



St. Mary's Buzzin' Bulletin

Termly Newsletter

9th May 2022



Principal Comments

Summer is here! This time of year in the school is such a wonderful time. The grounds are in bloom, the trees look amazing and the children get a little more space to play and learn in. After a long commute into work, the colourful trees and welcoming site always bring a smile. Over the half term, we have had some further developments to our forest school provision. We have always had a space for a pond and after rain, if we were lucky, it was almost a puddle. Now it has been re-shaped, lined and ready for it to grow into a wonderful outside classroom. The landscapers will be installing a viewing and dipping platform and we hope by mid-term 6, it is a useable space for all children to use.

Time Flies:

I can't believe we are almost at the end of term 5, leaving just one full term left in school. How the year is passing so quickly, I will never know. I am sure time passes more quickly in education. In no time at all, the children grow up and move on to secondary and beyond. Recently, we have had some ex pupils return for work experience and again, a little reminder of how quickly time passes. They were the children of Years 5 and 6 in my first year here. They looked so grown up, were extremely respectful and very helpful. We are also reminded that very soon, our current Year 6 pupils will be moving on too. This week they have their SAT tests. I am not sure I will ever understand the true value of the tests but they certainly bring a sense of occasion and a little stress for us all. I haven't seen the content of the test, but I'm pretty sure they won't be assessing the unique skills of the children or their resilience and determination to manage a lockdown, access and engage with home learning with all the distractions and challenges that brought, or a societal shift in socialisation and managing the news of a war. In many ways, our pupils have endured a lifetime of challenge in a very short space of time. So, this week, as they are sitting their tests, I will be beaming with pride that as a school we have ensured our children can confidently sit the tests and have reconnected with school and each other, despite the narrative they have lived. I know you will wish them all the very best of luck and send a few prayers (or answers) our way.

Keeping Safe:

With a fully open school and no restrictions, I must share my thoughts on a recent shift. All through lockdown and with reduced site traffic, there was a notable tone of respectful regard for each other and a calm and careful flow of community members around the site. Recently, myself and other staff have been spoken to in quite abusive ways in response to asking for people to follow the rules we have to keep all safe. They have been fairly simple things like asking children to walk rather than ride bikes, asking parents to supervise their children after school to keep them safe and also speaking to those who want to park on the zig zag lines. It doesn't happen a lot, but once is enough and it is disappointing as we work so hard to ensure we have a wonderful and safe school for everyone to attend. This does also include staff! I would like to politely ask all members of the community to follow our simple rules by being safe, ready and respectful. Anyone using abusive language or persistently refuses to follow site safety rules will not be permitted on the school site. There have also been a few complaints from the residents of Philippa House, where children have been running through their gardens and people sitting on their garden walls and smoking. Another polite request from the school community to stop this. There is a bench at the end of the road should anyone need to sit and smoke.

So please, walk the bikes and scooters, leave the dog at home, keep your children supervised and calm, leave the site promptly after collection, don't swear or smoke (on the school site) and try and be mindful of all other community members when parking the car.

Jubilee:

The Queen's Jubilee is approaching fast and will happen over the half term and because of this, we will not be putting on a huge party in school as these would have already happened. However, as a way of marking this occasion we will be holding a red, white and blue day here in school on 14th June. The curriculum will follow the theme of the Jubilee and we will sing the National Anthem together after the children have planted some trees and plants in our new pond area, dedicated to our Queen. We will also be putting a plaque by the pond as a way of both marking the Jubilee and the opening of another one of our wonderful outside classrooms.

Help Needed:

We are holding a careers fair in school in June and we are trying to get a range of people to come in and talk to children about their jobs. We are trying to get a representation of many jobs and people doing them. If you are a tradesperson, business owner, animal worker, mechanic, lawyer, gaming or computer programming, network engineers etc., we would love to have you here with us on 25th May. If you know anyone, give them a shout.

Young Voices:

This week I witnessed what was probably the most mind blowing and overwhelming experience of my life. I've attended a few gigs in my life and been to some big events but never have I experienced 7,500 children singing in harmony to some wonderful hits and medleys. This week we were at The O2 Arena with our children from the choir led by Miss Williams. It was magnificent. The energy, passion and sense of joy and elation actually brought tears to my eyes repeatedly for about half an hour. It was truly awe inspiring. I am sure there will be small a celebration of this in the coming weeks as we have some photos and clips of the event. Our children were almost at the front and centre right behind the main stage where famous artists and world champion beat boxers and street dancers memorised the children and staff. We sang to a full arena of parents and family members from around the country for all 150 attending schools. I cannot wait for next year and hopefully more children to take.

Thank you all again for your support and please do feel free to come in and see me if you want to discuss any issues or ideas that the school could engage further with in the community and beyond.

Term 5 - P.E Dates

Year R - Monday (Adventurers and Explorers)
Year 1 - Wednesday (Italy and Spain)
Year 2 - Thursday (England and India)
Year 3 - Tuesday (Burkina Faso and France)
Year 4 - Tuesday (Kenya and Sri Lanka)
Year 5 - Wednesday (Brazil and Peru)
Year 6 - Friday (Australia and Canada)



Parent Coffee Morning

We are holding a parent coffee morning about the often difficult subject of SLEEP! This is on the morning of 26th May and all parent and carers are welcome to come along to pick up some top tips or to share their own. Further details to follow.



