



# St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter  
23rd September 2020



***Friendship Compassion Service Forgiveness***

## Principal Comments

Dear Parents,

I wanted to take this brief opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. My staff and I have been blown away by your support as we navigate systems and procedures for drop off and collection. It seems to be getting smoother and feels less overwhelming day by day. Last week, the end of the day collection on the KS1 playground on Friday was perfect. It was so reassuring to see the parents lined up in the class lines, socially distant and working together to keep each other safe. If that was you, thank you! You made a huge difference. I'd like to thank the parents of our Year R and Year 1 pupils too. I know we have made a few changes and it may be hard to keep up with them at times but again, this week, it has been very smooth. For the parents of KS2 pupils, it has been very smooth too and again, thank you. It makes a difference.

**A few polite reminders:** As communicated on facebook earlier this week, we have revised the drop off procedures in school. To make things smoother, safe and more practical as we approach the winter weather, the following will now be in place: Gates will be open to all children from 08:30 and until 08:45.

Do not arrive before 08:30 as the gate will not be open, unless you are dropping off your children for breakfast club.

There will be marked drop off points at the top of the school site along the main walkway with a staff member present.

Children can arrive between these times and walk straight in to class. Please remind them to walk sensibly.

Year R parents can walk with their child to the class drop off while they settle into the new school year.

You will be asked to drop your child off and continue walking through the site using the one way route as they walk in to class.

There will be no waiting, so please prepare your child for this. Give them a nice hug and a kiss before the drop off point.

Any urgent messages can be given to the member of staff at the drop off point.

Any non urgent messages must be emailed or telephoned in.

The routes will be clearly demarcated and staffed.

Please manage your own distance from other members of the community. We can provide the systems to support you but are not able to do this for you.

Once again, thank you for bearing with us and let's hope this revised system brings a more fluid movement of people. Please do keep yourself as distant as is practical as possible on the school site. During busy times, the preference is to wear a mask, this way we can keep each other safe. Please only have one parent on the site and stick to the one way route unless you have a disability or medical reason for not doing so. In some ways, I believe it is ultimately inevitable but the last thing I want to be doing as the Principal is closing classes and year groups. Currently, there have been no cases of CV-19 in the school but we have seen a lot of colds! Nationally, there are reports of significant increases in cases of CV-19 and hints of potential national lockdowns. I urge you all to keep to the rules we are trying to follow both on the school site but also outside. Please try and keep your children in bubbles and try your best to socially distance. Wear a mask where you can and remember that we are in no way clear of the pandemic however comfortable we may feel.

**Key Events:** As with all schools, the community element of school life is certainly going to be challenged. Our wonderful events such as Harvest, Remembrance Services, Class Assemblies and the Nativity will all be very different this year. I'd like to reassure you that we will still be challenging ourselves to make them happen and will ensure we can engage you as a community in them as much as is possible. I believe it is a non-negotiable milestone for all new parents to the school community to see their child in an angel outfit beaming with pride as they perform their first nativity in school. We will make this happen somehow!! We have a few ideas up our sleeves but please do share any ideas if you have them.

**Parent Consultations:** We will be providing an opportunity to discuss your child's schooling this term. We will of course have to change the format and will be providing three options:

1. A face to face meeting, which is socially distant and CV-19 safe.
2. An online meeting using the website as a platform video conferencing.
3. A telephone call should you not have internet access.

There is nothing to do yet but please give some thought to the preference you will want to use.

**Worship:** This term we are thinking about the theme of togetherness and rebuilding our school community. The children have been thinking about how they can help, what they can contribute and how the smallest of things can make a difference. If we all give something, big things can happen. It is lovely seeing the children on the screen and whilst we are separate in our bubbles, the children are seeing the whole school together. This week we are thinking about compassion and how we can be mindful of those who need our help. Reverend John Walker from St. Eanswythe and St. Mary's Church has been helping us with worship too and now leads one every Wednesday. He is new to the school community and is really loving the welcome he has been given.

