



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

This term is already flying by and we, dare I say it, have just started our first thoughts about the journey to Christmas. Following what has been a very poignant week last week with the Remembrance work the children have taken part in, I must say how very proud I was of all of them. Pupils across the school were able to show deep reflection and understanding of the significance of the school service that we held. All of the staff were in awe of the children as they recited the poem 'In Flanders Fields' so well and with such emotion. I'm sure it brought a tear of pride to many of our eyes, particularly some of the prayers and thoughts that were written and shared. It was fitting too that following our small service on the top of the cliff on Friday, the town commemorated the 100 Year Anniversary of WW1 on the beaches below on the Sunday. I hope some of you were able to be part of this. As a school, we now begin to think about the journey to Christmas. The promise of hope, love and peace and the jubilation that the birth of Jesus brought to the world.

Mr. T.M. North, Principal, NPQH

Home learning

I have been blown away by some of the quality home learning that has been coming into school. There have been many strong examples of engagement and craftsmanship but also a partnership with parents too. Each week I get to celebrate this with the pupils in the celebration assembly and there is genuine awe in the room as the fine examples are shared with the pupils. The work has come from a variety of year groups too with some models that really must have taken hours to complete. I'd like to thank you all for your continued support with home learning. Engaging children in the knowledge of their world is so very important. Please do check your child's home learning log for activities that can be completed at home and also our Parent App which can be put on to your phone and home learning accessed from there too! There is no escape.

Winter is coming

We have been blessed with some very warm weather recently which is highly unusual for this time of the year. There have been times when children have come to school without a coat or a jumper as a result. The weather is on the turn though. Please ensure your child comes to school everyday with a warm coat, a school jumper and the correct school footwear. Trainers are not seen as correct uniform.

Parent Evenings

This year we are trialing something new in the way we hold parent consultations. We often notice how stretched and rushed the sessions are and perhaps do not give quality time to speak about your child's education. For this reason, we will use open evenings to celebrate the learning and achievement. We will be providing a termly exhibition of the children's learning and an opportunity for you all to come and absorb the school and the wonderful learning taking place. You will be able to celebrate your children's achievements and spend quality time looking in their books and talking to them about their work. The teachers will all be on hand to share the great work and answer any curriculum questions and guide any home learning you may wish to do. In addition to this, the staff would like to offer you appointments to discuss learning at your convenience. Every parent should have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and teacher meetings are always welcome every week. All meetings must be pre booked by the school office and with a minimum of 24 hours' notice. The preferred days for these sessions are Tuesdays and Thursdays between 15:30 and 17:00 and can be up to a maximum of 30 minutes. If you need a later appointment, this can be arranged but will need a longer notice period. We suggest one working week. We ask that you can be flexible in your working arrangements where possible to maintain a healthy work balance for everyone.

Healthy Lunches

Here at St. Mary's, we pride ourselves on helping our children keep fit and healthy, with our PE lessons and with the new equipment on the playgrounds that the children have access to at lunchtime and play time. This is for children in both KS1 and KS2. We have a tuck shop daily in KS2 with freshly prepared fruit and in KS1, they have a free piece of fruit provided daily by the NHS. Our school lunches are nutritious and warming. Now that winter is arriving, why not encourage your child to have one. There is plentiful choice and at a very reasonable price. Another way to promote healthy living is through our children's packed lunches. We all know that children can be fussy but a packed lunch should contain one item from each of the following sections:-

1. Starchy foods—bread/roll (brown), pitta bread, crackers, rice, pasta or potatoes.
2. Protein foods—meat, fish, eggs, beans.
3. Dairy Items—cheese or yoghurts.
4. Vegetables—crunchy carrots, cucumber salad and a portion of fruit.
5. A drink is very important and water is refreshing and keeps the children hydrated.

Try to avoid crisps and chocolate, this can be given as a treat.

