



St Mary's CEP Primary Academy

Newsletter

Thursday, 06
February 2020

Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

What a great start to the New Year! We are 5 weeks in and have had a jam packed term. The team here have a constant challenge to think of new engaging topics for children to cover the National Curriculum with. This term has been another cracker. We started with Year R having their classroom trashed by an evil pea. The children have been finding ways to be super heroes and understanding what makes a good citizen. Year 1 have been master chefs and cooked some wonderful gingerbread men. They have used this idea to build their own stories and had the opportunity to write them and to act them out. Children in KS2 have been immersed in creative learning too. We've had the annual School's Bird Watch, held skype conversations with a school in India and have built mini Stonehenge models too. There has been a lot of outside learning with fractions bowling, word hunt and now even some orienteering. It's a real privilege to lead a school with such a stimulating curriculum which gives children a lovely diet of meaningful learning which we are very proud to deliver.

On top of this, our Forest School continues to enthuse the children and we've now started our own certificate scheme to show the children's progress with their Forest School skills. They will be able to earn certification using tools such as axes and knives, drills and hammers, rope work, team leadership and a range of other skills. We look forward to seeing them develop and maybe one day we will have our own badges!

Next week, there will be an opportunity to come in and see some of the children's community projects. Over the school year, all year groups will lead a project that supports the local community. These have proven really successful in helping our children connect with the community and develop a greater respect towards them in the long term. Some of these are ambitious projects and others smaller and more focussed. It will be lovely for the children if you could come in next week and view their work.

We will also be holding an E-safety meeting. I urge you to attend this as there has been a significant increase in the misuse of social media by young people. We will have an ex police officer talking to parents and giving guidance on how to keep your child safe online and with their use of social media. If your child has a mobile phone or you are likely to be getting them one, this really shouldn't be missed.

Finally, I had the privilege of attending and being part of the installation service for the new priest at St. Eanswythe's Church. It was an inspirational event which was attended by a wide range of influential figureheads, including the new Bishop of Dover. Reverend Dr. John Walker will now be the new priest. He will support us with leading our Worship, alongside Father Mark. It was also a huge honour to see two of our pupils singing in the FESIC choir and representing St. Mary's Academy. Talikha and Devika sang wonderfully and were so confident. A huge well done to them both! What a fantastic opportunity for them both.

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH
Principal

Attendance

Thank you for making sure that your child attends school regularly. This time of year, it is difficult to avoid a cold but please be assured that if we felt your child was not well enough to be in school, we would send them home.

The children are delighted when their class is awarded a Non-Uniform Day for achieving 98+ attendance. On one day last term, we had a record breaking 10 classes in non-uniform, an amazing achievement. Let's see if the whole school can have a non-uniform day for attendance.

Our top classes for attendance this academic year are:

Burkina Faso 96.7%

Italy Class 96.2%

Arriving at School

Please can we ask that children do not arrive in school before 8.30am as the playground is not supervised.

Playground supervision starts daily at 8.30am.



Tuesday 11th February is World Safer Internet day.
The children will be taking part in different activities during the day that will teach them how to stay safe on the internet.
We would like to invite you into your child's classroom at 2.45pm on 11th February to see the work that the children have been learning.

Internet Safety Meeting for Parents

Wednesday 12th February

3:30 pm

Infant Hall

This meeting will offer tips and advice to parents, carers and guardians on how to keep children safe whilst using the internet.

The meeting will be led by our local Community Warden and PCSO.

Please come along if you can.



Road Safety

Please can we remind you that parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside the school gates is not permitted at any time. The lines are there to ensure that the entrance to the school and Philippa House is kept clear at all times to allow for emergency access if required. It has also been reported that cars are once again parking in Neason Way hindering access to the Martello Learning Centre.

Please also remember that when bringing children to Breakfast Club, the speed limit on entering Warren Road is 5mph.

**PLEASE
DRIVE SLOWLY
AT ALL TIMES**



Parent Reading Session

To fit in with National Storytelling Week, we have set this term's reading session as Friday 7th February for Years 1 to 6. Please arrive at school for 2.40pm to enjoy a reading session with your child in their classroom.

