



**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 world.**

### Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another week of success here at St Mary's. It started on Friday evening when we celebrated, with silver medals, coming 2nd at the Folkestone Schools' Swimming Gala. The children were such a credit to the school as they gave it their all and worked so well as a team. Mr Whitworth was a force to be reckoned with in the adult and child race too! Thank you to all the Staff, Parents and Carers that supported this and a special 'Thank You' to Mrs Cotton for organising the whole event.

Then on Wednesday, I had the privilege of joining the Year 6 Residential where I got to see both classes being successful in a variety of activities. The children have enjoyed being under canvas and have had so much fun climbing, zorbing, fencing, tomahawk throwing, archery, circus skills, orienteering and quad biking! It's been a fantastic time of building friendships and challenging themselves. Some have never stayed away from home before and so that, in itself, is a wonderful milestone in their development. We are all so proud of them and also of our staff who have made this possible by giving up their free time and losing a lot of sleep!

Every Friday we celebrate the Hot Choc Champs' success and it is such a joy to spend time with these children, who are going beyond our already high expectations, and are succeeding in their work and behaviour. These children are great role models to their peers.

And finally I just want to share some other successes that may seem small but are nevertheless really important steps in the life of our school: I would like to point out the children who are settling back into school after being moved on from the Base and are navigating their way towards being more integrated into school life. This is not an easy process and I am so proud of them for each small step they take towards this. I am also so impressed with the Tigers - both big and small - as they are flourishing and growing with each week, thanks to all the devoted staff who are working so well with them.

St Mary's is a great place to be and it's an honour to be part of it.

Have a great weekend,

Amanda



### Prayer of the Week

Dear God,  
Thank you for our teachers and our friends and our food and our water.  
Please can you help the children who do not have food and water and help them with their learning.  
Amen

Nell Yr 1 and Maddison Yr 5

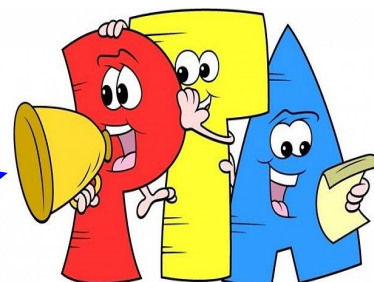
School Term Dates 2023/2024	
<b>Term 1</b>	
Staff Development Day	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September
Start of Term 1	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
End of Term 1	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Term 2</b>	
Start of Term 2	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
End of Term 2	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Term 3</b>	
Start of Term 3	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
End of Term 3	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February
Staff Development Day	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Term 4</b>	
Start of Term 4	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
End of Term 4	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Staff Development Day	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Term 5</b>	
Start of Term 5	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
End of Term 5	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Term 6</b>	
Start of Term 6	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June
End of Term 6	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Staff Development Day	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Staff Development Day	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July

### School Items

Book Bag – Original	£3.90
Book Bag – Strong	£6.00
P.E. Bag	£3.00
Elasticated Tie	£2.50
Traditional Tie	£3.30
School Cap	£4.00
Water Bottle	£2.00

### Calling All Parents and Carers

We would like to invite you to be part of the PTFA this year in whatever capacity you can. We shall be running a series of events and would love to have you come along and help us run them. Please don't feel you have to help out at everything, as we know how busy life can be. But if you could spare a couple of hours occasionally to help out, we would love to hear from you. All welcome.



# UNIFORM

## DROP-OFF

ON THE 11TH OCTOBER, WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR FIRST UNIFORM SWAP SHOP.

IF YOU HAVE ANY UNIFORM THAT YOU NO LONGER NEED, THAT IS IN GOOD CONDITION THEN PLEASE BRING IT INTO SCHOOL.

WE WILL HAVE COLLECTION BINS OUT ON

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY - 28TH AND 29TH SEPTEMBER

MONDAY AND TUESDAY - 2ND AND 3RD OCTOBER.

THANK YOU

Wear it, love it, share it!