



# St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter

7th July 2022



***Friendship Compassion Service Forgiveness***

## **Principal Comments**

I cannot believe that I am writing this knowing the end of term is but a few weeks away. What a tremendous year we have had and one full of fun, laughter, challenge and adventure. Our first full school year in school for two years! It has been a mammoth transition adjusting back to all of the wonderful things we used to do and took for granted. I actually felt a little nervous running a sports day this year and even now, having a large number of parents on the school site feels both wonderful, but at the same time a sense of caution is still in the wind. I want to thank you all for the great atmosphere that was created for all of the sports' days and an extra thanks to those that took part in the race. I was determined to take part this year, but there just wasn't room! Maybe next year!

The school is always buzzing with activity and fun things for the children. This term, we have had school trips, a theatre company visit, a boxing coach, a wonderful jubilee celebration and many more small things that build a wonderful school. Our Jubilee was lovely. We had members of our community join us as the children stood to sign the National Anthem. They signed and sang well and really made us all very proud. The Town Mayor joined us and was equally blown away. Our children and their manners really impressed her. There is something very special about our community and the effort we put in to achieve great things for the children and each other. It is a magical place to work and we have a strong staffing team, who go above and beyond. I'd like to take this small opportunity to thank them all on behalf of us all. A large part of our success with events is down to our pastoral team. They are always there to help and are always thinking of new ways to keep us all involved. It's a tough job to keep everyone happy, but they do it well and are always there if you need them.

Our team model our school values every day. Our value of service stands out strongly in all that we do. Mrs. Milton is a true model of this value. I'd like to share with you the news that she is currently recovering from a health condition and won't be in school for the remainder of this term. Please be assured that she is recovering and in good care. The children have made some lovely cards for her and as you can imagine, she is desperate to get back to work! If you have a moment to send a prayer for a speedy recovery, we would all appreciate it.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize some of our pupils too. We have a new member of our school community from the Ukrainian and whilst the whole school has welcomed them with open arms and want to do our best for them, a few pupils took it upon themselves to make welcome cards translated into Ukrainian. Freddie, Abigail-Bliss and Lyra from Year 3, together with Damian M from Year 5, he made some picture cards for her to be able to communicate what she wanted to do at break times. It was so lovely and again, highlights something unique and magical about our pupils here at St. Mary's.

Towards the end of the week, we will communicate which teacher your child will have next year. There is a need in several year groups to balance numbers and ensure the right level of support can be provided. This will mean that some year groups will be mixed. Please know that the staff will do this sensitively and I ask that you support us in our decision to do this. The children will have a full week in their new classes this term to ensure they are comfortable and settled before the summer break.

You will notice some staff changes. We have a few staff leaving us this year and as always we wish them the very best of luck in their new adventures. We will be saying goodbye to:

Miss Ackland, our long serving Deputy Principal. She has been a solid support for the school and has worked with lots of children, ensuring high outcomes. She will be missed by many.

Mrs. Gardener is also moving onto a new challenge. She has been an absolute model of ambition and success for the team here and has shown what dedication and hard work can bring. She is on her way to train further and apply the knowledge from her new Masters' degree in Psychology! A tremendous achievement.

Mrs. Fudge is leaving us from Year R to set up her own business.

Mrs. Arnold has also shown how dedication to study leads to greater things. She has been promoted and will be working in another school on their leadership team.

Mrs. Tanton is returning back to another profession she loves.

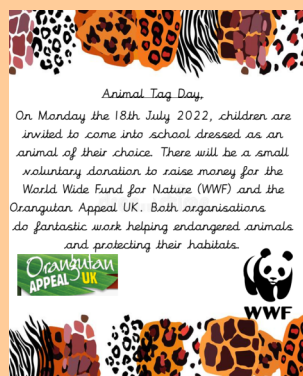
Miss Medgyesi is leaving to return to university to study for her Masters' degree.

It is never easy saying goodbye, particularly to such wonderful and dedicated staff, but it is also a sign of growth and opportunity for us all. From September, we will be welcoming Mr. Gardener, Miss Layton and Miss Hinkley to the Teaching Team.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH  
Principal



### New Entrants

It is that time of year once again when we are lucky enough to meet our newest members of our school community. Over the past few weeks, the new Reception children and their families have joined us for their transition sessions where they have met the staff, visited the school and become familiar with their new learning environments. We have been thrilled to meet each of them and are blown away by their confidence. It was a pleasure to see so many smiling faces and to see all of the children playing nicely together and making new friends.

### Hobgoblin Theatre Company

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, Hobgoblin Theatre Company visited the school and delivered a full day of performances for the whole school. The children from Years 2 to 6 enjoyed two incredible performances of their History of Britain pantomime. This show involved a travel through the whole history of the nation in just 60 minutes, with special appearances from Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth II and Beyonce! Children in Reception and Year 1 enjoyed a wonderful performance of the Greatest Fairy Tale Ever Told, where The Evil Queen was causing trouble in FairyTaleLand by doing away with all of the handsome Princes. Luckily, the 3 Little Pigs were able to stop her! It was a brilliant day, made even more special by the brilliant behaviour and contributions of the children. It is so great to be able to do things like this again.

### Support for Ukraine

Gary Carmichael is once again travelling to Ukraine to deliver humanitarian and medical aid to hospitals and humanitarian centres. He will be leaving on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Donations to support the cause are welcome and can be left in the school's main office:-

- Dried or Long Life Food
- Baby Items/Clothing
- Toiletries
- Cooking equipment (pots, pans etc)
- Sleeping bags and/or tents
- Rucksacks
- No clothes but thick winter socks/gloves and/or waterproof/outdoor clothing is good
- Medical supplies (not medicines, but things like bandages, tourniquets, first aid kits, PPE etc)

As always, thank you for your support.

