready to answer our questions, help us untangle our IT and technical issues and greet us with a smile ! We wish you all the best but know that we will continue to see you each day at pick ups !

Mrs Boden will be returning to us after her maternity leave and will be teaching across the school she will be covering PPA in Yr R 1 2 4 and 5 . Welcome back to the team Mrs Boden!!

What did we get up to on Snow Days?

Curling, Hot chocolate, Toast and jam , Ducks on the school field, Snow poems, Art work, Snow flake mathematics and fun !!



Year 5 Farm Visit

Huge thanks to Mr Lewis (Charlotte and Mia's dad) for arranging the Year 5 visit to his farm in Oving. Year 5's current topic has a focus comparing farming around the world with farming in the UK. Children were able to learn all about the organic dairy farming process and the benefits this brings. The highlight for the children was visiting the cattle shed and re-naming the cows with their own names. Children were able to feed, stroke and enjoy time with the cows- it was a wonderful experience for them all-they loved it so much they did not want to leave! Children also learnt about the types of organic feed that the cows eat, that they produce over 7000 litres of milk per day and that one of the milking times is at 4:00am!



March Pupils musical successes !!

Some of our wonderful pupils have taken part in the Chichester Music Festival with Naomi Lott. Congratulations to Jenny, Emmy and Monty in year 2 who did such a super job playing their piano pieces. Jenny was a star and came in 2nd place out of 15! What a talented bunch we have.



Sporting successes

Congratulations to our swim team who can third this year in the cormorants schools swim competition, they were amazing and didn't give up at all. A great team event and we were very proud to take you all!



Look at all our wonderful house points badge winners





More to follow next month!!!

Year 3 and Year 4

Over the last 3 weeks year 3 and 4 have been working really hard on their production; learning lines, dance moves song words and thinking about how to really bring this moving drama to life- it all paid off. Westhampnett rocked on Tuesday night as Year 3 and 4 performed their Passion Play 'Easter Praise' at St Peter's church. Well done to everyone, the singers, actors and stage crew. It was a really moving re-telling of the story of Jesus' last few days.



Year 1 Super heroes!

Superheroes have been saving the day! We have been practising our greatest moves, including stealth and speed. All of us have been creating a dance sequence in PE and have learnt how to show the audience we are ready to begin with a start position. We have then transformed into our superhero, stopped some evil or saved someone and returned to normal. We have then ended our dance with a final position. We have taken the brave step of sharing our work with the rest of the class and enjoyed the compliments they gave us!

We have also been learning about food and what foods Superheroes need to stay fit and strong. It's important for us to eat a balanced diet so that we have lots of energy and our muscles stay strong

Netball Team

A huge congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 Netball team who performed amazingly at the Chichester Area Netball Competition. Having finished 2nd in the group stage the children were delighted to reach the final four. We played Westbourne Primary in our semi-final who won their respective group and who would go on to win the tournament. After a noble effort we were defeated and faced Thorney Island once again. The girls played so well and unfortunately one goal separated the two teams. An extremely well deserved 4th place was achieved. I was so proud of the commitment and team spirit amongst the girls and they should be extremely proud of their achievement.

Congratulations to: Megan, Charlotte, Anne, Cricket, Amelie, Florence and Poppy.
Thank you to the parents that came and supported and who drove their children to and from the event.



Year R Chick News

This has been a very exciting term for Reception. It began with the children designing their own Topic, from the big question 'How Do You Make Chickens?' to deciding how that might lead into other interesting ideas that they wanted to investigate.

Their ideas drove the learning from talking about eggs, what was inside the egg, how it would feel to be inside an egg and hatch, to different environments, body parts and how they work, how to handle to animals and creatures with care, and how diet and food affects growth and then of course wanting to hatch our own eggs.

Unbelievably, we managed to hatch 5 Bantam chicks and the children watched in amazement as the chicks first cracked the shell, poked out a beak and then finally breaking the shell to enter the world as a wet, bedraggled creature that they hardly recognized as a chick.