Term 4 Attendance



In Term 4, we were delighted to present 139 children with a certificate for 100% attendance. Ethan in Y4, Jayden in Y6 and Jasper in Y2 were chosen by the spinning wheel and won a pair of cinema tickets each. Well done everyone. Let's try and beat that score next term!

Bicycles and Scooters

Please can we ask that bicycles and scooters are not ridden on the school premises. If they are brought to school, the children must dismount and push their bike/scooter to the bike shed or until they leave the premises. Please help us to keep the playground a safe place for everyone. Thank you for your understanding.



Careers Fair

we are looking forward to the Careers Fair on the 25th May for Years 5 and 6. If you are able to take part, there is still time to register an interest. Please email jessr@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk.

St Mary's Careers Fair
Wednesday 25th May 9.30-10.30 am

We are going to be holding a careers event for our KS2 children to give them an insight into the different jobs that people in our community do and inspire them to work towards achieving the best they possibly can.

Would you be willing to help us by talking to our pupils about your job, career or business and share your story of how you got to where you are today? We believe that the information you can offer will inspire the children to start thinking about their own future and what they can do to create their own success.

If you are able to take part in our Careers Fair, please leave your details with Mrs Ramsden or the Pastoral Team.

Thank you

School Uniform—Summer Dresses



We currently have lots of summer dresses available in various sizes. Some of the dresses are brand new and some are preloved but in amazing condition. Please contact Mrs Milton to view the dresses or for any further information. Donations for the dresses are welcome and all monies received will go to the school funds.

May we remind all parents that use the Breakfast and Funky Monkey After School Clubs that payment for a child's attendance must be made 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.



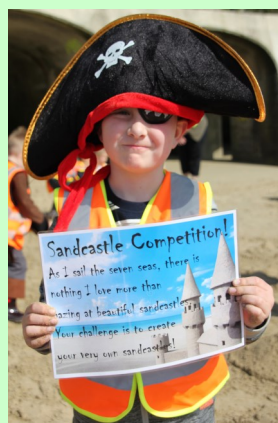
Ukraine Appeal

Here is a brief update from Gary who drove some of your donations out to the Ukraine: "just wanted to say thank you to you and St. Mary's for your support in helping to make the humanitarian mission to Ukraine possible. I took medical equipment (surgical vacuum machines, anaesthesia equipment and cardio monitors), as well as medical supplies (PPE, medicines, dressings, bandages, slings, tourniquets, crutches, wheelchairs etc.) to a city called Rivne in Ukraine. There, some of the equipment was given to the local military hospital and a civilian hospital, who were both extremely grateful. It was an experience I will never forget. Thanks again!"



Year R - Beach School

The Reception children had a pirate-tastic start to their term with their first ever beach-school. Their adventure started with the children noticing a mysterious treasure chest which had a map inside. They were very excited! When they got to the beach, the children discovered lots of rubbish that had been collected under one of the arches alongside a message in a bottle. The message was from a Beach Pirate, whose job it is to clean up the beach and teach others about beach safety. He challenged the children to also become Beach Pirates, to which the children enthusiastically agreed to!



Book Donation

The owner of The Bookden in Hythe has kindly gifted 30 books for India class so that each child could take one home. The children were very excited to start reading their book! Thank you - what a lovely gesture!

The Bookden <https://thebookden.co.uk>



Friends of St Mary's PTA

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting
our Easter Egg Hunt.
We raised £44.58!



International Work

At the end of last term, the Global Councillors had a wonderful time learning how to program the Beebots to travel to the different Continents of the world, with the older group challenged to locate and send their Beebots to specific partner school countries. They were having to program the Beebot to go forward and backward, as well as turning to the left and right. A fun and great way to reinforce their learning about the Continents, Oceans and Countries of the World.



Years 3 and 4 sent a reciprocal 'Culture Box' to our partner College Pilote in Sousse, Tunisia in return for the one we received from them in January. The items were linked to Folkestone, so we sent a Seagull (made of felt), some shells, a piece of chalk from the White Cliffs, along with some books about 'Waste' and 'Plastic' linked to SDG 13, Climate Action. Year 3 also sent recycled note books they had made. They enclosed their written punch lines, linked to SDG 3, Health and Wellbeing, as well as the Wellbeing person they created in French and English. Our Tunisian friends were delighted with all of these.



Ukraine is never far from the pupils' thoughts, we are still getting messages from the teacher at our partner school there, although her school is closed. She sent us all an Easter Message *May your Easter baskets be filled with joy, happiness and PEACE!* and was thrilled about the humanitarian van from Folkestone with items from St. Mary's that drove to Ukraine.



In the first few days of this term, we've been learning about 'Earth Day.' It started with a Scavenger Hunt in the school grounds (linked to SDG 15) where the children had to find, draw and label flora and fauna. They then collected a few leaves, flowers and some grass to make a tree, which wasn't as easy as they thought! Our partner schools in India, Moldova, Tunisia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Bangladesh and South Africa will be sending us photos of the work they've done and supporting SDG 13, Climate Action.

