

# Newsletter 5

18<sup>th</sup> January 2022



*Learning God's Way*

Dear Parents and Carers

We are starting the week with lots of lovely creative activities across the school. Children are busy working with a glass artist and a pottery/ceramics artist throughout the week. Children are also practising their calligraphy skills as they write their own mini psalms and developing their watercolour skills to paint their own visual interpretation of our values.

We are hoping that the children will design some beautiful symbols for Friendship, Kindness, Love, Resilience, Respect and Teamwork. These will then be taken away by our resident artists and made into a welcome display in our new foyer which is nearing completion.

Our COVID levels are thankfully very low at present and we continue to take precautions to keep staff and children safe. Thank you for maintaining social distance where possible. You are welcome to wear masks on school premises if you wish to do so.

We are also continuing with the one way system at the start and end of the day. Please always exit by the green Arundel Road gate.

## School Inset Days

School will be closed on **Monday 24th of January** for staff training. We are having a curriculum expert help us to further develop our school curriculum. He will also be returning on **Thursday 31st March** for follow-up training. In the previous newsletter we published the date as Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March. **Please note the change of date.** We normally try to make INSET days on a Monday or Friday to give a long weekend but on this occasion we were limited by his availability. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



## Dogs on Site

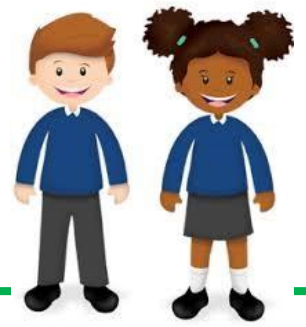
Please be aware that we ask parents not to bring dogs on the school site for obvious reasons. As a dog lover myself I love to see our four-legged friends but am aware that sometimes the pavement outside school can appear a bit like 'dog alley' and some children are very nervous to walk by. Your cooperation is much appreciated.



## Parent/Teacher Consultations

We are looking forward to sharing your children's work and progress with you at Parents' Evenings on:  
Tuesday 15th February at 3.30pm - 5.30pm and  
Thursday 17th February at 4.00pm - 7.30pm.

Appointments to see your child's class teacher will be via our online system, ParentMail. Bookings will open Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We would ask that when you attend your appointment you wear a facemask for the duration of your visit, on the school site and during your appointment time. Under the current situation, we will not be greeting you formally, so please excuse the lack of handshakes.



### **School Uniform**

At St Margaret's we have a school uniform that is available from Brigade for jumpers and cardigans and ties. We encourage parents to source all other uniform from good retailers as this is the cheapest way to acquire the correct uniform. As mentioned in a recent newsletter there was a little slippage in uniform following lockdown especially in footwear and tie wearing. We really want to ensure that children are wearing appropriate footwear for school and that they present smartly each day. This helps set the tone for the school and keeps all children equal. It's also lovely for children when they are allowed to wear mufti on their birthday etc.

Teachers will be keeping a close eye on uniform this half term and will be gently reminding children what is, and is not appropriate to wear at school. Please label coats and jumpers with sew-in labels or a permanent marker pen as these tend to get lost and often do not have a name in them. They end up at charity shops or clothes collection points if unclaimed. We teach the children to respect their belongings as part of our school values and also want to save parents money on lost items!

A copy of the uniform policy is available with this newsletter. Many thanks again for cooperation in this matter.



**CAN YOU HELP?**

### **Reception Class Heads-Up**

We are hoping to invest in some new sheds, play equipment and learning spaces in the Early Years outdoor area. We may need some parents who are handy with a screwdriver or paintbrush to help us one Saturday morning later in the spring term. We may also need some green-fingers to help with planting. If that's you - please look out for further information!!



