

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

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

Spring Term 2016 Newsletter 4



Dear Parents/Carers,

As unbelievable as it may seem the second term of the 2015-16 academic year is about to finish and we are going to be entering the final term after the Easter holidays. Every year goes quickly, but this one seems to be going particularly speedily! Once we return there will only be four weeks until the Year 6 children undertake their National Curriculum tests and we will also soon start to think about summer events such as Sports Day (always to my mind a real highlight of a school year).

There has been a string of announcements by the government in recent weeks about the future of education in this country. The clear agenda is for every school to acadamise in the future. This has not been an option that we as a school have had huge cause to consider in the past. We achieve well at the March and continue to deliver strongly in terms of the academic outcomes for pupils and personal, social and spiritual development.

It is clear to me as Headteacher of this school, and I know this is a view shared by the school's Governing Body, that what we must do is focus on what is going to be the best for the children of this school. I am absolutely determined that all decisions that are taken here will be for the good of the children who attend the March C of E Primary School and how we can best ensure that they are placed in the strongest



possible education due to the high quality primary school education that they receive here.

No decisions have been made at this early stage but we will aim to keep you informed when we hear any further updates from the LEA and Diocese.

Sports Relief and the March Mile.

Thank you to everyone who put so much effort into making Sports Relief another great success! We had lots of wonderful costumes and a fantastic March mile around the school! The School Council led an amazing assembly where everyone could show off their fabulous costumes but also learn about the key messages. Of all the money raised by the public through Sport Relief, **50%** is used to make a difference right here in the UK, and **50%** goes towards transforming lives across the world's poorest communities. We raised an amazing £191. We had some wonderful contributions of money raised by all the children, but I would particularly like to mention Sam and Joe Kelly who brought in large amounts of sponsor money that they had raised. Peter made and sold flapjacks at his Dads work and raised £16.01. Well done to all of you. You have made a difference to lives across the world!



WOW moments

It is always lovely when the children come into school eager to share a wonderful moment from the weekend. This week Mary Jane and Julian found the most amazing antler in the field when planting apple trees. They had learnt so many facts about the antler and shared these with their classes and myself. It was great to hear them eagerly tell me it was made from hair and that only male deer have antlers and they fight for the ladies with them! Home learning at weekends is a valuable resource and one that we are keen to share during the week with the children.



Resurrection Rocks Raises the Roof.

Last night I had the great pleasure along with many of the parents, to see the amazing Resurrection Rock musical performed by the Year 4 and 5 pupils. I feel incredibly privileged to be the Head Teacher of the March and see such acting talent, beautiful singing and teamwork from the children as they supported each other. There were moving songs sung by individuals and groups, whilst others had the audience clapping and calling for more ! The dedication by the staff who have helped the children has been superb and we are very lucky to have such a committed team. The message of the Easter story was clearly captured and in a time when we have sadness around the world this has shown how the hope is offered for all.



PE Lessons

Physical education, experienced in a safe and supportive environment, is a unique and vital contributor to a pupil's physical development and well-being. Our broad and balanced PE curriculum is intended to increase confidence and self-esteem, as well as help develop a positive attitude towards learning. Children at the March understand how lifelong physical activity can improve strength, flexibility, coordination, resilience and academic achievement.

It is therefore essential that all children bring their PE kits to school. KS2 children should be responsible for packing their own kit. Reception and KS1 parents please encourage your child to bring their PE kits into school on a Monday and then take them home to be washed at the end of the week.

We are looking forward to welcoming Lee Tyllier from Inspire Leisure next term who was awarded Coach of the Year. He will be working with different classes across the school developing sporting skills in team games and athletics during the summer term.

Safe Guarding.

I have recently discussed the use of video games with some parents that are being played above their age. When questioned, children often tell us that they are playing with or being supervised by older siblings at this time. Please could you make sure that all computer time is supervised and that you make yourselves aware of the games your children are playing.

ALL over 18 games contain disturbing images that are totally unsuitable for children. The following is a list of some over 18 games that our children have mentioned: Call of Duty, Traffic Slam, Halo, Gun Games, Assassins Creed, Delta Force, Gangster Taxi, Grand Theft Auto.

NOTE IT IS ILLEGAL FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 TO BE PLAYING THESE GAMES.

If you have any further enquiries about this, please see Mrs Savage our E-safety co-ordinator.



Wrap Around Care – Young Explorers

This is now due to start on the 12th April and we look forward to welcoming all the children to the first breakfast and after school club session. We have had a wonderful response and the children are already excited to be starting after Easter. If you would still like to book a regular place or just the occasional drop in please contact the school office.

School Uniform

From discussion at the previous Parents Forum we have decided to look at a new company to provide the uniform. I understand that there have been delays in getting the uniform from the current supplier and that the jumpers are fading , shrinking and cuffs are fraying. We have been in discussion with Game Set and Match a local business that offers better quality, service and competitive price. They will be able to provide all school uniform, coats, book bags and PE kits and are open 7 days a week. We will give you further information on our return when they have finalised the details.

After discussion with the Parents Forum we have taken on board what has been said and suggested by the parents.

Please note the changes to be implemented for September 2016

- We have looked into more substantial book bags which the new company will provide.
- All pupils will now wear pale blue polo shirts or cotton shirts (white will no longer be needed as from September)
- All children will be expected to wear black school shoes – no trainers or open toed sandals.
- KS2 pupils asked about ties and we have agreed that they can wear these as from September and will be available from the supplier. It is optional for KS1.
- Grey trousers, skirts, shorts or pinafores to be worn. Summer dresses for girls in the summer term if they wish to.
- White or grey socks/tights only.
- The new supplier can also embroider the surname of your child onto the back of the jumper beneath the collar (surname only) to help jumpers return to owners.
- Simple hair accessories school colours for the girls please.

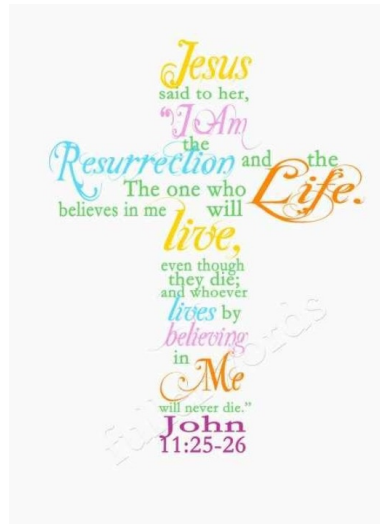
I look forward to sharing more information from the supplier early next term.

All previous newsletters are archived on the website, so you can catch up on anything you may have missed. Key dates and the latest school news are also available to view on the school website and the APP.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and look forward to welcoming you all back on **Tuesday 12th April.**

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



We are interested in your Feedback.



Please let us know your comments about this newsletter or any other aspect of school life by emailing us at: office@march.w-sussex.sch.uk.

