



Our school is a friendly and vibrant community, where all of God's children flourish and gain the knowledge, wisdom and skills needed to care about themselves, their community and their world.

Friday 10th January 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

The week began with so much excitement as some of our children saw snow for the very first time! It was a perfect opportunity to throw the odd snowball and sure enough, many of us did – as well as one or two children!

But the cold weather has meant some children haven't slept well and some have found the snow incredibly exciting and so the teachers have worked extra hard and been super enthusiastic this week, in order to keep the attention of some very tired and easily distracted pupils!

However, the next day, there was a wonderful moment when Mr Russell walked around the school and commented on how calm and attentive the children were; he was positively beaming with pride at the quality of education that he witnessed in the classrooms.

I have also had the pleasure of showing some more visitors around the school and they have all commented on the joy and kindness they have seen on the children's faces as they've dropped in on classes in every Year Group.

On Thursday, the next group of Year 3 children went to F51 to challenge themselves and climb to heady heights. We were so proud of their resilience and confidence and once again, some children overcame their fear of heights and climbed higher than they've ever climbed before. These life experiences are invaluable and really enrich the already, brilliant curriculum and we're very grateful to the staff for making these things happen.

And finally, as the mornings get lighter and the evenings lengthen, there is a sense of hope as the first shoots start to break through the soil. Next week, there will be some new things at school too for the children, as some local actors and actresses come and 'Open the Book' and as the Year 4's start their journey with the Ukulele. It will be a week of new opportunity, proving that January isn't such a bad month after all.

Have a lovely weekend.

Amanda



Prayer of the Week

In this new year, we thank you God for our health, our family and our friends.
Help us to let go of our grudges, our anger and our hurt. Let us live each day with kindness and forgiveness.

Year 6 boy

Message From The PTFA

PTFA Annual General Meeting

The Parent, Teachers and Friends' Association (PTFA) of St Mary's Primary Academy would like to invite all parents, guardians, teachers and friends of St Mary's to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday 29th January at 14:00 in the Green Room (Meeting Room). At the AGM, we will set out our constitution for the year and will appoint officers. Everyone is welcome!

Join the PTFA

If you would like to get involved in St Mary's PTFA, we would love to hear from you! All parents, guardians, teachers, and friends are welcome. Volunteering is rewarding, it helps to make our school a better place for children to learn in and strengthens our school community.

To find out more, please email:

pta@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk



Breaking News

The PTFA need a new Logo!

The Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association of St Mary's has been liaising with the School Council about the launch of an exciting new competition. The PTFA need a new logo and the Association has asked the children of St Mary's to get creative and design the Logo. On Wednesday, the School Council discussed this and looked at other Logos for ideas.

They have discussed these ideas with their classes and have launched a competition for all the children of St Mary's to join in with.

Design a Logo for the PTFA

The School Council decided that the Logo needs to:

- Be bold, bright and colourful.
- Show that the PTFA is for everyone to get involved in.
- Show something of the character of the School (by the sea, Christian Values, school colours, Forest School, are a few ideas).
- Include the words PTFA or Parent ,Teacher and Friends' Association.

The winning Logo will be used by the PTFA as their new logo.

Children should bring their entries into school and give them to their teachers, who will pass them onto their School Councillors.