West Sussex Contest  
Sumdog Results: December 2021

268 classes entered

16th Lewes Class

17<sup>th</sup> Amberley Class

20th Mrs Cornell's group

40th Mrs Parris and Ms Dark's group



1,481 students played

29<sup>th</sup> Emily C, Mrs Cornell's group

30<sup>th</sup> Emma B, Mrs Cornell's group

38<sup>th</sup> Olivia L, Mrs Parris and Ms Dark's group

A big well done to these children who answered all 1000 questions:

Year 5: Peter, Bertie, Jessica, Fox, Sophia-Marie, Arlo, Pippa, William, Isabelle

Year 6: Emily, Emma, Olivia



Music Lesson Flyers

West Sussex Music visiting music teachers and associates have been working hard to rebuild music tuition in our school. If your child would like music lessons (instrumental and/or vocal lessons) please contact the school office for a flyer.

Alternatively you could ring 01403 286330 or email [westsussexmusic.co.uk/apply](mailto:westsussexmusic.co.uk/apply) for further details.

Thank you to everyone for sharing books and reading with your child. I am sure you will agree with us that this is a lovely activity to share with your child. If your child is using Lexia to support his/her reading at home please do ensure that it is accessed regularly.



We welcome two new members of staff to our team:  
Miss Haywood in Oak Class and  
Miss Joice working with groups of children





Thank you to  
those parents  
who contributed  
to the winter  
parcels for  
Turning Tides

**Donations please?**  
Early Years are in need of  
matchbox style cars and  
would be grateful for any  
donations if you are  
clearing out your  
cupboards after  
Christmas



**Match Attack Football Cards**

Please do not bring any match  
attack football cards into school as  
we have had a couple of incidents  
where cards have gone missing.

**HOUSE POINTS**

Latest house point results (as  
of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January):

Red: 655  
Yellow: 783  
Green: 853  
Blue: 931



**Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

An important part of our RSE curriculum is understanding how children's bodies grow and develop. This term we embark on the topic "Safety and the changing body". This will support children's understanding at an age appropriate level of how their bodies work, proper names for body parts and how bodies change, as they grow older. We use a variety of videos from the NSPCC and children in years 4 and 5 are introduced to puberty. Year 6 recap on puberty and learn about conception and birth.

It's important that children know *just enough* for their age to reassure them, dispel misinformation and provide them with strategies to help them stay safe. These lessons will be part of our normal PSHE timetable and start in February. We think it's important for parents and carers to know this in case children ask questions or use terms previously unheard at home. Parents in Year 6 who wish to see the sex education videos should contact the school office before February.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CRYPTOCURRENCY

## What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is software enabling the exchange and storage of digital 'coins' representing financial value. To monitor who owns which coins, platforms save an online record of every transaction, called a 'ledger' or 'blockchain'. This is secured by cryptography: a set of methods for protecting sensitive information. Bitcoin, released in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency; other platforms have since launched such as Ethereum, Tezos and Filecoin. As cryptocurrency becomes a more established part of digital life, young people are bound to encounter it – so it's vital that trusted adults understand its risks, and how it can be explored and used safely.

### COMPLEX TECHNOLOGY

Like any new software, cryptocurrency comes with bugs, flaws and limitations. Broadly, it hasn't yet evolved to be as user friendly as web browsing or social media. Using it safely means spending time learning about the complicated technology it uses. We would strongly suggest anyone considering getting involved in cryptocurrency should consult specialised tutorials to learn about it properly in advance.

### WIDESPREAD EXAMPLES

Cryptocurrency software for smartphones is often free to download from app stores. Emails with links to cryptocurrency services can land in any inbox. Cryptocurrency is also advertised on search engines, on social media and in online games (for example to buy add-ons which help players level up). It can't be purchased easily without a credit card or bank account, but young people will still be exposed to cryptocurrency in various settings.

### CHANCE OF SCAMS

Cryptocurrency provides another opportunity for scammers to extract personal data and money from unwary web users. Unlike credit card transactions or wire transfers, a bank can't reverse cryptocurrency transactions after a suspected fraud – making it an appealing channel for online extortion. These transactions do leave evidence in the blockchain, however, which means that cryptocurrency scammers can and do get caught.

