

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

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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.



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| School Term Dates 2021/2022 Term 1 | | |
| | | |
| Staff Development Day | <mark>02/09/2021</mark> | |
| Staff Development Day | 03/09/2021 | |
| Start of Term 1 (1st 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 | <mark>11/02/2022</mark> | |
| | | |
| Ter | m 4 | |
| Start of Term 4 | 21/02/2022 | |
| End of Term 4 | 08/04/2022 | |
| Tar | m 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 | |

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

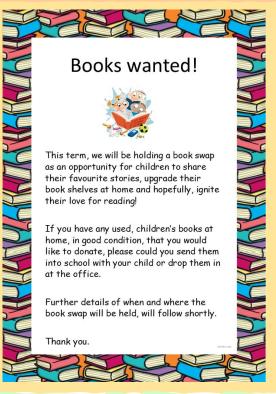
Please can we remind you to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence. You should ring the school office by 10:00, stating the reason for absence. If we do not hear from you by this time, we will telephone you asking for a reason for the absence. It is the parents' responsibility to 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 cooperation and understanding.

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.

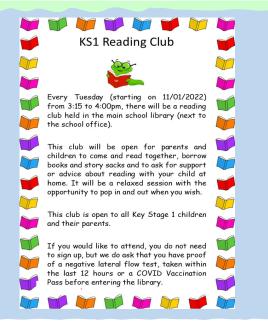


PE Dates for Term 3:

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)

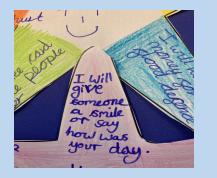




International Work



A great start to our International work this term, with Key Stage 1 opening exciting Christmas packages from Turkey, Romania, Finland and from our partner school D.A.B Ludhiana in India. We also received beautiful cards on line from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Taiwan, Jamaica and Vietnam.







Year 4 have been doing some great work relating to SDG 3 'Wellbeing', linked to the story of the Starfish and have written and posted some lovely thank you letters to our partner school in Bangladesh.



A large box arrived by post from our Tunisian partner school, College Pilote in Sousse for the children in Year 3. They were really excited when opening it and found the contents of the Culture Box linked to our two schools' collaborative work on Climate Action, SDG 13 and Wellbeing, SDG3. There were hand made tiny clay jars, a treasure box full of wellbeing messages, a recycled bag, magnetic pencil holder, posters and cards. Our joint online book will be ready for publication soon.



The Global Councillors are just starting their work on the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Tiger and will be learning more from partners in Taiwan & Malaysia. In the next few weeks, we will also be doing our annual Great School Bird Watch for the RSPB and share this work with our global friends.