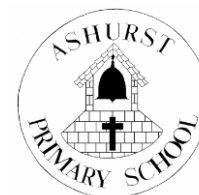




**ASHURST CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PARISH NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN TERM 2015**



Welcome to the new academic year, to the new *face* of the school **and** to the first 'Parish Newsletter' of 2015-2016. It is produced once again by pupils in Y6 (*with a little help*) and features their writing on the 'Local Walks for Charity' undertaken by all pupils every year in September. Pupils decided that this year's charity should be the 'Sussex Air Ambulance' in recognition of their wonderful work in looking after the local community.

'All nineteen pupils in Y3&4, plus Mrs Harwell, Mrs Hedley, Miss Simpson, Mrs Woods, Mrs Williams and Nathaniel's Dad, Mr Jesse, were the first to undertake their Annual Sponsored Walk. It was on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September and what a spectacular day it turned out to be! It was SO hot and SO sunny, with barely a cloud in the sky the whole day! It was also Oliver's birthday which made it even MORE sunny and spectacular! Last year, if you remember, all thirty-four juniors walked from Shoreham Airport down the Downlink to the iron bridge at Upper Beeding and back to the Airport. This year it was decided to do a circular walk from Bramber car park, onto the riverbank path at Upper Beeding, down to the same iron bridge as last year and return via the Downlink to the roundabout outside Steyning, lunch at Bramber Castle with our Police Liaison Officer PC Keeley and concluding with prayers of 'Thanksgiving' for the day in St Nicholas' Church, Bramber.

Everyone in Y3&4 reported having enjoyed their day, learning about the history and geography of the Castle and the old railway line through pictures, photographs and maps before leaving school and on the Walk itself. Everyone was surprised to learn that the tide came right up to the bottom of the castle mound when it was built all those years ago and that the roundabout at Bramber had previously been a bridge..... with the railway line underneath it!

Y3&4 reported seeing all sorts of interesting things on their journey including: "sheep and cows in the field", "pigs on the hillside", "a buzzard soaring on the thermals" **and** a heron described by HK as "black, with long legs and gliding smoothly like ripples moving across water". The group collected lots of different berries including: haws, hips, blackberries, elderberries and sloe berries and discussed whether they heralded a harsh winter!

Y5&6 undertook the very same Sponsored Walk one week later - on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September - and in VERY different weather conditions from those of Y3&4, certainly at the start. Colossal BLACK clouds bore down on us as we walked along the riverbank from Upper Beeding towards the bridge over the R Adur (where the

Steining bypass goes overhead). Eventually, we had to run for cover under the bridge and wait there for twenty minutes to allow the fat, heavy rain to fall and finally pass by. When it did, the sky cleared, the sun came out and we were able to enjoy a VERY hot and sunny Walk, just like the Y3&4s had done!

Like the Y3&4 group, we played 'Pooh sticks' on the iron bridge. The river Adur glistened like the scales of a giant dragon. We saw a big cormorant fishing. All of a sudden, he ducked his head below the water and popped up again several seconds later with two small fish in his beak. It was a beautiful picture with the sun shining down on the path; and at this point we met the Grandma of a former Y6 pupil with her dog Billy who was very happy scampering around us for attention.

Y5&6 enjoyed their Walk. HVW said she "felt very happy seeing the rippling river" and SN reported he "liked the window eye of the castle because it was always looking down on us". He also liked the cormorant and watching it fish.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, all thirty-one infants undertook their charity Walk from school, down past Sweet Hill Farm (and 'Jammy Dodgers' and juice supplied by two lovely parents) to the end of the footpath and back for a splendid picnic lunch on the field; and what an enjoyable and interesting Walk they had! It had rained hard on Tuesday and the ground was soft. The group could clearly see the signs of various animals who had passed by sometime before. There were deer and fox footprints - all well preserved. The group walked past Olivia's horses and said they looked "very happy chomping on the soft grass!"

On their Walk, EM, FP and KC said they "smelt flowers and liked the feel of the wind blowing against their faces". They said they "liked the horses in the green fields and heard one of them neighing loudly". They also heard dogs barking. The infants picked blackberries (with the help of teachers) and after a full lunch and a happy scamper on the field they returned to the classroom (and school kitchen!) to make blackberry cakes for everyone - which were eaten after Father Neil's Assembly at the end of the day and were DELICIOUS!'

Altogether VERY enjoyable!

Pupils have now written prayers of Thanksgiving for Harvest and for all the wonderful things they saw on their Walks; and these are displayed in the porch of St James Church ready for Harvest Service next Sunday. We look forward to seeing members of the Parish there and to inviting you to join us in school for our own special 'REMEMBRANCE SERVICE' on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 'OPEN AFTERNOONS' on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> December (from 2.30-4.00) and for our forthcoming CHRISTMAS PLAY - for which, more details from School Office and/or on the school's website. Meanwhile.....

kindest regards, Mrs Williams