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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Lizzie Martin

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Inclusion Manager: Mrs Jo Eyre

Enabling every child to thrive and succeed

Friday Flyer – 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our final Friday Flyer before the half-term and I think we can all agree it has been quite the start to the year! After the 'pleasure' of Ofsted in the first week of term, it has been a half-term full of fantastic learning, happy times and feeling proud of being a strong school family!

Ofsted Celebration

We were absolutely delighted to be able to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection with the school community last Friday.

There were so many wonderful observations by the inspection team, some of which make it into the full report, which you can see in the text boxes.

"Right from the start in Reception, pupils develop a love of books. The youngest children bubble with excitement when they identify work by the same illustrator in several stories."

"Pupils are polite and considerate."

However, there were so many other positive comments and it is good to share them with you:

- The art work of the children was praised – the subject is led by Mrs Parker and she has transformed the learning in this area. The inspectors were impressed with the children's enthusiasm and passion for the subject and the way in which their learning was contributing to their personal development.
- Inspectors were impressed with the way children resolved issues independently – they felt that the children exemplified our values and there is a genuine 'climate of kindness' throughout the school.
- We were delighted to hear that parents were so positive about the school and, in particular, were complimentary about the support of SEND children – the inspectors commented that it is unusual for a school to receive so much positivity about SEND support so we are delighted and humbled by your comments – thank you.



"Pupils have extensive vocabularies and ask thoughtful questions."

We are determined to ensure that we continue to improve the school and will address the areas for improvement with as much passion and zeal as we applied to the previous areas.

"Relationships across the school are warm and good humoured."

Once again, our heartfelt thanks to all parents/carers and children for your amazing support – you are the heart of St. James and we are so proud to work with you.

Click [here](#) to read the full Ofsted Report .

Chinese New Year



The Elephants have celebrated Chinese New Year this week by cooking and eating noodles with water chestnuts, bamboo shoots and soy sauce and trying prawn crackers. They have learned to say 'Happy New Year' in Chinese and Ben made a long snake to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Snake.

Penguins designed and made some wonderful Chinese lanterns. It has been joyous to watch the children learning about one of the diverse cultures that form part of our multicultural and colourful society!



Netball Tournament at Dorset House

This week, a team of players in Years 4 to 6 attended a netball tournament at Dorset House School. There were six teams competing, some of whom play regular netball with a club or school. It was a new experience for our team and they made Mrs Kirby and Mrs Besant very proud. To recognise their achievement, they were all awarded a values certificate for "Teamwork" this week. Well done, girls, an amazing effort



Year 4 Maths at MRC

Iris and Imogen were invited to a Maths session at MRC this week. They spent a morning doing fun maths tasks in the library. Some were "impossible", whilst others were "challenging" but both girls agreed it was a fun morning and they hope to be able to visit MRC for another enrichment day soon. During Years 4, 5 and 6, there are various opportunities to visit MRC and have a taste of what life is like at secondary school.

Cross Country Running Competition at Midhurst Rother College

Today, our cross country running team took part in a competition at Midhurst Rother College. In very cold and wet weather, they attacked the course with determination and resilience. They did the school proud with three being our lucky number! In three out of four races, we had three children finish in third place! All the children were a credit to the school and their families! Thank you to Mrs Douse, Mrs Besant, Mrs Kirby and all the parents/carers who accompanied the children – I hope that you all thawed out and had a warm, restful evening!



Parent Forum

Thank you to the parents who came to our Parent Forum on Thursday. It was very useful to be able to discuss our recent Ofsted report and hear parent feedback about other matters within the school. We really do appreciate your input and will be organising further events during the school year.

Petworth Detectives

In the Summer Term 2024, Mrs Palmer was involved in a fun research session on the playground on behalf of Petworth House. Parents, carers and young people are now invited to a celebration event where the outcome of the research will be revealed – there are more details on the flyer at the end of this letter. If you will be attending, please RSVP direct to their email address.

A Firm Reminder

Please can we remind all parents/carers that smoking/vaping at the entrance of the school whilst dropping off/picking up is strictly prohibited. West Sussex County Council implement a county-wide ban on smoking/vaping on or near their premises which we must adhere to. We also would like to ensure the children and their younger siblings are experiencing a smoke-free environment. Thank you for your support with this.

We hope that you have a fantastic half-term and are looking forward to all the lovely events that are coming up in the second half of the academic year (please see the Diary Dates below). Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards,

L. Martin

Mrs Lizzie Martin
Executive Headteacher
Arun Villages Federation
Amberley CE Primary School and St James' CE Primary School, Coldwaltham

Dates for the Diary

Friday 7 th February 2025	Cross Country Competition at MRC. All children in Years 3-6 are invited. Please see our letter dated 16/01/2025 for full details.
Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February	Half Term
Friday 7 th March 2025	World Book Day at St James'
Friday 14 th March	Elephants Class Worship 9.00am
Monday 17 th and Tuesday 18 th March	Parent Consultations – letter to follow
Friday 21 st March	Red Nose Day – wear something red with usual school uniform or PE kit
Friday 21 st March	Penguins and Rhinos Class Worship 9.00am
Tuesday 25 th March	Ukulele performance to parents – Years 1 to 6, 10.45am to 11.45am
Wednesday 26 th March	Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness – wear something purple with usual school uniform or PE kit
Friday 28 th March	Jaguars Class Worship 9.00am
Week of 31 st March	No after school clubs will take place this week
Tuesday 1 st April	Ukulele Performance for parents and carers 10.45am to 11.45am
Friday 4 th April 2025	Last Day of the Spring Term
22 nd April 2025	First day of the Summer Term
26 th May to 30 th May	Half Term

