



St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter

25th January 2022



Friendship Compassion Service Forgiveness

Principal Comments

Happy New Year everyone! It seems a while ago now but I hope that you all had a restful break and time to be with close family. I know good news may have been difficult to find for some and we perhaps all had to dig a bit deeper to find it this year to get through the miserable fog of Covid. If you have been struggling, our prayers are with you.

We are all so pleased to have been able to ensure a festive feel in the school and hold the nativities and grotto events. I was sad to have missed them but have heard wonderful things. The reception classes sent me a small get well video and it brought tears to my eyes. They were so sweet and a lovely reminder that behind the challenges we face, there are wonderful children reaping the rewards of our hard work.

It has been lovely to be back in school with the children and hear of their holidays. Santa has certainly been generous this year! In school, the children are calm and focussed and teachers keen to be back. It hasn't been easy with the isolation rules and the impact of Covid. As you can imagine, having just 1 or 2 members of the team away, really stretches our capacity and at times means we need to call on supply teachers to support. I was a little disappointed that the suggestion from the government of ex teachers calling schools to offer support didn't appear to make a difference, we are still waiting! I know some of the classes have had a supply teacher for more than we would like and I thank you for your understanding with this. We do closely monitor any classes covered by supply and ensure that standards are appropriate and the children happy. Our wonderful support staff are also superb at keeping things well in hand.

All being said and challenges aside, there have already been some wonderful curriculum experiences and even a school trip for the children. The team are as motivated as ever and given the unpredictable narrative of Covid, they all deserve medals! If you see them, tell them. It will go a very long way. I'd like to take this small opportunity to thank the office team too. I know they are always smiling and happy to help but they have been run off their feet with the admin around Covid and the huge influx of calls.

I can't thank the community enough for your ongoing support, flexibility and the trust you place in us here. It a privilege to support the community as we do and provide such a stimulating school for your children to learn in.

Some key Covid reminders:

- Please engage with LFD testing to identify pupils who are not symptomatic but may be carrying the virus.
- If they are a close contact, we encourage an LFD test. Children do not need to self-isolate unless they are symptomatic or positive on an LFD test.
- A new continuous cough, high temperature or a loss of taste or smell are the key indicators of symptoms.

My warmest wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. T. North, NPQH

Friends of St Mary's Folkestone PTA

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome.

Stay informed and get involved.

Please join us to find out what we are planning this year and how you can help.

**Wednesday 26th January at 2pm
In the FLO mobile.**

Please can you confirm attendance by emailing pta@st-marys-folkestone-kent.sch.uk so that we can monitor numbers.

Please can we ask that you take a Lateral Flow Test before attendance and wear a mask.



Parentkind
Member Association

Breakfast Club

Please can we ask that you do not drive your car down to the reception area when dropping your children off to Breakfast Club. Many children walk down the drive to Breakfast Club and we need to be mindful of their safety. Thank you for your understanding.

Romans

Earlier this term, Year 3 became Romans for the day! They enjoyed learning about the Roman way of life and got to dress up in Roman tunics.



Christmas Nativity

We were delighted to be able to invite the parents of the children in the Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes into school to watch the children perform in their Nativities in December. Well done everyone.



School Term Dates 2021/2022

Term 1	
Staff Development Day	01/09/2021
Staff Development Day	02/09/2021
Staff Development Day	03/09/2021
Start of Term 1 (1 st day for Children)	06/09/2021
End of Term 2	22/10/2021
Term 2	
Start of Term 2	01/11/2021
End of Term 2	17/12/2021
Term 3	
Start of Term 3	04/01/2022
End of Term 3 (Last Day for Children)	10/02/2022
Staff Development Day	11/02/2022
Term 4	
Start of Term 4	21/02/2022
End of Term 4	08/04/2022
Term 5	
Start of Term 5	19/04/2022
End of Term 5	26/05/2022
Staff Development Day	27/05/2022
Term 6	
Start of Term 6	13/06/2022
End of Term 6	22/07/2022

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Our most recent Covid-19 risk assessment can be found on the school's website.

<https://www.stmarysfolkestone.com/risk-control-measures>.

Books wanted!



This term, we will be holding a book swap as an opportunity for children to share their favourite stories, upgrade their book shelves at home and hopefully, ignite their love for reading!

If you have any used, children's books at home, in good condition, that you would like to donate, please could you send them into school with your child or drop them in at the office.

Further details of when and where the book swap will be held, will follow shortly.

Thank you.

School Items

Should you wish to purchase any of the items listed below, please can we ask you to order via Parent Pay online. The item will be sent to your child's class for collection. Thank you.

Book Bag – Original	£3.90
Book Bag – Strong	£6.00
P.E. Bag	£3.00
Elasticated Tie	£2.35
Traditional Tie	£2.90
School Cap	£3.50
Water Bottle	£2.00

Child's Absence from School

Please can we remind you to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence. You should ring the school office by 10:00, stating the reason for absence. If we do not hear from you by this time, we will telephone you asking for a reason for the absence. It is the parents' responsibility to contact the academy on the first day that their child is absent. This is a safeguarding issue so that all parties know that the child is safe. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

PE Dates for Term 3:

EYFS - Monday (Explorers) and Wednesday (Adventurers)

Year 1 - Tuesday (Italy and Spain)

Year 2 - Thursday (England and India)

Year 3 - Thursday (Burkina Faso and France)

Year 4 - Monday (Kenya) and Thursday (Sri Lanka)

Year 5 - Tuesday (Brazil and Peru)

Year 6 - Tuesday (Australia and Canada)



KS1 Reading Club



Every Tuesday (starting on 11/01/2022) from 3:15 to 4:00pm, there will be a reading club held in the main school library (next to the school office).

This club will be open for parents and children to come and read together, borrow books and story sacks and to ask for support or advice about reading with your child at home. It will be a relaxed session with the opportunity to pop in and out when you wish.

This club is open to all Key Stage 1 children and their parents.

If you would like to attend, you do not need to sign up, but we do ask that you have proof of a negative lateral flow test, taken within the last 12 hours or a COVID Vaccination Pass before entering the library.

