



St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter

9th December 2021



Friendship Compassion Service Forgiveness

Principal Comments

Dear Parent,

Christmas is coming! The songs are playing, the tree is up and the nativities are (at the point of writing) going ahead. The school is feeling spirited and we are getting ready for the celebrations. As a Church of England Primary School, this time of year is particularly important for our school as we reflect on Jesus' birth and the love and compassion he brought to us all. We were unable to hold nativities last year but our media savvy teachers shaped wonderful videos. They were excellent, but are just not quite the same as being together in the school with the strong sense of family and community coming together that these festivities bring.

Mrs. Harrison, along with the other members of the Pastoral Team and some lovely parent helpers, put on a wonderful series of discos. It was lovely to see the excitement, the children dance, run about and play games together and was also a strong reminder of how far we have come since lockdown. I know the children will all want to say thank you and parents too. So, if you are reading this, Mrs. Harrison – THANK YOU!

We still have some Christmas events planned but are also stepping forward tentatively as we closely monitor the Covid situation. We will not run any event unless we are satisfied that it can be done with adherence to guidance and our own judgement. The final decision will be made this coming Monday 13th December. We still have had very few cases in the school and we are monitoring it daily. I am currently self-isolating, so you won't see me at the gates for a few days! I am due to be back on the day of the Nativities, so fingers crossed I can in some way experience them too.

I hope you have all found our Ofsted report. Ofsted reports are by nature very matter of fact in their tone, but we are so very proud of the validation that your children attend a good school. The evaluations captured us very well and the dedication and passion my team here give to your children each day. I know many schools are finding the new framework a real challenge, so it is even more of an accolade to us here that we have come out so very strongly. It can be found on our website and in the front office too.

Thank you all for your continued support and my team and I here, wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Happy holidays and keep safe.

Regards.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH



Children In Need

With your amazing support, we raised an incredible amount of £484.14 for Children in Need. Thank you.



Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner for the children will be on Friday 17th December. A letter with further details has already been sent out. The children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper to school on this day instead of their school jumper or cardigan.



Anti-Bullying Poster Competition

We were truly overwhelmed with the amazing entries to the Poster Competition. So much hard work, time and thought went into each and every one of them. After much deliberation by the school councillors, the winners were announced in the assembly on Monday and each presented with a prize of a book voucher. A huge well done to everyone that took part.



Parent Christmas Craft

The children in Reception and the Nursery have been so lucky this week to have their parents come in and enjoy some Christmas crafting. Whilst listening to Christmas music and with the help of their mums and dads, the children made wonderful Christmas decorations. Well done and thank you to everyone that was able to come along and join in the fun.



School Term Dates 2021/2022

Term 1	
Staff Development Day	01/09/2021
Staff Development Day	02/09/2021
Staff Development Day	03/09/2021
Start of Term 1 (1 st day for Children)	06/09/2021
End of Term 2	22/10/2021
Term 2	
Start of Term 2	01/11/2021
End of Term 2	17/12/2021
Term 3	
Start of Term 3	04/01/2022
End of Term 3 (Last Day for Children)	10/02/2022
Staff Development Day	11/02/2022
Term 4	
Start of Term 4	21/02/2022
End of Term 4	08/04/2022
Term 5	
Start of Term 5	19/04/2022
End of Term 5	26/05/2022
Staff Development Day	27/05/2022
Term 6	
Start of Term 6	13/06/2022
End of Term 6	22/07/2022

Please note: Dates for 4 Staff Development Days are yet be confirmed.

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

Child's Absence from School

Please can we remind you to contact the school on the first day of your child's absence. You should ring the school office by 10:00, stating the reason for absence. If we do not hear from you by this time, we will telephone you asking for a reason for the absence. It is the parents' responsibility to contact the academy on the first day that their child is absent. This is a safeguarding issue so that all parties know that the child is safe. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Our most recent Covid-19 risk assessment can be found on the school's website.
<https://www.stmarysfolkestone.com/risk-control-measures>.



This year, we are supporting the Shepway Foodbank who provide nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people in crisis. They are in urgent need of the following items:

- Cup a soup
- Snacks including crisps and cereal bars
- Tinned custard
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned meat
- Toilet Rolls

They currently DON'T need:

- Baked beans
- Tin soup
- Cereals
- Pasta

We will be collecting donations for the Foodbank from Thursday 9th December

Please can we ask you to place any donated items in the tubs that will be left at the entrance by the school gates.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

SHEPWAY FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS

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.

Swimming for Term 3

In term 3, there will be 5 weeks of swimming for Year 6. The cost is £3.00 per session, £15.00 per term. Please can all monies be paid in advance on Parent Pay.

School Dinners

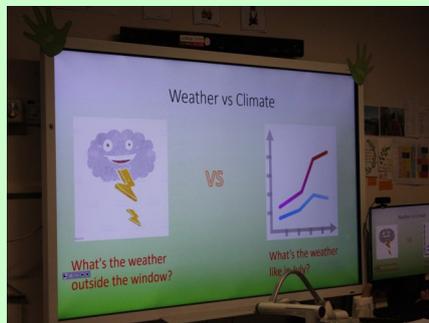
Please note that if your child has a school meal, payment must be received at the beginning of each week in an envelope with the child's name and class entered on the envelope. The cost of a meal is £2.30 per meal per day. Cheques should be made payable to Caterlink. If payment is not received, Caterlink will not serve a meal to your child. Thank you.

In the New Year, Caterlink will be operating a cashless system. More details to follow very soon.

International Work

We now have 24 enthusiastic Global Councillors (2 representatives from each class) who meet weekly; some of whom had the opportunity to meet Little Amal, the puppet refugee, when she came to Folkestone in October. The school has done some excellent work linked to the SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) this term, in particular SDG 13 Climate-Action and COP26. Many of the classes wrote their own pledges on leaves saying what they will do to help support Climate-Action and a message for World Leaders. Some of these leaves were hung on trees in the Blue Zone at Cop26. We've shared our work linked on Climate Action through Zoom meetings with schools in Brazil, Moldova, Tunisia and Bangladesh. St. Mary's was just one of three U.K. schools who received 'A School of Excellence' award for this work.

Year 4, handed out their Fair Trade chocolate recipes in Folkestone Town Centre and are waiting to learn if they have achieved their Silver award. They've also been working closely with their partner school in Bangladesh and planted a Dogwood Tree for them.



During International Education Week in November, we participated in the annual World Weather Watch project collaborating with schools in 16 countries from Jamaica to Taiwan. Year 3 had a Zoom meeting with College Pilote in Sousse Tunisia, which was led by Miss Judd, a meteorologist who spent the day in school doing exciting weather experiments, cloud recognition and making weather vanes with the children.

Year 5's Spanish is growing rapidly and they have weekly videos with their partner school in Barcelona.

Year 2 have really enjoyed their two Indian dance lessons via Zoom, with the Dance teachers' & students at DAV BRS School Ludhiana India.



Pupils are sharing Christmas Greetings, with schools across the world, in our annual Christmas card project and Year 4 held a Zoom meeting with HIS Heritage International School in Moldova, where they sang a Christmas song and explained what Christmas Jumper day is. The children at H.I.S school then told us a little about a Moldovian Christmas.