



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 19th January 2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a week that has made me very proud to be the Headteacher of St. Mary's and it all began with one of the most incredible experiences when Mrs. Cotton and I, ably assisted by Smarty (S-Mary-T) the School Teddy, went to the House of Commons to receive the Award from the British Council for the whole school's work with International Schools. What an honour and a privilege it was to be there and to be personally celebrated by our local MP, Damien Collins.

So, 180 schools in the UK applied for the award, 40 of which were successful in achieving it. Two schools were given a special mention in the congratulatory speech, one of which was St. Mary's and this was for all the children's work on Weather Watching and Climate Change. I have to thank the wonderful Mrs. Cotton for spear-heading this whole entry for the Award and for inspiring all the lovely members of the Global Council in forging such strong links with so many countries around the world.

And then, Mrs. Judd witnessed a precious moment in her Forest School session on Monday, when some children exemplified what we're trying to achieve in respect of the British Value of Tolerance. A group of girls were playing with the pots and pans outside and making dinners. They invited Mrs. Judd to join them and try their food; so, of course, she asked what they were all having. One said "Pizza," another said "Rice," another said "Borscht" and another said, "Mac and Cheese." Their play totally reflected the mix of cultures they were from and it was lovely to see them all enjoying their 'feast' together.

Some of the children also learnt how to use a fire striker to light a 'fairy fire.' This can take quite a bit of perseverance in order to get the hang of it but the children impressed us so much by being so mature and careful with the strikers and it was brilliant to see how delighted and amazed they were with the mini fires they made.

And finally, I am also very proud of some members of our school community who have heroically supported the poor family of William Brown over the last few weeks. This has been an incredibly challenging time for many of us. I'm sure you would all like to join with me in the beautiful prayer that one of our teachers has written as a result of this tragic situation and our hearts go out to all who have been deeply affected.

Heavenly Father,
We ask that you place your angels around our children. Protect them wherever they go. Please help them make the right choices about things they should and shouldn't do. May they find comfort in knowing that your angels are with them to guide and protect them.

Amen

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe,

Amanda



Job Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a cleaner.

This is for 12½ hours per week, after school, term time only.

Please contact the School Office for further details.

01303 251390

An advertisement for waterproofs. It features a yellow sign with the text 'Can you help us?' in purple. Below the sign are several colorful waterproof suits (pink, blue, red, dark blue) and a person wearing a dark blue waterproof suit. The background is a blue sky with rain clouds and falling rain.

If you have any pre-loved, good condition waterproofs that your child has grown out of, we would love to have them for use in our Forest School.

We are looking for puddle suits, waterproof coats and trousers. The ones we have are being used daily at the moment and are wearing out.

Thank you in advance.

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

Reading Volunteers

We are looking for Parents/Carers to come in to school to support the children in developing their reading skills.

Listening to a child read is important for many reasons and plays a crucial role in their overall literacy development.

If you have some time to spare and would like to help, please contact the class teacher or speak to Mrs. Harrison.

Thank you