Thank you again for your support and kind words of appreciation. They make a huge difference and keep us all driven to serve you as a community. The school feels so settled and calm and alive again. It is a real genuine pleasure to have your children back in school and we hope and pray that this can continue. With our joint efforts and diligence to the rules, I am sure we can do our bit to make this happen. Warmest wishes.

Mr. T. North, NPQH

### **School Dinners**

Just a reminder that school meal costs have risen from September 2020 to £2.28 per day (£11.40 per five day week). All payments should be made in advance. Please make cheques payable to Caterlink and send them into school in an envelope with the child's name and class clearly written on it. Caterlink envelopes are available from the school office.



### **Contact Details**

The majority of communication with school is now done via email. It is therefore very important that we are using the correct email address to contact you. If you have changed your email address recently, please can we ask you to contact the school office as soon as possible so that we can update our records. You will also need to update your email address on the Sims Parent App.



### **Term Dates 2020/21**

End of Term 1: Friday 23rd October  
Start of Term 2: Monday 2nd November  
End of Term 2: Thursday 17th December  
Staff Development Day: Friday 18th December  
Start of Term 3: Monday 4th January 2021  
End of Term 3: Thursday 11th February  
Start of Term 4: Monday 22nd February  
End of Term 4: Thursday 1st April  
Start of Term 5: Monday 12th April  
Staff Development Day: Friday 12th February  
Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May  
End of Term 5: Friday 28th May  
Start of Term 6: Monday 14th June  
End of Term 6: Tuesday 20th July  
Staff Development Day: Wednesday 21st July

The Nursery will be open on Friday 12th February and closed on Monday 22nd February.

### **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

### **Community Litter Pick**

A huge well done to Arran and Joe for litter picking for 90 minutes on the East Cliff. They collected 4 large bags of rubbish, including wine bottles, cans and crisp packets, which were later removed for recycling. Thank you to Arran, Joe and the community litter pickers for all of your hard work.

The Community Litter Pick happens on the second Sunday of the month; meeting at East Cliff Pavilion car park at 12 noon for anyone who wishes to join in. Folkestone Council provide litter pickers, bags and high vis vests.



### **School Photographer**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the photographer will be in school to take individual photographs of the children, so please make sure the children are particularly smart. The photographer will take photographs of all the children. KS1 children will have their photographs taken in the KS1 hall in their class bubbles and KS2 children will have their photographs taken in the KS2 hall in their class bubbles.

I am sorry, but this year it will not be possible to offer group photographs for siblings or to give pre-school children the chance to come in to school for a photograph.





## Year 4 Science

As part of their science learning on the human body, Year 4 have been learning all about their teeth. First we learned that we actually have 4 different types of teeth in our mouths and that they all have specific jobs, then we used mirrors to have a good look inside our own mouths to see if we could spot them! The children experimented with different types of food to discover which teeth they use and finally they really enjoyed making mouths out of card with marshmallow teeth!



## International/Global Report

We had some wonderful news at the beginning of term when we heard that we had been awarded the prestigious British Council's International School Award for 2020-2023, we have now held this continuously since 2005. Below are some of the comments from the assessors:

"This is a very strong application from St. Mary's Church of England Primary Academy in Folkestone, again demonstrating how it continues to meet the criteria for International School Award Reaccreditation. It is approved without hesitation. All the requirements are met. Activities have taken place across the academic year, despite the extra challenges created by lockdown and all pupils have been engaged at various times. There is extensive collaboration with overseas partners in India, Kenya, Malaysia, Jordan and Taiwan on a wide range of topics, excellent pupil evaluation with a range of comments e.g. during the world religions topic which continued into lockdown, one child wrote "it makes me realize that everywhere children across the world are experiencing the same problems as us due to Covid-19".

Overall this is superb. Congratulations, a great tribute to all the staff involved".

In addition, we have been awarded 3 Quality Label certifications from [www.etwinning.net](http://www.etwinning.net) for our projects on Peace, World Weather Watch and Christmas Card exchange around the world.

Year 3 have started a new link to a school in Tunisia, with whom they are sharing their work on Climate Change, SDG 13 (UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030). Every class is working on some aspect of these goals.

Year 2 are already working with their partner school in India, who will be restarting Video/Conferencing with them.