Friends of St Mary's PTA Presents

### Summer Raffle

Tickets for the summer raffle are available to purchase on Parent Pay from 20<sup>th</sup> June.

**£2 for 4 tickets**

The draw will take place at the summer fayre on 8<sup>th</sup> July at 4.30 and tickets will also be available to purchase with cash at the fayre.

We have some amazing prizes and are still receiving donations.

Please see attached Prize list.

Thank you for your support



Friends of St Mary's PTA Presents

### St Mary's Primary Academy

#### Summer Fayre

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

From 3.15 in the Infant Playground

**Come and support our school and join us for lots of fun and games**

**Raffle draw at 4.30**



Fun Games



Bouncy Castle



Ice Cream

Cake Stall

Face Painting

Plant Stall

Refreshments and Hot Dogs will also be available

### Swimming Gala

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the FESI Swimming Gala at Folkestone Sports Centre in June. With 8 schools participating and over 100 swimmers on poolside, it was an exciting and noisy event, the first held since 2019, due to Covid-19. Every participant swam at least 3 events to the very best of their ability and St. Mary's team came away in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Bronze medals. Congratulations to all

### School Meals (Caterlink)

Caterlink Company has asked if you can clear any outstanding dinner money before the end of this term. They have also asked us to inform you that there will be an increase in the school meal cost from September 2022. School meals will cost £2.43 per day (£12.15 per five day week). Thank you.

### Charity Donation



A huge well done to Reuben, Monty and Sam for raising money for the Lord Whiskey Sanctuary and demonstrating our school value of compassion.

*Last term, me (Reuben) and my friends (Sam and Monty) raised money for The Lord Whiskey Sanctuary. We made paper boats and sold them. We sold them to a variety of people.*

*The thought came to our mind, when Monty wanted to raise money for his grandmother's charity. The total amount of money we raised was £8.70. By Reuben, Monty and Sam.*



### Careers Fair

On Wednesday 25th May, we held our first ever Careers day. We welcomed representatives from all sectors to the school - a paramedic, a banker, an accountant, a train driver, an illustrator, an actor, people from the world of technology, hair and beauty, charity, police, fire service, a midwife, to name a few. The children really were inspired to aspire and it opened their eyes to the opportunities ahead of them in our community.



### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, St. Mary's has renamed its nature reserve 'The Queen Elizabeth II Nature Reserve'. This was officially opened by Mayor Nicola Keen on Tuesday 14th June, in a celebration that was attended by the whole school and lots of other members of our local community, including residents from Philippa House and Reverend John Walker. As part of the ceremony, all of the school sang - and signed using British sign language - the national anthem. A huge thank you to Mrs Coull for making the amazing Jubilee Celebration Cake.





### Visiting Paramedics

On Friday 1st July, we had a visit from 2 paramedics with their ambulance. They explained to the children what they do and how the ambulance is equipped to save lives. The paramedics answered questions from the children, demonstrated CPR and explained what to do in emergency. The children then had the opportunity to look around the ambulance and put on the sirens and lights.



### May we remind all parents that use the Breakfast and Funky Monkey After School Clubs that you must pay for your child's attendance in advance of using the service

Please note that when using Parent Pay, if you select the bank transfer option at the checkout, your payments can take up to 10 days to clear into our account. If you use the VISA/debit card option and the payment is successful, we should receive the payment the next day. We would suggest you choose this option when making payments, as use of the Clubs will not be available until the funds have cleared. Thank you.

**Can I ask parents that when dropping your child off to Breakfast Club in the mornings, you park at the top of the drive and do not drive to the bottom of the school by the reception office. There are a lot of children moving about at that time of the day and it becomes a health and safety hazard if parents are driving and turning around in their cars. Thank you.**



As part of the school's work for the World Orchard project, linked to creating trees from recycled and planting trees. Wufu School in Taiwan, has sent in photos of the pupils planning their recycled trees, which will be finished at home due to Covid-19!. A school in Uganda has planted an Avocado orchard.

Year 4 asked D.A.V. BRS Nagar School in India some questions about Hinduism and have had some wonderful replies. They will be having a Zoom meeting about this in the last week of term.



The school received it's Climate Action School of Excellence Award, one of only 3 schools in the U.K., for our work for COP26 and SDG 13.

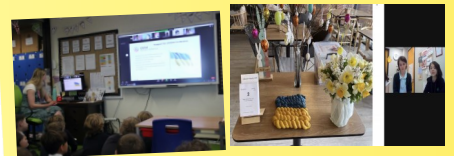
We have readopted Zorro, our endangered Orangutan from Borneo, Malaysia and Tigers Class had a wonderful Zoom meeting this morning with John, asking him so many questions about them.



## International Work



Year 4 enjoyed a Zoom meeting hosted by Global Alliance with schools from Moldova, Bangladesh, India, Philippines, Uganda and Northern Ireland. The schools talked about what they were doing to support Ukraine SDG 3 & 16.



Years 1 and 2 are programming the Beebots to visit the different countries of the world in their book, 'My Granny went to Market'.



The school hosted 3 days of international drumming and dance workshops where the children especially enjoyed the Indian drumming sessions.

Year 5 has been learning about Apartheid with their Literacy work on 'Journey to Jo'Burg'.

