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9th December 2016

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy month we have had! Lots and lots of learning in many different ways. We have been very fortunate in having some fantastic people in to school to provide demonstrations and some workshops that have really brought their subjects to life.

5 Ways to Wellbeing

West Sussex have been running a programme called '5 Ways to Wellbeing' aimed at children and we were lucky enough to have them spend a day with yellow class helping us learn more about how to help ourselves. We did exercises, relaxation techniques and there was even a giant parachute! It was a lot of fun finding out how we could connect with others, be active, take notice of our surroundings, keep learning and how to be a giver not a taker.



KS2 Science Presentation

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Mr Flaxbeard arranged for Tim Harrison to come and visit the school to bring his amazing science demonstration to show some of our KS2 children. Tim is a professor at Bristol University and he really made the subject come alive.

If you follow us on Twitter, you can see some videos of the simple experiments he carried out. There were some very loud bangs in the hall but the children loved them!



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Spelling Bee



Well done to all our children who took part in the Spelling Bee competition, and particular credit to Ms Power who came up with the idea! It was lovely to see so many parents come along and support all our finalists. Well done to our two winners, Flossie from Y1 and Bob from Y2.

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Mayan Day

As part of their topic work on the Mayans, Ms Power and Mr Flaxbeard arranged for a company to come in and talk to yellow and blue classes about the Maya people. We had the opportunity to try 100% chocolate (yuck!) and also to dress up in their costumes. It was a really fun day. The short videos of us tasting the chocolate can be seen on our Twitter feed – look at those faces!



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Children in Need

Friday the 18th November was Children in Need day and Birdham School 'Wore Spots to Raise Lots'. We raised £145 for the charity so thank you so much to all our parents.

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Orange Class Thinking Thursday

A new initiative to demonstrate to parents how we teach maths at KS1 developed into 'Thinking Thursday'. Parents were invited in to the classroom first thing in the morning to take part in a lesson. We had 22 parents take part, so thank you all very much. As this was very successful, we aim to try and run it every term.



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Mathematics evening

In the next half term we shall be holding an after-school event for parents to come and see how we teach mathematics to KS1 children – more information to follow next term. We also intend to do a KS2 event in the following half term. Keep an eye out for dates!

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Green Class Weald & Downland Trip



All the children in green class had the opportunity to visit the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum as part of their topic work on the great fire of London. In particular we looked at how building design might have contributed to the spread of the fire. We then designed our own houses using different materials to see which would be the strongest and in class we made our own Tudor houses which we decorated with tape to look like wooden beams.

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Red Class Interviews

We conducted a rigorous interview process today with two excellent candidates to cover the remainder of Mrs Treagust's maternity absence and anticipate making a successful appointment. More information will follow on Monday next week.

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Tag Rugby Tournament

On a freezing cold day, Mr Wilcox and one parent again took 10 children from blue & yellow classes to Parklands school to take part in a tag rugby tournament. Most of our children had no idea how to play rugby so after a quick explanation of the rules and some very tough matches, we came in a respectable fifth place.



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Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 13th December - Carols by Candlelight – St James' Church, Birdham

Thursday 15th December - Christmas meal and Christmas jumper day

Friday 16th December 2016 – Last day of school and church service at 9.30am

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 – INSET day

Wednesday 4th January 2017 – first day back

Thursday 5th January 2017 – Accelerated Reader evening in the school hall at 5.00pm

Monday 9th January 2017 – First week of before and after school clubs

Friday 13th January 2017 – Whole school visit to Chichester College Theatre

w/c Monday 13th February – Parent's evenings week – No before or after school clubs run by school staff will operate this week.

Friday 17th February – INSET day

20 – 24th February – Half Term

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With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McCadden'.

Mark McCadden
HEADTEACHER

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