Monday 2 nd June	Inset Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 3 rd June	Children return to school
Monday 30 th June	Dress Rehearsal – End-of-Year KS2 Production
Tuesday 1 st July	End-of-Year KS2 Production – 6pm
Wednesday 2 nd to Friday 4 th July	Year 6 School Sleepover – more details to follow
Monday 7 th July	Sports Day 1.00pm to 3.15pm
Monday 14 th July	Reserve Date for Sports Day 1.00pm to 3.15pm
Friday 18 th July	Last Day of term for children
Monday 21 st July and Tuesday 22 nd July	Inset Days – school closed to children

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Chorister Open Day

Saturday
8 March
2025



CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK | [#CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL](https://twitter.com/CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL)

Be a chorister for the day!



The experience of being a Chorister is exciting and fun, and develops valuable skills that will last a lifetime. Choristers spend about 18 hours each week rehearsing and singing services, as well studying two instruments and following a full school curriculum of academic work, sport and drama. They make recordings, feature on broadcasts, and give concert performances at home and abroad.

Choristers receive an excellent academic education at the Prebendal School, a co-ed, independent prep school immediately adjacent to the

Cathedral. Following an inspection, the School has recently received the highest possible grading.

The musical and academic experience we offer is a springboard for future success. Many choristers go on to win scholarships at prestigious secondary schools, where their choral training, discipline and team skills are highly valued.

Scholarships are awarded to all Choristers, and with additional funding according to need. We want to recruit promising young musicians regardless of financial circumstances.

WHO IS THIS EVENT FOR?

This event is suitable for girls and boys in Years 2, 3 and 4, as well as their parent/guardians. We do not expect candidates to have any musical experience when they join the choir. We look for energy, enthusiasm and good reading skills.

BOOKING

The event will take place on Saturday 8th March 2025 from 1.30 - 4.30pm. To book your space, or ask further questions, please contact:

T: 01243 812 488 | **E:** chris.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk



National
Trust

We have the great
pleasure of inviting you to

THE PETWORTH DETECTIVES

Community Research Celebration

Friday 28th

February 2025

5.00 - 7.00pm

@ Petworth House

RSVP by 25th February to
petworth@nationaltrust.org.uk

Please arrive to the Church Lodge entrance on Church Street
in Petworth town.

(Petworth House's main car park will not be open)

shortwork



Portage Services

With Louisa Holden

Portage Co-ordinator at West Sussex County Council



Portage is an Early Years home visiting educational service for children with additional support needs, working alongside parents, they offer practical strategies and ideas to encourage and develop a child's emerging skills.

Join us in learning:

- What Portage is.
- How they support families.
- How to access support.

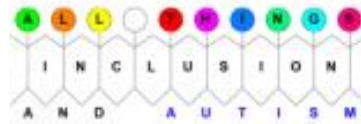


 Monday 10th February

 1:30pm - 2:30pm

 ONLINE ALL WELCOME!







allthingsautism ltd@gmail.com

01895 649211

<https://allthingsinclusionandautism.com>

Workshops for parents / carers (and practitioners) - Autumn term 2024

<p>All things visual strategies Supporting autistic children / those with communication difficulties with visual strategies - why use visuals, which visuals to use and how to use them? Thursday 27th February 2025 10 - 11.30am Online - via Zoom £36 per person</p>	<p>Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Understanding PDA and practical strategies to support 25th February 2025 9.30 - 11.30am Online - via Zoom £44 per person</p>
<p>All things communication and play: Supporting autistic children with communication and play skills - laughing and learning together Monday 10th March 2025 9.30am - 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person</p>	<p>Autism and Girls Exploring differences and diagnosis . Understanding how autism impacts on girls and strategies and ideas to support them Wednesday 26th March 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person</p>
<p>All things behaviour - supporting positive behaviours for autistic children Thursday 6th February 2025 9.30am - 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person</p> 	<p>All things sensory - a workshop exploring the sensory needs of autistic children and practical strategies to support their needs Monday 3rd March 2025 9.30am - 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person</p> 

<p>All Things Toileting Exploring the challenges of toileting for autistic children and practical strategies to get you started Tuesday 28th January 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person</p>	<p>Gestalt Language Processing How to support early language skills for young children including Gestalt learners Monday 10th February 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person</p>
<p>All Things Mealtimes Looking at the challenges around food and eating for autistic children and practical strategies to support Monday 17th March 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person</p>	<p>ADHD Understanding ADHD in young children and practical ideas to support them Wednesday 19th March 2025 10-11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person</p>
<p>Supporting children with Bereavement and Loss Looking at the impact of bereavement and loss on young children and strategies to support them Friday 28th February 2025 10 - 11.30am Online via Zoom £36 per person</p>	<p>Promoting positive mental health in young children Examining causes of mental health difficulties, learning about anxiety and trauma Tuesday 1st April 2025 9.30 am - 12 Online via Zoom £51 per person</p>

The Attention Autism programme
A learning approach to develop communication skills for children using visually based and highly motivating activities
This 2 day Foundation course covers all 4 stages of the programme
6th and 13th March 2025
9.15am - 4pm
£240 per person
Face to face in Ickenham, West London



Contact Jaci Smith or Nikki Duhig at allthingsautism ltd@gmail.com or 01896 649211 to book your place/s