



**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 8th March 2024**

### Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so wonderful to see and feel the sun again this week at school - and it has brought out so many lovely things to report on.

As I walked around the site one afternoon, Year 5 were having fun in PE, warming up for tag rugby. (Some of the play was better than I've seen in the Six Nations tournament!) Meanwhile, some of the other Year 5 children were out building towers and structures in the Forest School and having so much fun. Year 1 were happily playing in the front garden, while the Nursery children were chatting and laughing in the Nursery garden. The whole site was alive with activity and joy.

And then on Tuesday, I had the pleasure of accompanying Mrs Pittock, Miss Johncock and a bunch of extremely talented children to a Dance Competition at the Central Theatre in Chatham. The choreography was fantastic and the children's dancing and storytelling was exceptional. I was so moved and so proud of them all, that I got quite emotional. We received so much praise from both members of the audience and teachers from other schools, and this just reinforced how brilliantly the children performed. I would like to express my thanks too, to all the parents and carers who gave up their afternoon to support their children so enthusiastically. You gave the children so much confidence and made the day a very special one.

Yesterday was World Book Day and Pyjama Day and what a lot of fun that was as we enjoyed so many ways to celebrate the wonder of books and imaginative worlds. While it's essentially a celebration of reading, its aim is also to inspire more children to develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and as a result, to have improved life chances. Isn't that what we want for all our children? Thank you again to all of you who supported your child with this and thank you for coming into school to read with your child.

Yesterday was also the day Mrs Pittock took another group to a Gymnastics competition. Once again, the children did us proud and showed the judges their agility, precision and balance. We are lucky to have so much talent in the school, as well as such wonderful teachers who seek out these enriching opportunities for our pupils.

And so we come to the end of another busy week in the life of St Mary's. Behind the scenes there have been Governor Meetings. Attendance Meetings, visits from external agencies, specialists observing children, Link Tutor visits to students and the next chapter in the Open the Book series.

We wish you all a fantastic weekend and look forward to lots of fun next week as we prepare for Comic Relief.

Amanda



### Prayer of the Week

Dear God,

Thank you for all the books in the world and all the stuff we can write with. Thank you that we can help animals and thank you for the rain and the sunshine.

Please will you help people who don't have any money and help us to help others.

Amen.

**COMIC RELIEF**  
**RED NOSE DAY**

**Red Nose Day**  
**Friday 15th March**

Children are welcome to wear a red top to school instead of their usual school jumper or cardigan.

Red noses are very welcome.

Mrs Harrison will be collecting donations at the school gate at the beginning and end of the school day.

## Reading Volunteers

We are looking for Parents/Carers to come in to school to support the children in developing their reading skills.

Listening to a child read is important for many reasons and plays a crucial role in their overall literacy development.

If you have some time to spare and would like to help, please contact the class teacher or speak to Mrs. Harrison.

Thank you

## Can you help us?

If you have any pre-loved, good condition waterproofs that your child has grown out of, we would love to have them for use in our Forest School.

We are looking for puddle suits, waterproof coats and trousers. The ones we have are being used daily at the moment and are wearing out.

Thank you in advance.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Thursday  
21st March  
3pm

50p Entry  
KS1 Playground

Weather conditions permitting  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

School Term Dates 2023/2024	
<b>Term 4</b>	
Start of Term 4	Monday 19 <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