

ST ANN'S HEATH CHESS CLUB

December 2019

St Ann's Heath chess club is to continue in the spring term 2019 for all children whether continuing or joining. Members will be taught with the interactive whiteboard using a variety of chess applications, programs and online websites videos of annotated games, planning, tactical, positional and mating theory, Masters' thinking, puzzles, etc.

Chess is one of the oldest games and is also the most popular. Chess is one of the most enjoyable and exciting ways for children to learn how to develop and improve their logical and abstract thinking, their decision-making skills and creativity. Many of the finest minds from all walks of life were/ are keen chess players.

Classes are held Thursdays after school from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Lessons commence Thursday 10 January 2019. This is a wonderful way for children to start/ continue a life game and lesson.

During the year chess tournament and course entry forms are given out and all chess club members are advised to play in these to gain experience, improve their chess skills and try for a place in one of the county chess teams. These tournaments are not compulsory but offer players the opportunity to take part in a competitive environment should they wish to do so. We suggest at least two tournaments or courses are entered each term to reach county standard. The Wey Valley (Surrey) Chess teams which take part in the EPSCA (English Primary Schools Chess Association) are selected from "Wey Valley" tournaments in January and February then the West Surrey Championships are graded events so as many of these tournaments should be entered as is possible. In 2018 the U9 Wey Valley team of 12 players and 4 traveling reserves were placed 7th in the UK at the EPSCA finals in April.

In the spring term, 2019 every chess club member will be entered in the 1st stage of the '24th UK Schools Chess Challenge', the world's largest chess tournament. This competition has been running for 24 years and last year attracted over 40,000 children from about 1,200 schools and clubs up and down the country. Matches are played in the school club. Everyone wins prizes ranging from badges (won when three points are accumulated) and spots to mascots and key rings and there's a trophy for the winner(s). **Players should take great care of their badges as they will be awarded gold spots to stick on them each time they accumulate a further three points so wearing them each week in the chess club is a great idea!**

<https://www.delanceyukhschoolschesschallenge.com/>

The first stage is played in the school club, the second stage, the 'Megafinal' is played all around the UK, the third stage the 'Gigafinal' had three events this year (North, Midlands & South) and the final stage, the 'Terafinal' is played in the North and the 'Southern Challengers' will be played at Tormead in Guildford so is very local.

Please note: Half term's notice of discontinuance required, in writing (an email is perfectly acceptable) or half term's fees charged.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E-J Billington-Phillips', written in a cursive style.

Mrs E-J Billington-Phillips
Chess Tutor
Wey Valley U9 Team Manager