So we are now 'parents' to these bundles of fluff and the children are very eager to name them; the suggestions so far are Flinn, Greg, Jeff, Rainbow and Fluff! (I'm not sure who'll make the final decision!!)



We also have fostered 3 very handsome Bantams, 2 hens and a cockerel, who are living in their fox proof henpod and run on the school field. This is to help us learn how to manage and care for them so that when our baby chicks are old enough to go outside, we will be well practiced in the art of looking after our own March Hens.

We hope this will become a whole school project with each class taking turns to care for the hens hands on for a week on a rota basis, to feed and care for them, and to collect their eggs! We will use the chickens for a range of learning opportunities in school, from science to maths! Well done Reception

The Polar Explorer Programme Workshop

To celebrate Science week we arranged for one of the ambassadors for the Polar Explorer Programme, Jo Fox, to run an assembly and an ICT/DT workshop for classes in key Stage 2.

The Polar Explorer Programme encourages and supports schools who are keen to raise aspirations and attainment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. The school had applied to the programme last year and was lucky enough to be accepted and fortunate enough to have a one-day workshop on programming and DT.

Jo, taught the children to program a robot to push and pull a carriage across the hall floor. The children, in pairs, constructed one and then using an iPad, programmed it to flash lights, make noises and move in different directions.

Year 6 were amazing and impressed Jo with their ability to work in a team. It was a brilliant workshop and the children were inspired!

Jo talked about RRS David Attenborough, the polar research ship with an automated submersible. It will enable scientists and technicians to stay at sea for longer and study the polar environments during the Antarctic and Arctic summer months. Year 6 was very interested in hearing this as they had just completed the 'Frozen Kingdom' topic in February and had researched the Polar Regions.

More about this project is at <https://www.stem.org.uk/news-and-views/news/full-steam-ahead-polar-explorer-programme>



World Book Day

What a great array of characters that turned up to school on World Book Day! Everyone looked amazing and dressed as a character from their favourite book. It was a fun day with lots of reading and writing activities.

One child in each class won the 'Golden Bar' – a surprise rectangular package that smelt remarkably like chocolate. Ummm!

All children were invited to submit an 'up to 500 words story'. **Winners will be announced soon. Watch this space.**



Year 2 Go mini beast mad!



Year 2 had a fantastic minibeasts workshop learning about habitats, food chains, life cycles and seeing so many amazing creatures up close. There were so many activities to try and learnt so much about minibeasts from around the world. They sketched some of the unusual minibeasts.

Forest School Spring

The Reception Class are very glad to have been able to resume Forest School back up at Seeley Copse after the very cold Spring Term 1.

Some of the activities that the children have enjoyed are making a Tree Family using clay to twist, squeeze and pinch, adding features with twigs



After reading the Easter story. The Tale of the Three Trees in school, the children wanted to make the three crosses. This involved many fine motor skills such as weaving and lashing with string

They were also interested in making a nest, deciding how best to stick the twigs together and ways to make it cosy.

We always enjoy the Trust games such as Hawk and Squawk, 1,2,3 Where are you? And The Woodlouse Game

Over the last 3 weeks the children have become very interested in shelter building and den making using a variety of materials, natural and manmade. They have used many skills as they dis-assembled and re-assembled different dens which involved a lot of discussion, lots of turn-taking and lots and lots of patience!



The activities are only a starting point and children may choose to take activities in a different direction from the one intended (or choose not to participate in the activity at all). Underpinning the whole of forest school is physical development which can be measured weekly by experimenting with different ways of moving, jumping off objects and landing appropriately, negotiating space successfully, adjusting speed or changing direction to avoid obstacles. Travelling with confidence and skill around under, over and through balancing and climbing.

Thanks for taking the time to read this 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'

We hope that you all have a restful and peaceful family break this Easter.

**Mrs Nicky Metcalfe
Head Teacher**