



St Mary's CEP Primary Academy Newsletter

Wednesday
11th March

Friendship Compassion Service Forgiveness



Principal Comments

Dear Parents,

With the nation currently on red alert for the Corona Virus, children and families are rightly concerned and cautious. We are encouraging a calm and realistic approach to this to prevent panic and undue anxiety in the children. I would like to reassure you all that we will always take the best possible precaution to mitigate risks as far as we can and we are following the Public Health guidelines in promoting good hand and health hygiene. Teachers have been talking to your children about this in the class too: washing hands correctly, sneezing into tissues or the crook of the elbow if tissues are not available, not touching your face and we continue to have anti-bacterial hand gel in all of the classrooms. Catch it. Kill it. Bin it. We have also put anti-bacterial hand gel at the front office and we will expect all visitors to use it before entering and leaving the school. Please do actively seek to follow these guidelines yourself and should you be concerned that you or your child may have been in contact with someone from the high risk areas, please phone 111 or consult a GP. If you do make the decision to self-isolate then please inform the school office immediately so that we can make informed decisions to take appropriate action to protect all of our children and staff and support you in any way we can. You will most probably be aware that the Government is considering the closure of schools should the next phase of their control plans be put into action. I would encourage you to start preparing for this as I am fearful that I will not get much notice for this. As soon as I hear I will inform you. Please be assured that the teachers will ensure there are learning activities for your children to access and this will most likely be via the school's ICT platform, Purple Mash. If internet access could be a problem for you, please do let the school office know asap so that we can prepare adequately for your child.

Please do check our notice board and Facebook for updates as this narrative unfolds.

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH

Principal

Contacting the School

We are always willing to pass on urgent messages to teachers early in the day but when it gets to the afternoon (messages are received as late as 3.00pm), we cannot guarantee messages can be passed on because the office cannot be left empty whilst the member of staff delivers the message. If possible, any urgent messages should always be sent by email as early in the day as possible to office@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk or you should telephone the school office as early in the day as possible.

Sri Lanka - Class Assembly

Sri Lanka presented a wonderful assembly on Wednesday to parents based around their key question "What would life be like if we were all the same?" The children decided to talk about their differences and what they're proud of themselves for. They also researched celebrities whose differences became their super powers. They ended the assembly with a song that they all agreed was so special because of the lyrics 'True Colours'. Nathan then treated everyone with an incredible rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody on the piano. We are all so very proud of Sri Lanka class.



Maths Day Challenge

The maths day challenge at The Folkestone Academy consisted of 6 rounds competing against 11 other schools. It started with a speed round of arithmetic questions. Second round was a logic round. Third round was Murder Mystery (6 parts to find all the clues) Fourth round was word problems. Fifth round was cross number. Sixth round was relay round, where the children needed to answer one question before moving onto the next question. After 2 rounds, St. Mary's were in the lead. After 4 rounds, they were joint 1st with Christ Church, but after the final round, they had excelled and won by 26 points ahead of Christ Church. All the children that participated showed great teamwork in answering the questions. It was a very tense moment waiting for the final scores to be announced. Well done to all of the schools that took part.



Folkestone and Hythe, Woman of the Year 2020

We proudly nominated our very own Mrs. Milton for the Folkestone and Hythe, Woman of the Year 2020 Award organised by Soroptimist. Mrs. Milton has been the pillar of strength in our community school for 33 years, ensuring at least three generations of families have had the pastoral support needed to thrive. Mrs. Milton works with absolute dedication to the children and families, going well beyond her role. She will consider all 450 children, finding uniform, food and supporting those in need. Her dedication to the families means that those in greatest need are supported. She really does have boundless energy. There was a high level of competition, and although Mrs. Milton didn't win the award, she enjoyed a really wonderful celebratory Afternoon Tea at The Saga Pavilion with some of the other amazing nominees.

We are really proud of Mrs. Milton and so very grateful for all of her hard work and dedication to the school.



Year 1 Detectives

The children in Year 1 have been very busy this term doing some detective work! With the clues left behind at a crime scene, the children have been using their investigative skills to work out who may have broken into the Three Bears house and eaten their porridge. To help them solve the mystery, some PCSO's came into school to have a look at the crime scene and at some of the Wanted posters that the children had made. The officers were very impressed with the enquiries the children had made so far and were certain they would track down the suspect very soon.



Fruit Trolley

In Key Stage 1, the children are provided with free fruit daily from the government fruit scheme for primary schools. Whilst we are unable to offer free fruit to the children in Key Stage 2, we do have a healthy Fruit Tuck Shop that is available daily at 10.30 am in the Junior Hall. Each piece of fruit is charged at 10p per item; a fruit card can be purchased for £2.00 on parent pay.

Book Sale

Thank you to everyone that came along to the Book Sale organised by the PTA. Together, we raised £43.69 for Burkina Faso.

KS2 Lost Property

All unnamed Key Stage 2 lost property can now be found in the grey boxes situated by the main office. All named uniform is returned to its owner. You are very welcome to take a look in these boxes for any lost property, but please can we ask that the boxes are left tidy.

