



Folkestone  
St Mary's Church of England  
Primary Academy

Monday, 04  
December

**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**



### **Principal Comments**

Hark, is that the sound of sleigh bells? It soon will be! Our wonderful tree is back up in the hall, the nativity scene is inspiring and there is increasing talks of secret Santa in the staffroom. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of those involved with the Christmas fayre including all of our parents that attended. We had a busy hall and with your patience and kindness we were able to have a great event. Santa was busy throughout and kept to his very busy time slots! So thank you PTA, without your help we would have a very dull event!

Last week we had wonderful work exhibited by Year 3 and all of what they had learned from their topic on France. I have to say that this year has brought some of the best home learning we have ever seen. Please do come in and check it out this term. Mrs. O'Grady will be putting on a display of all the home learning projects before the end of term, so keep your eyes open and come and be inspired.

We had Year 5 exhibiting their learning at The Grand Hotel on Monday so I hope you were able to get up there and give them some support. It was fantastic!

This week we continue our focus on advent and light the candle of Peace in our Worship. This is timely too as we have been doing a lot of work with our pupils on the way in which they play and interact during playtime. We have been discussing the topic of friendship and forgiveness. We have looked at what unkind behaviour looks like, why people may show it and the responsibility we have to keep our hands and voices safe so that others are able to enjoy their time at break. It has been really interesting to hear some of the pupils responses and also spend time monitoring and evaluating the provision we offer.

We have made some key adjustments which we think will bring a new level of engagement to the playground and also respond to some of the ideas the pupils have been sharing with me.

The playground will be zoned with a key adult in each zone. These will be: Forest School, Invasion Games, Dance, Multi Games and the Chill Zone. We are also introducing a common room style session for Years 5 and 6. (If you have anything that you could donate to this room that the children may like to play with, we would welcome it). The Year 6 pupils will be leading the dance one (under supervision) and the Anti Bully Ambassadors and Play Leaders will be leading in the Chill Zone and the Multi Games Zone. This will increase the level of ownership the pupils have on the playground and also engage more pupils into the sessions. We all know that bored children equals a higher potential for disruptive play!

Pupils will be timetabled in each zone so that they get a broad and balanced experience. They will not be allowed to leave the zones unless they are going to use the toilet.

Any pupils that are not able to follow the simple playtime rules of safe and kind play will not be allowed on the playground and will be asked to think about self-control and responsibility to others during their free time. If the disruption to other's playtime continues, then I will need to consider alternative arrangement for lunch times such as home lunches, as outlined in our behaviour policy. I am sure there will be full support for this zero tolerance approach but if you are in disagreement, please make an appointment to come and discuss alternative solutions with me.

Please support us in this small period of change and reinforce our message at home that you expect your children to show friendship and forgiveness to others and play safe at all times.

Trevor North, NPQH

### **CHANGE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

Please note that we have changed the staff development days for next year from Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th July 2018 to Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th March 2018 (just before the Easter break).

**23rd AND 24th JULY WILL BE NORMAL SCHOOL DAYS FOR THE CHILDREN IN YEAR R TO YEAR 6**

**23rd JULY WILL BE A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY FOR NURSERY CHILDREN BUT THE NURSERY WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY 24th JULY 2018**

### **Cake and Cracker Sale**

This will take place in the Infant Hall on Tuesday 12th December from 3.10 pm onwards

Feel free to pop in and buy something

### **School Library**

The Library will be open for parents and children to visit on Wednesdays beginning on 22nd November from 3.15 to 4.00pm. You are more than welcome to come along with your child(ren) and share all the wonderful books we have with your children.

### **Term Dates**

Tuesday 12th December—Cake & Cracker Sale in Infant Hall from 3.10 pm onwards

Tuesday 12th December—Carol Service at St. Mary & St. Eanswythe Church at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 13th December—Nursery Nativity in Infant Hall at 10.45 am and again at 2.00 pm

Thursday 14th December—Drama Club Nativity Performance in the Junior Hall at 7.00 pm

Monday 18th December—Year R Nativity in Junior Hall at 9.15 am

Tuesday 19th December—Year 1 Nativity in Junior Hall at 9.15 am

Tuesday 19th December—Children's Xmas Dinner

Tuesday 19th December—End of Term 2

Wednesday 20th December—Nursery open to Nursery children

Wednesday 20th December—Staff Development Day (school closed to children in Year R to Year 6)

Thursday 4th January 2018—Term begins for children in Year R to Year 6

Thursday 4th January 2018—Nursery closed to Nursery children

Friday 5th January 2018—Nursery open as normal

