



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed

Principal Comments

We come to the end of our first term with the brilliant outcomes from our Ofsted inspection, a hugely successful Forest School, exciting topics buzzing in the classrooms and Minion Dave finally had his party!

What a fantastic week to end the term on too. I am so proud of our pupils and the staff for their contributions to the Harvest Worships. The attendance of parents was great too. I think we were at near full capacity across four services which is a real credit to the support we get. It was a real blessing to have you all here to join with us. Can you believe how amazing the Nursery pupils were? Some are just two years of age and they were organised, articulate and presented so well. I can't wait to see how they progress over their school careers. All of our pupils were a credit to their teachers and parents and there were tears of pride in my eyes. It doesn't come easy though and behind the smiling faces of all of our staff is a twinkle of excitement for the half term break. I know you will join me in thanking them for the efforts which go above and beyond.

We have great things to look forward to as well. Year 4 are off to see Charlie and The Chocolate Factory in the new term, we have a visiting Polar explorer, a trip for Year 3 to Dover Museum, an exhibition at The Grand Hotel from Year 5 and the photo project for Year 6. On top of this, we have Christmas and our carol service too!

St. Mary's is striving forwards to many exciting curriculum adventures. We would really welcome your feedback on our topics or ideas you may have for more exciting and purposeful projects in and around the community. Please log on to our Facebook page or make contact through our web page to share your thoughts. Alternatively, pop in and see me.

You will have read in the Ofsted report that our attendance is slightly below the national average. This is disappointing but explainable due to the severe cold virus that we had here last year. Ofsted also recognised that our best efforts were being made to keep attendance high. I will be taking a close look at all pupils' attendance and contacting any families that fall below 95% to see how we can help improve things. Let us start term 2 with the shared goal of having Outstanding attendance. This means arriving before 08:45 everyday and really going the extra mile to send your child in. We can manage a few snivels and sneezes and will send them home if we feel they are too unwell.

Have a restful and enjoyable break with your children. Hear them read, log them on to Mathletics and help them learn their tables. These skills can never be over taught and will help them engage even further with their curriculum. The reading logs will be checked on their return with prizes for the class who read the most!

Thank you again for your continued support and I'll see you in the new term.

T.M. North (NPQH)

Charity Event

There will be a charity event "Christmas Fayre" in aid of Macmillan on Sunday 27th November 2016 from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm at The Stripes Club, Folkestone. There will be tea/coffee, mince pies, sweet cart, face paint, glitter tattoos, plus many more stalls.

Breakfast Club

If you wish your child to attend Breakfast Club, please do not just turn up with your child, there is a form in the school reception which must be completed prior to your child starting at Breakfast Club. Thank you.

St. Mary's PTA

The PTA will be having a meeting on Friday 11th November in the FLO/CLO mobile. This will be from 09:00 to 10:00. We are super keen to have some new recruits to help us support St. Mary's. If you have a bit of spare time and want to help the school, please come along.

Payments to School for trips and dinner money

Please note that if you are sending money to school to pay for trips, dinner money, after school clubs, milk etc., this should be sent in separate envelopes with the correct money inside. We are not allowed to keep cash on the premises and we are therefore unable to assist with the numerous requests at the front office of splitting the money accordingly. Thank you.

Governor Vacancy

Following the recent parent governor election nominations, Mr. Alisdair Jones has been appointed to the Governing Body. Thank you.

Chess Club

As you know, Matthew Cussens runs a chess club at the school each Thursday. He also runs a chess club at the Radnor Park Wellbeing Centre, Folkestone on Saturdays from 10.30 am to 12 noon. If your child wishes to take part, please visit <http://folkestone-chess.wixsite.com/folkestonechessclub> for more information.