

6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Issue: 119

## Upcoming School Events

Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	3.45pm–5pm & 6pm–8pm	Parent Consultations
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	All Day	Ruby Class - Columbus Day
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	3.45pm – 6pm	Parent Consultations
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Afternoon	Emerald Class – Jane Green Visiting for Earth & Space Topic
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	3.15pm	October Holiday Starts
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	8.45am	Start of Term

## Community Dates

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	11am	Harvest Festival, St Andrew's Church
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Dear Parents/Carers,

**Attendance** – wow, great attendance and late figures this week!

Week Beginning	Attendances	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Lates
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	98.19%	1.31%	0.50%	0.50%

## Data Collection Sheets

We have several data collection sheets outstanding. Please can parents ensure they have returned their child/children's data collection sheets, having made any amendments, to the school office by tomorrow, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

## Charity Sponsored Silence

Please do join us for Celebration Assembly tomorrow at 9am, when Rosie, in Year 5, will be letting us know how she got on with the 24 hour sponsored silence she took part in yesterday, raising funds for the Eastbourne Winter Shelter. We would be grateful if you could bring in tomorrow any sponsor money that you would like to give to Rosie and either give it to the class teachers or to the office. Please put it in an envelope marked 'sponsored silence'.

## Lunches

Please note that if your child usually has a school lunch on a Wednesday and/or Friday only, they will need a packed lunch tomorrow, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, as Chartwells swapped tomorrow's lunch around with today as a 'Fun Favourite' lunch.

## Parent Consultations

These will take place next week on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October in the school hall. The notice board will be out by the entrance gate to the playground from Monday to remind parents of which time slot they signed up for. Teachers have allowed a 10 minute slot for each consultation, if they require extra time they will ask for another appointment to be made on an alternative day to continue the discussions.

## **Columbus Day**

On Wednesday, Ruby Class will be having 'Columbus Day'. Children are welcome to come to school dressed up as Columbus, a ship mate, a sailor or a pirate if they would like to, but please note that this is optional. They will be taking part in a variety of fun activities that day along the theme of Columbus. Miss Foster would like to make a ship on Wednesday as part of a science and DT project about testing materials. She would appreciate it if you have any plastic bottles, yogurt pots, margarine tubs or other plastic container of any size, which you could send in to school to use for this activity. Please send in the pots by Wednesday morning at the latest. Thank you.

## **Violin Lessons**

Mrs Cane-Hardy, the violin teacher who comes into school from the East Sussex Music Service, has informed us that she has spaces available for more children to learn the violin. If anyone is interested in their child/children learning this instrument, then please do contact her on [yvonne.cane-hardy@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.cane-hardy@eastsussex.gov.uk) or ring the music service on 01273 336770 for further details. Violin lessons are available to children in all year groups.

## **Maths Challenge**

Congratulations to Ben, Elias, Eliza, Lorcan, Luther and Rosie from Year 5 who represented the school last week at a maths challenge at St. Andrews School, Eastbourne. They took part in a variety of maths tasks over the course of the afternoon and ended up coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the final placings of the 12 other schools taking part.

## **Trips to the Village**

Over the past couple of weeks the children have had various trips into the village. Ruby, Sapphire and Emerald Classes have all been and visited the Gallery to see the exhibition of paintings by Suzanne Taylor (Charlie, Jack and Georgia's Mum), which ends tomorrow. Yesterday Sapphire Class visited the Clergy House, and Matt, the curator, reported back to me how impressed he was with how wonderful and polite all the children were. Well done!

## **Office**

Please note that Tanya is now in the office on her own on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings so when she is out on 'door duty' at the start of the day, the office is unattended. If you are telephoning the office during this time, please leave a message on the answerphone or call back later. Also, she will be unable to let you into school at this time as there is no one in the office available to help. This is due to the appointment of Ursula as an INA to one of our pupils, so she is now in class in the mornings and in the office in the afternoons, except on Tuesdays and Fridays when Sharon is in the office all day. We really do appreciate your help in this matter.

## **News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS)** Email [foaschool@gmail.com](mailto:foaschool@gmail.com)

**'Teas and Tables'** – thank you to everyone who has offered to bake for the 'Teas & Tables' fundraiser at Alfriston Church on Saturday. You can hand over your cakes at Friday pick up (see Yvonne at Flap-Jack-Friday) or drop them directly to the church from 10am on Saturday. Thank you.

**Textile Collection** - Please remember the Bags2School collection is next week. You can drop your bags on Monday 10th, after school (by the door to the hall) or on Tuesday 11th after morning drop-off. The couriers are coming to collect the bags on Tuesday, mid-morning. You can use bin liners if you don't have enough Bags2School bags. Please call Yvonne on 07967 108130 if you can't get to school and need someone to pick up the bags from your house. Thank you.

**Christmas Card Fundraiser** - over the next week, the children will be designing their own Christmas cards at school. These will be sent home in the book bags, and parents will be able to go online to order professionally printed packs of these Christmas cards. You can also personalise the cards with your own message, and write the name of the school and your child on the back. The online order date will be Tuesday 18th October. We'll send more information home with the designs next week.

**100 Club** - thank you so much to everyone that bought a number for the FoAS '100 Club'. We have 'sold' 53 numbers. As each number cost £12 we have made £318 for the FoAS and also have £318 in the prize pot which equates to a monthly 'win' of £26.50 for the lucky number pulled out of the hat each month. Congratulations to September's winner; Mrs Nickalls, with number 55. There are quite a few numbers left and these are on sale throughout the year - £11 for the next 11 draws, £10 if you start with the November draw, £9 if you start with the December draw, and so on. The more numbers sold the bigger the prize pot and the more money going to the FoAS. If you would like a number please find Eleanor in the playground. Thank you.