School Council

The School Council continue to work hard within the school, listening to their fellow pupils and giving them a voice. They have worked on several projects since September, including internet safety, bullying and Book Week. They are currently discussing what the pupils think about the curriculum, which will help the teachers and leaders of the school continue to ensure they build a curriculum that suits their interests and needs. On Thursday 5th March, the School Council made their annual trip to the Mayor's office to learn about how Folkestone Town Council works, and how like the School Council it is elected democratically to represent the people of Folkestone. Unfortunately, the Mayor was not available but the children were able to meet one of the former Mayors and a longstanding member of the Town Council. The children also explored the museum, which is well worth a visit. It was an interesting trip and the children were again a credit to the school. They enjoyed the visit, despite the wet walk back to school.



Year 1 Visit to Dover Castle

Year 1 have been learning about The Battle Of Hastings and discovered how William of Normandy became the King. In order to protect himself from attack, he decided to build himself a Motte and Bailey Castle, one of which was Dover Castle! The children had a great day exploring the castle and its grounds and were very fortunate with the weather.



Herald Cup Report

St. Mary's began their Herald Cup campaign for the season with a tough opening fixture against Stella Maris Primary School. For several of the team, it was their first time representing the school football team and there was a lot of excitement and a few nerves in the build-up to the game. Stella Maris started brightly and forced Albie in the St. Mary's goal to make a couple of good saves. The defence stood firm, with Louie and August winning some important headers and tackles to keep the score at 0-0. As the half ticked on, St. Mary's grew in confidence and started to play some better football, with David and Kylan beginning to make more space on the wings. The half ended with the scores locked at 0-0, with few really good chances for either side. However, this would change in the second half. St. Mary's started the second half playing some lovely football, passing the ball well as a team and creating some better opportunities. Josh and Sam were linking together well in midfield. It was against the run of play when Stella Maris scored to take the lead. St. Mary's failed to clear the ball and were punished by the Stella Maris striker. 1-0 Stella Maris. A good response followed, with David hitting the bar from a long-range strike. Eventually, St. Mary's improved play paid off, when Phillip managed to bundle the ball into the goal from a free kick to level the scores at 1-1. The game was now more open and both teams were creating chances at either end. It was to be Stella Maris who would regain the lead with around 15 minutes left to play. 2-1 Stella Maris. St. Mary's started to pile greater numbers forward as time started to run out in search of the equaliser. It stayed 2-1 up until the final minute, when Stella Maris hit on the break to score two goals in the space of 60 seconds. The final whistle blew with the scoreline St. Mary's 1 Stella Maris 4. It was a harsh result considering it was a very close game that up until the last minute, St. Mary's deserved something from the game.

The team was as follows: Albie, Phillip, Louie, August, Sam, Josh, Abady, Toby, Kylan and David.

Thanks to the children and the parents who came along and supported the team. St Mary's next game will be against Christ Church School away on Friday 13th March.

Worship

We started this term reflecting on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, where he faced temptation but didn't give in to it. This period in the desert prepared Jesus for his ministry. Christians remember this time during Lent by fasting and spending more time praying. We are now looking at how Jesus cared and provided for people through the miracles he performed. He fed over 5,000 people with just a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Mr. North tried feeding the 400 children in assembly with one croissant but found, it just couldn't be done! However, we learned that the more we give away, the more we will have to give. Jesus calmed a terrible storm by speaking to the wind and the waves. We experienced a little bit of what that might have felt like using instruments in the hall to recreate the noise of the storm. We know that whatever storms we might be facing, Jesus is with us and can give us his peace. Jesus also walked on water and healed many people. He did all of this to show compassion and to demonstrate his power. We will soon be moving on to finding out how we can follow his example, showing compassion and kindness to those around us. Towards the end of the term, we will hear the Easter story and remember the sacrifices Jesus made and the pain he went through when he died on the cross for us. We will hear the end of the Easter story at the KS2 Easter Service at Harbour Church on Thursday 2nd April at 1.45pm. Parents are invited to join us as we celebrate the good news of Easter. Here is a prayer from Isla in Year 6:

Dear God,

I would like to start by thanking you for this amazing world you have created and the wonderful things you have put in it. Now I would like to say that there are many people suffering from a number of things. If it be lack of food supply, no home or loneliness. It would be a miracle if everyone had a fair share in life and everyone lived happily. I pray for you to help all the less fortunate and those suffering or being bullied. Amen

Book Week

Wow! This year's costumes for World Book Day were amazing. So many different book characters, Harry Potter, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Gangsta Granny and Mary Poppins to name but a few. We also had lots of super animal costumes, including tigers, rabbits, a turtle, a horse and even a lobster! The children and staff truly enjoyed their day dressed up as their favourite character or animal. Thank you everyone for helping us to make this such a memorable day. On Friday, we were lucky enough to finish our Book Week with a visit from the fantastic author, Stewart Foster! He delivered an assembly to KS2 where he talked about his books and his journey to become an author. The children even got to hear part of his award-winning story 'Bubble Boy', read beautifully by Poppy and Abady in front of the key stage. Please see our facebook page for more photographs.



Parents Coffee Afternoon

St Mary's CEP Academy
Monday 16th March 2020
1.30—3.00pm

ALL THINGS ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition)

Join us for a cuppa, a chat and a question and answer session with Morag Hards—Specialist Outreach Teacher and Michelle Lemar—Specialist Intervention Worker from the Beacon School. They are happy to answer questions and offer advice on all things Autism.

Everyone is welcome - whether your child has a diagnosis, is awaiting diagnosis or you are just interested to find out more.