The children will be continuing to read with their buddies every Friday throughout the term; this was very popular last term with children thoroughly enjoying visiting another class in the school to divulge in their books.

Happy reading!

School Library

The school library is open on Tuesday afternoons between 3.10 and 3.40 pm.

Parents and children are welcome to come along and choose books to read at home.

We have a wide choice of books from Nursery age to Year 6.



Worship

This term in Worship, we have been learning about the life of Jesus, starting with Epiphany when we remember the Wise Men who brought gifts to Jesus as a young child. This helped us to think about what gifts we can give people – maybe kindness, friendship or our prayers. We also listened to the story of John the Baptist who brought the Good News that Jesus was coming. We shared our own good news stories with each other in our Class Worship. Next we read in the Bible that Jesus is the Light of the World. He came to bring light into any dark situations we may face. For the last two weeks of this term, we are listening to some of the amazing stories in the Bible of Jesus healing people who are sick and showing compassion to everyone he met.

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing light to the world and thank you for coming to the world. I can bring light to the world by showing friendship.

Amen

Alesha (Year 4)

KS2 Lost Property

All unnamed Key Stage 2 lost property can now be found in the grey boxes situated by the main office. All named uniform is returned to its owner. You are very welcome to take a look in these boxes for any lost property but please can we ask that the boxes are left tidy.

International Work

Since our last update, we've held further exciting Skype meetings with partner schools from India, Jordan, Moldova, Lebanon, Israel & Russia.

During International week, our Global Councillors held a Skype meeting about 'Weather Watch' with their hats and coats on to show how cold it was here, compared with our partners in Jordan where it was 19c. We had over 30 countries participating with us on this project.

Year 1 and the Nursery did some wonderful work on Weather Watch and were also conscious of our Zero Waste project when they made rain gauges out of old plastic bottles; the Nursery children had weather symbols on pieces of wood from our Forest School.

We have now collected over 30 kilos of empty crisp wrappers for the Air Ambulance recycling scheme and in our recent Skype with DAV BRS School in Ludhiana India, they showed us some of the amazing art work they had created as part of their Zero Waste work. Pupils at DAV BRS may no longer bring in plastic bottles to school and sandwiches have to be wrapped in a cloth rather than cling film or tinfoil.

The whole of KS1 did an amazing Christmas Nativity at the Leas Cliff Hall showcasing 'Children of the World', which some of them later sang in a Skype meeting across the World. Year 1 also participated in the World Christmas card project and sent and received cards from over 25 countries. The last 2 large packages, full of beautiful cards from India only arrived here in January.

Year 2 has been learning about Indian Festivals since November and they have made some very tasty sweetmeats, which they told their Indian school about. The children there also had some to show us, but said we would have to go to India to try them as they couldn't send them over the Internet!

This term our Global Councillors have been learning about the Chinese New Year and have very successfully done some Chinese writing, which they will be telling their partner school in Taiwan about.

Year 4 has been consolidating the work they did in Terms 1 and 2 on Fair Trade and the SDG's.

Years 5 and 6 have taken part in the RSPB's Big School Bird Watch, along with some of our partner schools.

All of our International work is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of this work in Term 4, many of our classes will be participating in Community projects.



Nursery Early Start and Breakfast Sessions

With effect from 24th February 2020 (Term 4), all early start and breakfast sessions must be pre-booked for the whole term. It will no longer be possible for you to chop and change between 8.00 and 8.30 am starts. This is because it is very difficult for us to plan for staffing ratios and catering requirements if we are not prepared for your child. Please decide which session you require for Term 4 and let the nursery staff know by the end of this week. From Term 4, you will be charged for the sessions you book regardless of whether your child attends or not.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you but trust you will understand the reasons requiring this change.

Please note that all sessions should be prepaid at least one week in advance of the service being taken.

Swimming, Breakfast Club, After School Club and School Lunches

Can I ask that if your child attends Breakfast Club or the After School Club, the sessions are paid for in advance. This also applies to swimming. All payments must be made on parent pay. If you have any queries with regard to parent pay, please call in at the school office and ask for Mrs. Smith, who will be happy to help.

All school lunches, supplied by Caterlink must be paid for in advance on a Monday morning. Envelopes are available from the school office.