

Friday, 12 February

Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed

Principal Comments

We have come to the end of yet another fantastic term at St. Mary's and the children have all earned a break. Their hard work in lessons and commitment to improving their work is really paying off. I hope you were all able to see this at our recent parents' evenings when you looked in the books and met with the class teacher for an update on progress. We have had an exciting term too. An Olympic legend came to visit, the Y6 pupils put on their own Paralympic sports event at Pent Valley, a polar explorer visited Y2 pupils and we had a fabulous show from the Y3 pupils to exhibit their learning on the Tudors. As if this wasn't enough, we also had a huge astrodome set up for the Y5 pupils, the YR parents came in for a learning morning and the pupils in the Nursery had their own wonderful book launch. I really am very proud of the exciting curriculum that we offer our pupils and the dedication the staff show to shaping it so well.

With all ups there are downs and we have had our fair share of turbulence too with the absence of Mrs. O'Grady in Y4 and the recent news of Miss Smith leaving us from YR. Turbulence is a test of tenacity and the team here have been amazing. The YR team have worked really hard to continue to provide a great curriculum for Woodland class and Miss Culshaw has now taken over the class. The Y4 pupils and parents have been incredibly supportive too and I must thank them all. You have made a tricky period pass well with your trust and patience with the school. Mrs. O'Grady has now returned and will be in class from the first week back The parent surveys are also online and we have had over 100 responses. I will collate the responses over the half term and use these to inform the improvement plan. I have seen some very pleasing comments and clear areas for improvement. One such is the explanation of assessment without levels. Next term there will be an information session led by myself which will hopefully answer all unknown questions.

Until then, have a fantastic break and enjoy the time with your children and family. Many thanks for your support and challenge.

Cars Parking in Academy Entrance at Foreland Avenue

The Academy has received several complaints of cars parking on the zig zag lines and in the driveway of the school entrance at Foreland Avenue.

Can I please ask you not to do so as it makes the area very unsafe for the children walking to and from school. Thank you.

Reporting a Child's Absence

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, can I ask that you telephone the academy office to report this to a member of the office staff after 8.20 am on your child's first day of absence, or alternatively if you ring earlier than 8.20 am, you can leave a message on the answerphone. Thank you.

Year 3 French Pen Pals

Year 3 had an exciting parcel from their French pen pals in Bordeaux last week— New Year cards, bonbons for everyone and a book they had made based on the famous story of 'the 2 cats of Bordeaux', as well as the actual book. Can you do the French Quiz attached by them?



Les bonbons

Les fraises Tagada Les Carambars Les Malabars