### BEING LOCKED OUT

If you forget your online banking password, you can reset it by proving your identity in another way. In the world of 'crypto', however, the private key to access your funds can't be reset. Cryptocurrency operates without intermediaries like banks – so no-one stores a copy of users' private keys. This has security benefits, but also presents the huge risk of permanently losing access to your account. Learn how to store private keys securely before purchasing any significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

### RISKY INVESTMENT

Prices can be very volatile, so cryptocurrencies are considered high-risk investments. If you might need your savings soon, don't hold them in cryptocurrency as their value could drop suddenly and sharply. Sometimes, cryptocurrency may be a profitable investment – but note that any gains are taxable. You may even have to pay tax when exchanging one cryptocurrency for another if the currency you're exchanging is priced higher than it was when you bought it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### AVOID IF UNSURE

In the UK, cryptocurrency is considered risky, because users aren't well protected if something goes wrong. Most cryptocurrencies use software developed by decentralised communities, so there's no customer service and no support if your funds get stolen or you lose access to your mobile cryptocurrency wallet. Unless you understand cryptocurrency, it's probably best not to use it. After all, if you couldn't comprehend the highway code, it wouldn't be safe for you to drive.

### CHECK CREDENTIALS

Buying cryptocurrency for the first time involves wiring funds from your bank to a cryptocurrency exchange – a business that converts your money into cryptocurrency. They can also store cryptocurrency for you, though this could present a security risk. Cryptocurrency businesses in the UK must now comply with money laundering regulations: the Financial Conduct Authority's website has a list of all businesses that are approved, and it's best to avoid dealing with any that aren't.

### EXPECT EXPOSURE

If your child plays online games that involve some form of virtual currency, and has access to some kind of payment method, they may find themselves in a position to buy and use cryptocurrency. There's probably no immediate danger, but discussing the potential risks with them could be useful. If your child is old enough to understand the concepts of spending and saving or to grasp the basics of programming, then they're old enough to learn about cryptocurrency.

### STAY CAUTIOUS, STAY INFORMED

Approach cryptocurrency with caution as well as curiosity. Don't click on links in unexpected emails referring to cryptocurrency and beware of promotions promising free cryptocurrency in exchange for personal information. Avoid mentioning on social media that you own cryptocurrency, as this can attract scammers. Stay informed of potential new risks and regulations by regularly checking specialised sources (such as CoinDesk).

### Meet Our Expert

JP Vergne is an educator and associate professor at University College London's School of Management. His award-winning research on technology and organisation has been published in leading academic journals as well as in two books. JP is also a speaker and advises on startups. He tweets at @PlateOrg.



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In this new once termly section we want to celebrate all the successes and kind acts of our children outside of school. If you have something you would like to share please email it to

[goodnews@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk](mailto:goodnews@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk)

Belle M, Matilda L, Jessica J, Oliver O, Willow S and Nathan C completed another 20 reads, earning themselves a certificate, a star badge and a £5.00 book token.

**Well done to Fox and Mole Class children!**



## Parenting Smart

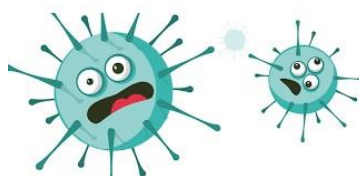


We all want the best for our children, but being a parent can be really tough, and this has been exacerbated over the past year and a half by the pandemic. Having recognised this, the children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched [Parenting Smart](#) for all UK parents and carers of 4-11 year olds.

The Parenting Smart site is completely free to use and access, full of tips and advice on a range of topics including transition to secondary school, meltdowns, and sleep difficulties.



Learn more at  
[place2be.org.uk/parentingsmart](http://place2be.org.uk/parentingsmart)



Did you miss the Flu Nasal Spray sessions in school?

Do you want a catch up session?

If so please visit the following web address:-

[www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu](http://www.susseximmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu)

Enter and confirm your email address, enter the school code:- SX126018

Complete and submit the consent form

To make an appointment:-

Click the link in automated email you will receive on submission of your completed consent form (make a note of your booking reference)

Arrange for an adult to accompany your child to their clinic appointment

Yours sincerely,  
Mike Jee  
Headteacher

*In case you missed it*