



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**



### **Principal Comments**

Namaste!

We are officially an international school with friends across the globe. Our recent trip to India has been fruitful and has brought us an opportunity to focus on environmental issues on a global scale. Our children here at St. Mary's will soon be tackling the issue of waste and recycling collaboratively with our colleagues in India. The visit also enabled us to secure some wonderful resources and curriculum ideas to raise our standards even further in Religious Education, Maths, Arts and Sciences.

It was truly amazing to see the depth of knowledge the children had and the impact that a high focus on learning tables has had. I was amazed that by the end of Year 3 the very large majority of pupils could recite their times tables to 12 x 12. This has inspired me to review our pedagogy here and raise the bar even further as to what we can all achieve with our pupils and children if we perhaps focussed a little harder on making the most of small opportunities to recite tables. One child I met had read 300 books in one year and could recite his 72 times tables with ease! With limited resources and humble classrooms filled with chalk face writing, the level of gratitude and thankfulness for what they have was inspiring. Perhaps we could all take more time to be thankful for the wealth of resources and educational facilities that we have around us.

I'd like to thank you for your understanding and appreciation of our trip to India and am sure that you are all very proud of the work we are doing. As a result of this work, our pupils will be global citizens and hopefully aspire to great things in the future. May I thank Mrs. Cotton and the Governing Body for having the vision to secure this for our children.

#### **Library:**

You may have seen some movement around the current meeting room at St. Mary's? Miss Longley and Mrs. McHugh have had a moment of inspiration and are launching a new library in the school. We are currently in the process of moving the library from upstairs to the room down by the entrance to Breakfast Club. This will be accessible to all parents and pupils and offer an opportunity for parents and children to read after school, loan books and provide some reading time for mums and toddlers during the day. If you are able to volunteer in any way to help run our library during the day, please contact Mrs. Errington. We will open this room in the new term!

#### **Uniform:**

Please ensure that all children come to school in the appropriate uniform. I have noticed pupils attending without jumpers and wearing trainers. Please make sure that your child wears their uniform smartly—shirts tucked in, top buttons secured, black shoes and a tie. Jo Jo bows are very nice but also very big. Please ensure that an appropriately sized hair bow is used or simply use a clip. Any bows that are worn that are not fitting this profile will be asked to be removed and taken home at the end of the day.

#### **Parent Pay:**

Thank you all for using our parent pay. We are now at 87% of the school community using this method to make payments. It is quick, efficient and has made huge savings on time which we can lend to other areas of the school. Please do sign up if you haven't yet.

#### **Nursery:**

You may well have heard the very sad news that Mrs. Nunn will be leaving the school at the end of this term. She has been a true asset to us for 27 years! This is such an achievement and a huge accolade to her dedication and passion for the school. I know she has found this decision really difficult but in her own words, she has reached a certain milestone in life and needs some inspiration to try different things. Mrs. Nunn has certainly brought the nursery to an outstanding level of performance and has watched so many of our children grow from toddlers through to being parents themselves in the school. I cannot stress enough how much she will be missed and assure you all that I have tried everything I can to bribe her to stay. Those of you who know Mrs. Nunn will understand just how driven she is once she has made her mind up. Miss Lawson will be arranging a suitable send off for her before the term is out, so if you would like to contribute in anyway, please make contact with her or myself.

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**A sad departure:**

On Saturday, the community of St. Peter's, St. Mary's and St. Eanswythe's celebrated the life of one of the most humble and unassuming people I have ever met. Father David Adlington passed away recently and leaves a wave of sadness behind him. For him, I know he has reached his sanctuary and is being rewarded for his service to God and his community. For us, we are in shock and perhaps lost for words. In school we have run a special assembly and now have a special candle in the hall that we light every day in his memory. His presence will be with us forever. He served our school for over 20 years, both as a governor and our vicar. He led worship, offered advice and guidance to staff and pupils and brought a sense of enlightened confidence to our most challenging of decisions as a governing body. He will be missed deeply.

As a school, our worship council of children will be dedicating our nearly finished spiritual garden to all of those who have given their service to our school and passed to a new life in heaven. We will open this in the new term and hope that you are able to join us in using the space for reflection and prayer.

**Worship:**

This term we are focussing on our core values of Forgiveness, Friendship and Service. The parable of the Two Sons and the Call of the Disciples, along with other bible stories will help us understand that forgiveness can help us move on to a brighter future rather than harbouring a grudge. We will also learn that everyone has the potential to be a friend and the many ways in which we can show friendship.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Trevor North, NPQH

**Term Dates**

End of Term 3: 9th February

Start of Term 4: Monday 19th February

End of Term 4: Tuesday 27th March

Training Days: Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th March

Start of Term 5: Monday 16th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May

End of Term 5: Friday 25th May

Start of Term 6: Monday 4th June

End of Term 6: Tuesday 24th July