



Folkestone St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy

Monday, 17 June
2019

Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

The summer term is here and we start our journey into the new academic year. I can't believe that another year has nearly passed and just this week I was welcoming our new parents for next year's Reception class. Each year flies past here as we are such a busy and involved school with a tremendous amount of enrichment and creative opportunities which help our pupils flourish. It's lovely to reflect back on the year across our Facebook page which captures our work so very well.

I hope you have all enjoyed the two week break. I've had a few letters from parents thanking us for this decision and the opportunity it brought them as a family. You'll be pleased to know that the staff have returned very well rested and buzzing for the summer term. I would welcome any further feedback on this approach to the holiday. It is designed to give you an opportunity to take a holiday when the rates are a little cheaper and it gives us a little more time to teach before the Key Stage tests. I know it doesn't please everyone but that is a skill we are still striving to achieve. We will be repeating the holiday arrangements for next year so please check the website, newsletters and facebook for these dates.

This term brings us Pentecost which is the celebration of the Holy Spirit coming to us on Earth. During Worship on Monday we shared the story of Pentecost and have been helping the children begin to understand that we always have God with us and we can always talk to Him if we need to. We also talked about being inspired by the Holy Spirit to do good things. Many of our classes are involved in community projects and our Year 6 pupils were awarded a cheque from the Rotary Club for £300.00 towards their project with the elderly people's home. They have been inspired to decrease the loneliness the elderly can feel by improving their gardens and meeting with them. We are all very proud of them and their compassion for others.

We have a busy term ahead with sports days, beach trips, school trips, Forest School and our transition week. I know the class teachers are really excited to meet their new classes and with the success of last year's transition week, we have some great things planned so that the teachers can get to know children and get a head start on the new year. One of the activities we will be asking the pupils to do is to name their new class. They will be naming them after an inspirational person who has influenced the world we live in and modelled the values we have in the school. If you have any ideas, then we would love to hear them.

| Current class | New Class Teacher |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Adventurers | Mrs. Best |
| Explorers | Miss Johncock |
| Investigators | Mrs. Gardener |
| Discoverers | Mr. Cobb |
| India | Mr. McCaig |
| England | Miss Carter |
| Burkina Faso | Miss Hogg |
| France | Mrs. Arnold |
| Sri Lanka | Mr. O'Brien |
| Kenya | Miss Hutchings |
| Brazil | Mrs. Bowdery |
| Peru | Miss Longley |

I hope to see all of you at our summer fayre. On behalf of all of our community, we say a huge thank you to our PTA for organising it. I know they have been working very hard to ensure a successful fayre and I can't wait for it.

Finally, I am certain the weather will be in our favour for next week. Due to the rain this week, we have had a little trouble ensuring all year groups have had a run through but I am sure it will be a fun packed and exciting event for all year groups. Please do send your child in with sun cream on, a water bottle and a cap if they have one.

Thank you all for your continued support this year.

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH

Ethic of Excellence

Your child may have mentioned the new 'Ethic of Excellence' to you. We have had some super proud pupils who have had their name moved to the Ethic of Excellence on the Recognition Board and have received a sticker on their own personalized chart as a result. The Ethic of Excellence recognizes outstanding achievement in a piece of work, progress in a particular subject or topic, exemplary behaviour or an exceptional demonstration of our values. Once the pupils have achieved 6 stickers, they will receive their bronze certificate and a small reward, as well as being celebrated in assembly.

School Uniform

BOYS Navy v-neck jumper, grey trousers/shorts, white shirt, Academy tie, navy/grey/black socks, black shoes

GIRLS Navy v-neck cardigan or navy V-neck jumper, grey pinafore, grey skirt, grey trousers, blue check dress (no stripes), white blouse, Academy tie, navy tights or white socks, black shoes

Appropriate school shoes, no high heels or trainers.

School ties may only be purchased from the Academy Office via Parent Pay.

Water bottles may also be purchased from the Academy Office via Parent Pay.

Children should be in possession of a white t-shirt, navy shorts and a pair of plimsolls for Physical Education lessons and it would be appreciated if parents of young children could provide the type of plimsoll which has an elastic tongue as a substitute for laces. A simple bag, with name on the outside should be provided so that the PE kit can be left on your child's cloakroom peg or in locker. Drawstring bags can be purchased from the Academy Office and paid for via Parent Pay. Navy jogging/tracksuit trousers and trainers can be used for P.E. on the school field. All clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name and it is worthwhile checking from time to time to see that the marking is still visible.

Reception Classes

Our Reception classes have launched their Beach School this term. This is where the children take their learning to the local beach. This term, they launched their new Pirate topic with a visit to Sunny Sands where they discovered a message in a bottle from a real pirate! We are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful place to visit within walking distance to the school. During term 6, the children will visit the beach weekly in small groups, where they will enjoy their Teacher directed sessions. Please could we ask that all children have a named water bottle in school and if it is a particularly sunny day, could you apply sun cream to your child's face, arms and legs before they arrive at school.



Behaviour Update

We have been working hard to promote positive behaviour across the school, recognising and celebrating examples when we see it. There has been a focus on ensuring our routines are embedded across the school and our expectations are high. We are pleased to share that there has been a huge improvement in the way that pupils are leading in from the playground and walking around the school. Pupils are also sharing the school charter at the start of each day to remind themselves of the expectations that they decided on together with school council at the start of the year.

