



**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 5th January 2024**

### **Headteacher's Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! And so, the Christmas decorations are packed away for another year and Term 3 begins. Here at St. Mary's, we are all entering 2024 with a sense of hope and expectancy. The children have returned to school full of joy after a wonderful break, and they've been so happy to be reunited with their friends.

Term 3 is the term where we really knuckle down to work and see some fantastic progress as the children grow in confidence with their learning and settle into their class routines. There are also some exciting things ahead for them, as the teachers have been busy planning some wonderful activities.

This week we had the joy and privilege of taking 9 of our children to an inclusive Sports Festival at Three Hills Sports Park where they had a wonderful time participating in a number of sports alongside other local schools. This was such a fantastic moment for some of our children who don't always get picked to represent the school and we were all so proud of them.

That same day, Year 2 went to Sunny Sands for a beach launch for their Geography topic on 'Coastlines.' It was a brilliant example of cross-curricular learning where they all looked out for some Physical and Human features, but also had to go on a hunt to find their hidden Literacy books! This all tied in with their current class book, 'The Sea Saw' by Tom Percival where a little girl loses her Teddy Bear but learns an incredible life lesson. I won't spoil it for you, so all Year 2 parents and carers, please ask your child to let you know what happens, as this wonderful story was read to the children while they were at the beach.

And then, on the same day, some of Year 3 children got the chance to go to F51, the tallest climbing venue in the South East, to have an instructed session. Not only were they taught how to climb safely, but this built their confidence and helped some overcome their fear of heights. All Year 3 children will get to do this over the coming weeks, this was just the first group - but what an amazing opportunity!

I am so delighted that we can offer our children so many fantastic experiences and am so grateful to my staff for making these things happen. St Mary's really is a wonderful place to be!

Have a lovely weekend everyone,

Amanda



### **Prayer of the Week**

Dear God,  
Thank you for the rain that helps our crops to grow and for the air we breathe and for forgiving our sins.

Please forgive those who sin against us and lead us not into temptation.

Amen

Maximus Year 6