Headteacher
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1st November 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of a Church School we want the children to experience and feel comfortable with the Church's worship. Once a term we have a School Communion or Eucharist service. The children have responded to this extremely well.

Over the last few years it has been the tradition at the school for the Rector to come in to the year 6 class and prepare Pupils for Holy Communion and for those who wish to be received into communion at the leavers Eucharist.

Since 1997 the Church of England has encouraged Parish to welcome children into communion from the age of 7 and it sees the benefit of children experiencing the full life of the Church before reaching those teenage years. In line with the practise of the Church of England we would like to extend the invitation to those pupils who wish to in Key Stage 2 to be prepared for communion at the Thursday 6th December Eucharist. (If they are not baptised they could also be baptised at the service). Fr Mark will come in on a Thursday to prepare those pupils who wish to with their Parents' consent for this service. If you would like to speak to him or ask any questions he will be available on Friday 9th November at 9 am.

Please find attached the consent form and some frequently asked questions.

Yours faithfully,



John Galvin
Headteacher

Parental Support & Consent Form

ST MARY'S CHURCH PETWORTH
AND PETWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admission to Holy Communion
(If not Baptised Preparation for Baptism and Holy Communion)

I/we understand that our child/children ……..

would like to be prepared to receive Holy Communion. We support this and understand that candidates must:

- be baptised (Christened)

Fr Mark will be at School at 9am on Friday 9th November to answer any questions or alternatively please do contact him on 01798 345278 (email frmarkssc@msn.com)

Name of parents/guardians:……

Address:……..

……

Post code:……

Email address:……..

Telephone/mobile number:…….

Name of Child:……..

Date of birth:……..

Date of baptism:……..

Place of baptism:…….

If not Baptised would you like your Child to be Baptised at the Service on Thursday 6th December at 10 am.

Signature of parent(s)/Guardians(s):……

Date:……..

Please return to: School Office by **Monday 5th November 2018**

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the children understand what they are doing when they take Communion?

Children are certainly able to understand the origin and specialness of sharing the bread and wine. A deeper understanding of the mystery of the sacrament is a lifetime's work for all of us, and one that will never be complete however old we are. The important point to consider is whether we ought to view taking Communion as a prize which we win by passing tests, or whether we should see it as a free, gracious and unconditional gift from God.

Will they take it seriously?

Children respond to the mood and atmosphere around them. The vast majority of children will take their lead from the way the adult members behave as they receive the bread and wine. Receiving Communion is a very powerful moment, and the power is certainly not lost on children in fact they have an openness to the Holy which many adults find it hard to recapture.

What happens if a family moves to a parish which doesn't admit?

When the admission of children to Communion before Confirmation was first introduced, a major concern was that there would be problems if a child who had been admitted moved to a parish that didn't admit. In practice, this has not proved to be a difficulty: the incumbent of the parish in which the child has been admitted simply provides a letter to their new incumbent requesting that they continue to receive Communion. The principle, supported by the House of Bishops, is that no one who has been admitted to receiving the sacrament should ever subsequently be denied it.

What about children who are not baptised (Christened)?

No one who is not baptised can be admitted to receive Holy Communion. If an unbaptised child wishes to be prepared for admission then they must be baptised before they are admitted. Their Baptism will form part of the preparation programme.

What if children do not want to be admitted to Communion?

Consent is vital at all levels in admitting children to Communion. No one must feel that they are being forced into the practice. The parish as a whole must be supportive, and so must any family whose children are going to be involved. But most important, the individual children must make a free choice to be admitted. It may well be that some children in a particular church ask to be prepared for admission, and some do not.

Is there a 'right age' for admission?

Children of seven years old are generally considered to be at an age where they can understand the basic preparation course and answer for themselves.

Can my child receive communion if it the practise in the church which we go to of a different denomination?

If a child has been received into communion in their own church they are welcome to receive communion at a school Eucharist in line of course with their own churches teaching.