Recognition Board

Our Recognition Board has now been in place for a full term. In KS1, this is linked to the characteristics of effective learning and in KS2, it is linked to our school motto of 'Believe, Enjoy, Strive and Succeed' and our Christian Values of 'Friendship, Service, Compassion, Forgiveness and Thankfulness'. Pupils are recognised for showing these characteristics, both in the classroom and around the school and are moved to this characteristic/value as a model to others. The pupils enjoy moving their names on the Recognition Board and the pupils are really proud of each other, which is lovely to see. They also earn a house point when they move their name and we are looking forward to seeing the winning house at the end of the year. STRIVE won the total last year, so let's see if one of the other houses can knock them off the top spot this year!

Lunch Hall and Family Dining Experience

Our lunch hall continues to be a success following the change in ethos to a more family orientated dining experience and having listened to pupil voice last term, we have increased the time, both in the hall for eating and also on the playground so that the pupils have enough time to eat and are also ready for learning after lunch. New equipment is also on order this term for the playground and we have our play leaders in place to help run games on the playground and zone managers helping with the equipment. It is great to see the pupils taking responsibility for their playground and helping their peers to have a happy, successful lunch time. The peer mentors are still working hard and are looking forward to the arrival of the buddy bench. They will also be meeting with one of our colleagues from Head Start, who initially trained them to see how we can improve their role on the playground ready for September.

TERM DATES FOR 2019/2020

TERM 1

Monday 2nd September 2019
Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Friday 18th October 2019

Staff Training Day
Start of Term 1
End of Term 1

TERM 2

Monday 28th October 2019
Thursday 19th December 2019

Start of Term 2
End of Term 2

TERM 3

Monday 6th January 2020
Thursday 13th February 2020
Friday 14th February 2020

Start of Term 3
End of Term 3
Staff Training Day

TERM 4

Monday 24th February 2020
Friday 3rd April 2020

Start of Term 4
End of Term 4

TERM 5

Tuesday 14th April 2020
Friday 8th May 2020
Friday 22nd May 2020

Start of Term 5
Bank Holiday
End of Term 5

TERM 6

Monday 8th June 2020
Friday 17th July 2020
Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and
Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Start of Term 6
End of Term 6
Staff Training Days



Ahoy There St Mary's!

**YE BE INVITED ON A SWASHBUCKLING PIRATE ADVENTURE... WE
WILL SAIL THE SEVEN SEAS IN SEARCH FOR TREASURE!**

*On Friday 5th July, we will be hosting our next maths day. It will not
be an ordinary day, but a Pirate maths day!*

*All children and staff are invited to join the Captain's Conundrum in
pirate fancy dress. The day will be jam packed with exciting maths prob-
lem solving and adventures. Parents are invited to sail the Seven Seas
of our classrooms after school from 3:15-3:45 to see our exciting maths
journey.*

See you all soon, Captain Morgan!



Friends of St. Mary's (PTA)

Who are we?

Friends of St Mary's is the name of the Parent Teachers' Association for St. Mary's. We are a small group of parents who want to help raise funds to support our children. All parents, grandparents & community members are welcome to join. We always need more help, even just a few hours at an event will be very much appreciated! The more members we have, the more fun stuff we can organise.

What do we do?

Our aim is to raise money for the school for specific purposes in order to support our children. All money raised goes to the school & nursery. Our current target is to raise funds for the KS2 quiet area, providing shelter and seating. We have also given funds to the nursery for some plants and equipment and some to KS1 for play equipment.

How do we do it?

We organise fund raising events throughout the year. Events include the summer fayre, Year 6 leavers' disco, Christmas Fayre and Easter egg hunt. We would like to organise more social events such as quiz nights but need more support to be able to do

When do we meet?

We meet regularly in the morning at 9.00 am in the FLO Mobile. The day of the meeting is varied to allow for all members to attend a meeting. We will start to advertise the meetings on the school facebook page, so feel free to drop in for a cup of tea and to share your ideas.

Are you able to help?

Can you get Match funding £££ ?? If you work for a bank or a large organisation, they may offer Match Funding. This is where the company that you work for matches the funding that you raise for your school at events such as the Summer and Christmas fayres. For example, if you were to help on a Summer fete stall, then you may be able to claim for your time and the funds that you raise. So, a stall/event that raises £500.00 could mean £1,000.00 for the school! Perhaps you could ask if your employers operate this scheme? If they do and you are willing to help out, please let us know.



Summer Fayre 28th June at 3.15pm

Our next event is the summer fayre and we are busy organising the stalls and the raffle.

We are approaching local businesses for raffle prizes. If you work for a company who would be happy to donate a prize, we would be very grateful, please contact us via our email pta@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk or leave a message at the school office.

We have Dazzla's Bouncy Castles, the Folkestone Fire Brigade and Ice Cream van confirmed for the Fayre. There will also be lots

Thank You!

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported the Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle.

We raised a fabulous £384.44!

A separate donation of £41.00 was made to The Pilgrims Hospice for kindly lending us their hook-a-duck.

Contact us:

We can be emailed at pta@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk or you can leave a message at the school office or pop along to one of our meetings.

Friends of St Mary's Committee members: are Jo (Leon Y4 & Jake Y1), Marie (Eva & Joseph Y2), Liz (Max Y1), Jackie (Caleb YR), Avil (Arran YR), Emma, Cheryl, Carol, Ruth, Julia (Grandparent)