



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**



### **Principal Comments**

With the summer break over, I am sure there is a little sigh of relief from all of our parents (myself included) as the daily challenge of having enthusiastic and excitable children for six weeks comes to an end. As privileged as I am to have this time with my children, I can say with my hand on my heart that being a Principal is easier!

Being back here with the school thriving again is truly inspiring. The school feels alive with bright classrooms, new playgrounds, smiling children and strong routines being put in place. The start has been just perfect with very few tears (if any) and all children know exactly what is expected of them. This is down to the well organised transitions we had at the end of last term. Thanks again to all the staff involved in making that a success.

My little girl started school for the first time last week. I'd like to say it was easy but it seems that my hay fever was really playing up that day, giving me very watery eyes. It was lovely to see her walk in, smart and happy. I hope to see all of our new children doing the same this week. I cannot wait to welcome them all and our new parents too. There will be tissues on hand! Please do say hello and give our new community members a warm welcome.

Please also do check our facebook, web page and notice boards for any news or updates, things can change and sometimes at the last minute.

I look forward to catching up with you all again over the coming weeks. Until then, thank you for your support.

Mr. T.M. North, Principal, NPQH

### **Worship**

Our Christian values for this term are Thankfulness and Service. This week we are giving thanks to God for all He has given us and are revisiting the story of creation. In our worship and class discussions, we are giving thought to the beautiful creation that is our world and the intricate parts that make it. Using the line "it was done and it was good" inspires us in school to always strive for the best in what we do like God did for us in his creation. We will be expecting this excellence from all of our children and staff as we build on our own creations in school.

We will be celebrating Thankfulness at our Harvest Festival Services on Wednesday 10th October. Key Stage 1 and Early Years will be held here at St. Mary's in the morning. Key Stage 2 will be held at St. Saviours' Church in the afternoon. The service at St. Saviours' Church will begin at 2.15 pm and the KS1 service will begin at 9.15 am. Further details will follow. We look forward to having you join us.

### **Collection**

Please do take care to supervise your children after school. Once the children are dismissed, we ask that you leave the school site promptly so that the after school clubs can get started and the site team can get on with jobs that cannot be carried out during the school day. Please do not be offended if we ask you to move along.

Thank you to all parents that have engaged with the new collection points. As a little reminder:-

- Year 1 will be collected from the main front entrance side by the two green gates.
- Year 2 will be collected from the infant playground.
- Years 3 and 4 will be collected from the junior playground.
- Year 5 will be collected from the front of the school by the main entrance.
- Year 6 will leave through the infant playground.

### **Forest School**

Following an exciting and rewarding year last year in Forest School, we are looking forward to a year full of fun, challenge and even more exciting activities. Our aim is that all children will take part in Forest School activities throughout the year. This term it is the turn of Years 5 and 6. Year 6 will have their sessions on a Tuesday morning and Year 5 will have their session on a Wednesday morning. During these sessions, we will carry out a range of different activities to develop team work and collaboration skills, resilience and perseverance, environmental awareness and fine motor control through the use of the different woodland tools. All these skills will help them in their classroom learning. In addition, we will be running extra sessions for some children who may benefit from more work on a specific learning skill. If your child has been chosen to take part in one of these sessions, you will already have received a letter. To help your child make the most of their time in Forest School, we ask that you send them in with the correct clothing as described on the letter. We do have a small stock of outdoor clothing we can let the children borrow but we do not have enough for all children. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### Term Dates

The term dates for 2018/2019 are:-

- Term 1:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Staff Development Day (**children not in**)
- Term 2:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Staff Development Day (**children not in**)
- Term 3:** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Staff Development Days (**children not in**)
- Term 4:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- Term 5:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Bank Holiday: 6<sup>th</sup> May
- Term 6:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Staff Development Days (**children not in**)

The governors and the school leadership recognise that this may cause disruption to pre-booked holidays and therefore will authorise holidays which have been booked in advance should they clash with term dates. If this affects you in this way, then please bring your booking confirmation to the school office with your holiday request form. If this decision impacts your arrangements in other ways, then please make an appointment to see Mr. North at your earliest convenience so that we can work together to resolve them. Thank you in advance for your support.

### Attendance

Last year was our best attendance for several years. We achieved 96%. This is above the national average and shows what team work and a little grit and determination can do. Please do continue to support the school in this as it makes a huge difference. We have improved hugely and I know we can push it a little more. Let's try for 97%+ this year and have the best attendance in Folkestone! Your children deserve it.

### Uniform

All staff will be making sure that all pupils are wearing the correct uniform over the next few weeks.