Please note that 'Breakfast with Santa' on Saturday 10th December, that was advertised on the Dates for your Diary sheet earlier this term, will not now be taking place.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher

## Community Notices

**Harvest Festival** - everyone is invited to the Harvest Festival this Sunday, 9th October, at 11am at St Andrew's Church, Alfriston, with singing from villagers, a music group and local children. Please bring along any non-perishable produce that you would like to donate and they will be distributed to families in need.

**Restoration of St Andrew's Church, Alfriston** – the following is an article from Reverend Daniel regarding the restoration of the church that he has asked us to pass on to you.

Back in April we began, formally, the Restoration Appeal to begin the process of bringing St Andrew's, Alfriston back to life. The last major works done on the crucial structures of the church were undertaken in the 19th century, and from then until the present day only minor repairs have been done on the walls, both inside and out. In theory, all the work done about 150 years ago, should have helped preserve the church both in its day, and also right up to our time. Unfortunately, in the Victorian period building techniques employed on ancient buildings were not always very enlightened. Since that period, we have learned so much more, and nowadays we know that many historic buildings need to be cared for using original techniques and materials. The mistake made on St Andrew's in the past was to plaster and point (inside and out) the walls with cement-based materials, and not lime-based, thus causing considerable moisture to literally eat away at the building. The restorers thought they were preserving the church, but in reality they were damaging it, some aspects, sadly, irreparably.

If you have time, take a visit to St Andrew's and have a look on the South wall of the choir area, near the East end, where you will see the beginning of the Restoration, employing lime plaster. After two years the material has cured, and it appears that the work has taken well, in the process saving several medieval features of the church for posterity, as well as safeguarding the wall for a considerable amount of time (possibly hundreds of years). This work was undertaken without grants, and with money from the last legacy money available. Unfortunately, these sort of large, generous legacies are rare, and hence we began fund-raising to see if we could restore as much of the church as possible. Thanks to the incredible efforts of so many in the village of Alfriston, and elsewhere, we have now raised £29K (with at least one generous pledge yet to add), which is a great achievement. We do hope that we can slowly continue to raise more money, but in the meantime a big "thank you", once again to all who have put so much hard work in!

Later, as the project progresses, we will publish all the financial ins and outs, but this update is to inform everyone as to how we are proposing to approach the Restoration. You will see below that without grants (legacies or generous donations), we will not be able to complete most of the work needed. Indeed, it may simply be unrealistic to do everything, but, of course, it would be great to achieve as much as possible.

Some of the sums estimated below are indeed eye-watering, but Grade I listed buildings are really expensive to work on. In addition to expense, every step of the way has to receive authority from local Government bodies, Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and the Church of England. So, raising money, although vital to match grants (or show willing to grant awarding bodies) is only part of the process.

There are at least four phases that we have identified to restoring the church

(with estimates based on current costings, naturally subject to some variation over time):-

- \* South Transept and West End walls - both areas have considerable water damage, with plaster falling off and paint flaking. Estimate: £50-60K.
- \* East End wall - where there are the medieval consecration crosses. Estimate £35-50K.
- \* Spire, Tower and some exterior wall pointing - the Spire shingles are now approximately 20 years beyond their life expectancy, and the Tower/Spire leaks. Estimate £90K.
- \* North Transept - where there are valuable (but probably damaged) medieval wall paintings, but where the restoration is mixed with elements of conservation, making costing difficult to assess. Estimate £80-90K.

Recently, we applied for the second tranche of the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, but, sadly, we were not awarded a grant. This scheme, set up by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, only ran twice (in the last two years), and the take-up was so enormous that, even though our application was of high quality, there was too much demand from buildings with roofs literally falling in! The Churchwardens and Rector were disappointed, but both will have to now look for other grant sources. There will be no more tranches of this scheme.

Regards to the phases of work mentioned above, the decision on scheduling of these depends on several factors, which will include our ability to draw down grants, our ability to part-match grants with local fund-raising, and the urgency of certain areas. In all this, of course, we will have to seek the advice of our authorised Architect and speak to the Diocese of Chichester. Major restorations like this are never easy. Because it will not be possible to do even the first parts of this Restoration overnight, the estimates given above will, naturally, be subject to revision over time. It should also be noted that every effort will be made to secure the best value for money at all stages of work, so to this end we will be putting out to tender each phase or multiple phases. It should be further noted that the above phases do not include all the work that could be done on St Andrew's (such as potentially other medieval wall paintings in the Nave), but from the estimates above you can see we have to be realistic, and concentrate on the areas being damaged, not those we would like to conserve (which can be left to another generation to complete).

I hope this communicates somewhat the enormity of the task ahead, but also something of how we hope to set about it. It should be obvious that a lot of work will have to go in behind the scenes to make any of this happen, but we will try to do our best for St Andrew's and the village in this regard. As the project becomes clearer we will endeavour to progressively inform all readers of our efforts and decisions. Crucial to this will be an estimate of how much we would like to raise locally, but this will only really become clear when we have done more work on grant applications. This is a vital target to communicate to you all, of course, and we will try and do this at the earliest opportunity. Regardless, we can say that the efforts of the past months have given us a great start!

It would be appreciated if you could point this article out to all your neighbours, so that it does not go unread. Hopefully, in this way, locals (and others) will see that we are trying hard, in a difficult financial climate, to achieve good things for the village, and that we are being transparent and financially responsible.