



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**

**Principal Comments**

With all of the media coverage of the current SAT tests, it seemed the perfect opportunity to congratulate our pupils. Our Y6 pupils and staff have worked tirelessly over this year to prepare for the tests they sit before secondary school. Of course, this has been a challenge because the standard and expectation of what is to be achieved has rocketed. However, we have embraced that challenge and the team in Y6 have gone well beyond what would normally be expected to achieve the best with our pupils. After school sessions and holiday clubs just being a small example of the staff's commitment. It was pleasing to see the majority of them turn up today clutching their revision guides in one hand and munching a bacon sandwich or croissant in the other!

What has also struck me is the pupils' resilience to this challenge. There have been many news reports on the ludicrous challenge of these tests and some papers claiming the tests are fit for 15 year olds. However, never have I seen a cohort of pupils so ready for their tests and confident that they have done their best to prepare. Whatever the outcome and however hard the tests have been, our pupils have shown great tenacity and have entered the exam hall with the serenity of a sownder of swans. Well done!

Our Y2 pupils are also working really hard on their topics and will soon be sitting their own tests. We pride ourselves here on making this fun and accessible to all pupils. Again, the teachers have shown absolute dedication to achieving the best outcomes. I'd like to thank all of the parents too for allowing the staff get on with the teaching and trusting us to deliver the assessments in a stress free and fun way.

Soon they will all be over and we can continue striving for excellence in our curriculum which goes well beyond the tests.

We have parents' evening next week and I look forward to speaking with you and hearing any views you have on this or other areas of the school. Please do come and say hello!

**Sports Days**

Monday 27th June for Reception at 2.00 pm

Tuesday 28th June for Years 5 and 6 at 1.45 pm

Wednesday 29th June for Nursery at 11.00 am and 2.15 pm

Thursday 30th June for Years 3 and 4 at 1.45 pm

Friday 1st July for Years 1 and 2 at 1.45 pm

**School Library**

The school library is open for all St. Mary's children to visit with their parents after school on Wednesdays from 3.15 to 4.00 pm. The school has a borrowing system in place and children may borrow up to two books for two weeks at a time. Mrs. McHugh will be in the library at that time to help and operate the loan system.

**Scooters/Bikes in School Playground**

If your child brings a bike/scooter to the school, can you please ensure they do not ride them until they are outside the school gate. Recently, a child was riding very fast on his scooter and crashed into a little girl sending her flying. Thankfully the little girl was fine but this could have been a nasty accident. Thank you.

**After School Supervision of Children**

I have noticed that there are an increasing number of young children playing freely after school and seemingly unsupervised. This means that their natural curiosity will lead them to explore and climb. When collecting your children from school, please ensure that you have full supervision for them and keep them close by you. This will prevent any accidents occurring from them climbing on handrails, the grass bank or even getting lost. Please also be mindful that after school activities and paid services such as Funky Monkeys run after school and they must have full access to the site's resources. This means that the playground is not to be used after the school day has finished.

Thank you for your support in keeping us all safer.

**Hythe Around the Houses**

As you are aware, this event will take place on Sunday 15th May. All those who have entered their child for a race will have received a letter from Mrs. O'Connor. You are able to enter on the day. See Mrs. O'Connor on Hythe Green and she will help you to do so.



### The Intergalactic Space Adventure of St. Mary's Primary Academy!

You may remember the wonderful exhibition the children of the academy put on back at the beginning of April, when we created our whole-school story based on Space! Well, we have some wonderful news... our year group stories have been collated and made into a book!

The book begins with artwork from Nursery children, moving onto Chapter One (written by Reception) all the way through to Chapter Eight (Year 6). Throughout World Book Fortnight, the children put a huge amount of effort into creating an exciting chapter based in Space, followed by re-drafting and critiquing their writing, ensuring it was ready for publishing. Each child then had a part in writing the chapter up beautifully; you can certainly see what stunning handwriting we have throughout the school!

We are incredibly proud of each child in the school for putting so much effort into their writing and creating such an exciting outcome.

If you would like to purchase the book, it is currently only available at Lulu.com (the publishing site) accessible through this link:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/st-marys-intergalactic-space-adventure/18730704>

We hope you enjoy reading our whole school book and the efforts the children have put in!