Key Dates

28th November – Exhibition of Learning – school open for parents until 18:00

5th December – Year 1 Nativity at the Leas Cliff Hall (time to be confirmed)

12th December – Whole school trip to the Leas Cliff Hall for a Christmas Panto

14th December – Interim progress report sent to parents

17th December – Carol Service at Harbour Church (formerly St. Saviours) - Monday 17th December at 18:30

7th January - Exhibition of Excellence—15:30 to 18:00

7th March – World Book Day – Theme to be confirmed

21st March – Math Day and an Exhibition of Excellence from 15:30 to 18:00

2nd July—Early Years Foundation Stage and Infant Sports Day

3rd July—Junior Sports Day

15th July—Exhibition of Excellence—15:30 to 18:00

15th to 20th July – Transition Week

Lower Phase Newsletter Updates

This week the Reception children have been demonstrating compassion which is one of our Christian Values. They have welcomed Stickman into their classrooms and made him feel at home. Stickman was feeling very upset and lonely without his Stick Family so the children have worked hard to create some wonderful artwork to display in the home that they have made him in the classroom. They have used their own ideas and their imagination to create art work for themselves and Stick people to display on the walls of his temporary home to make him feel more at home.

In the Nursery, the children have been exploring 'Helicopter Stories' this term. Helicopter Stories allow the children to dictate and create their own stories. Once they have created their story, the children act out their story on a staged area within the nursery and share it with the adults and the other children. This approach uses the power of story telling to develop key curriculum areas, such as creativity, communication and language, personal, social and emotional skills. This week, Effie has thoroughly enjoyed creating some wonderfully imaginative stories. She has used her imagination to make up her own story about fairies and a mermaid. Effie has further challenged herself by writing parts of her story independently! Well done Effie, we are all very proud of your achievement. We are also very impressed with all of the children's confidence when they are re-telling and acting out their stories.



Xmas Fayre

The Parent Voice will be holding their annual Christmas Fayre on Friday 30th November from 3.30 to 5.00 pm. Please put this date in your diary. If you have any items you can donate towards the Fayre, please let Mrs. Milton or Mrs. Harrison know. Thank you.



Facebook

As you are aware, we put a lot of our activities, events, news, photographs etc. on the school's facebook page. For those of you who do not use facebook, there is a link on the school website at the very top of the front page saying school facebook page. If you click on this link, it will take you directly to St. Mary's facebook page and you will be able to view all postings without becoming a member of facebook yourself. The school website address is: www.stmarysfolkestone.com



Pantomime—The Leas Cliff Hall

As you are aware, the whole school has been invited to this year's pantomime at The Leas Cliff Hall on Wednesday 12th December at 10.30 am and we have been very lucky to obtain tickets for just £8.00 each. May I remind you that if you have not already done so, you make your payment on line via ParentPay. This year, The Leas Cliff Hall is offering free admission on this day for those children who are entitled to Pupil Premium funding. Pupil Premium funding is assigned to those children who have successfully applied online for free school meals (not infant universal meals) or who meet the necessary criteria. If you are unsure if your child is entitled to pupil premium, please speak to Mrs. Harrison, who will be able to confirm if your child is entitled or will be able to assist you with an application if this is necessary.

Parent Voice

We are a group of willing parents who meet up to run and support events in school and fund raise. At the moment, we are busy organising the Christmas Fayre to be held here at St. Mary's in the Junior Hall on the 30th November from 3.15 to 5.00 pm. We are always looking for keen parent volunteers to help with events.

Our next meeting is on Monday morning (19th November) at 9.00 am in the FLO/CLO mobile. Please feel free to pop along and meet the team. We would love to have you on board. If you are interested in helping to volunteer or wish to become part of the Parent Voice Team, please speak to Mrs. Harrison or Mrs. Milton. Thank you.

International Work

Our newly elected Global Councillors for this year have been busy learning about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and our ongoing work with 'Zero Waste'. They've been using the remote controlled Beebots to locate many of the countries across the world that we work with and who are part of our projects.

During this current International Education Week, our Year 1 classes are taking part in the World Weather Watch project and recording the weather daily at 12 noon, along with schools in over 20 countries.

Last year, we participated in a Christmas Card Project with 30+ countries and have been awarded, not only a National Quality Label for this work, but recently received the coveted European Quality Label. Needless to say, Year 1 and our Global Councillors will be doing a similar project again this year and already have pictures in from our partner school in Malaysia, whose teachers visited us in June.

A little reminder, please send into school any old biro's and felt pens to support our recycling for Zero Waste.