**BOYS:** Navy v-neck jumper, grey trousers/shorts, white shirt, Academy tie, navy/grey/black socks, black shoes (no trainers).

**GIRLS:** navy cardigan/v-neck jumper, grey pinafore/skirt/trousers, white blouse, Academy tie, navy tights/white socks, black shoes (no high heels or trainers), blue check (no stripes) dress.

Reception children wear white polo shirt and no tie during their first year.

School ties may be purchased from the school, payment to be made via parent pay.

Water bottles may be purchased from the school, payment to be made via parent pay.

Children should be in possession of t-shirt, shorts and a pair of plimsolls for the PE lessons and it would be appreciated if the parents of young children could provide the type of plimsoll which has an elastic tongue, or alternatively substitute elastic for laces in the traditional plimsoll. A simple bag (with name on the outside) should be provided so that the plimsolls may be left on your child's cloakroom peg. Drawstring bags are available from the school, payment to be made via parent pay. Navy jogging/tracksuit trousers, trainers can be used for 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 discernible.

Please ensure your child is wearing the right uniform as is displayed in the school office and on our website.

If there are extenuating circumstances regarding the correct uniform, please contact Mrs. Milton or Mrs. Harrison in our FLO office for guidance. They are based in the blue mobile on the infant playground.

### School Council

At the end of last term, each class voted for their new school councillors. This was done in a democratic way with a secret ballot in each class. The new school councilors have a big responsibility in being the voice of their class mates within the school. They are expected to be role models of excellent behaviour and conduct around the school, wearing the correct uniform at all times, including the prized gold tie.

In the last year, the school councillors were consulted on the new playground and playground charter in KS2 and they ran a road safety competition. They devised a pupil survey which was fed back to the senior leadership team and gave the leadership team an idea of what the children felt about their school. They tasted sausages to choose which they wanted for school dinners. They were also given the opportunity to visit the Mayor's office to see how a democratic body works in practice. Who knows what ideas this school council will come up with or be consulted on. It is a new experience for them and one which I am sure they will take on with a sense of responsibility and pride.

This year, we are making some changes to the timings of school council. As it is important for the children to miss as little of their learning time as possible, we will be having breakfast meetings instead. The children will be asked to arrive at 8.00 am, along with the normal breakfast club and we will have breakfast together, whilst having our meetings.

We look forward to working with a new set of school councillors and seeing them grow in confidence as the year goes on.

### Salvation Army Garage Sale

The Salvation Army are running a garage sale in the East Cliff area in aid of Help the Homeless in Folkestone.

Do you have any unwanted toys, clothes or bric a brac that you could donate towards this sale to ensure the event is as much of a success as possible for this vulnerable group. The details are as follows:

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September, East Cliff Garage Safari—9.30 am to 1.00 pm. The Facebook link to this event is:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/20058850862943/?ti=icl>



## **Behaviour Update**

### **Celebrating success**

Wow! 70,000 dojos were awarded last year in total – meaning that **70 thousand** positive behaviours and actions were recognised across the school! We are really proud of our pupils - what an achievement! The target this year is 100,000. Can we make it?

We have listened to feedback from our parents and will be including the dojo totals, as well as spelling scores (where appropriate) in the learning logs so that you can celebrate with your children too.

Next week, we will share the winning house of 2017-2018, which totals all dojos from the year, as well as from the sports days. Watch this space.

### **Focus of the week**

Each week, we will be having a different focus so that we can ensure our pupils have the best attitudes, both towards their learning and the way they conduct themselves around the school. This week, we are working on establishing routines and transitions around school so that the children take pride in their school and are good role models. The children have line orders and are practising walking around the school in a calm manner, between lessons, at lunchtime and leading sensibly into our worship. We have been really impressed so far and the children are showing that they are ready to learn. Well done everyone.

### **Welcome Head Girl and Head Boy**

We would like to welcome our new Head Boy and Head Girl into their new roles, alongside the prefects who will be supporting them. Their responsibilities will include leading on pupil voice and supporting school council, taking a lead on the playground, showing visitors around the school and being role models to the rest of the school. We also have peer mentors starting their roles this week. These pupils have undergone training and will be making sure pupils are happy on the playground and using their training to help others – whether this be how to join in different games or as a listening ear. They will also be involved in school council to make sure pupil voice is heard. We can't wait to see them in action and supporting their peers.

## **School Photographs**

Kittles will be in school on Thursday 27th September to take photographs of all children. A letter with further details will follow in the next few days.

## **Arriving at School**

**May I remind you that if your child is not attending Breakfast Club, he/she should not arrive at school until 8.30 am. There is no staff supervision until this time. Thank you.**