



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**

**Principal Comments**

**Ofsted:**

The week beginning Monday 12th September was quite possibly the most important week that St. Mary's and our community has had for some time. Many of you will be aware that we were inspected by Ofsted on the Wednesday and Thursday and I know you will be eagerly awaiting the outcomes. I wrote on our Facebook page that we were excited to have them in. We really were as we have a lot to celebrate here at St. Mary's; particularly our staff, children and parents. I must say that once they were in my excitement took a rapid decline, as did the teachers! I was struck by the overwhelmingly positive comments brought to my attention throughout the inspection, the well wishes from many of our community members and the fantastic team spirit we had throughout. It must be said that your children have the hardest working team of staff I have ever had the pleasure to have led and they were in a league of their own. I would also like to pay particular thanks to our Governing Body. Our governors give up a huge amount of their time to help our school and they were tremendous in their support and on hand to ensure we celebrated all aspects of the school. We were all exhausted by the end of the inspection and ensured we showed all of the wonderful things that St. Mary's offers and the huge impact that we are having.

It is frustrating but the outcomes must remain confidential until the checks and balances have been put in place and the report finalised. You may recall this from my last inspection here (which was in my first week as the Principal!) The Ofsted team will now write the report and send it to me for factual checks. This ensures that there are no inaccuracies in the final published report. I will receive this shortly and then it is sent off to the Department of Education for quality assurance. It becomes a public document within 19 working days of the inspection which I will communicate to you all as soon as possible. I thank you for your patience and understanding.

**Healthy Children...**

Statistically our school has a higher number of pupils leaving school at a healthy weight than the average school. This is down to the focus of parents in ensuring their children eat well and the school supporting parents in having strict rules around lunches. Encouraging children to eat a nutritious, balanced diet early on is important to us at St. Mary's for a number of reasons. Ensuring they get the right vitamins and minerals in their diet will help them grow and develop optimally. They are also more likely to be energised and motivated too; supporting their ability to learn. Educating them on healthy eating during childhood will also help them make healthier choices as they become adults giving them better life chances. Recently I have been noticing an increased number of packed lunches which would not be considered "balanced". We encourage pupils to eat well and this does mean that chocolate based or sugary snacks are to be avoided. Please send your child in to school with a healthy and balanced lunch. Alternatively, our school dinners are equally delicious and provide a nutritious and generous plateful. Please follow the following links for more information or contact Mrs. Errington or Mrs. Milton in school.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Goodfood/Pages/the-eatwell-guide.aspx>

<http://www.nutritionist-resource.org.uk/content/healthy-eating-for-kids.html#whatdoeshealthyeatingmeanforyourchild>

This week we welcomed Mr. Ransley to our team. He will be working in Year 3 as a Learning Support Professional. He is a keen sportsman too so I am sure we will see some new clubs up and running which will give our pupils an even wider choice of sports.

Mr. T. North (NPQH)

**Funky Monkeys After School Club**

Funky Monkeys After School Club is very popular and we do have a waiting list should places become available.

Can I request that you pay your After School Club fees weekly and preferably in advance on the first day of the week that your child attends.

Thank you.

**School Dinners**

The cost of school meals has been reduced to £2.05 per day (£10.25 per five day week). Cheques should be made payable to Caterlink and payment MUST be received in advance of taking the meals. Payment should be sent in on a Monday morning in a named envelope (these are available from the school office).

If meals have not been paid for in advance, Caterlink will not allow a child to have a meal. Thank you.

**Dogs on the Playground**

Can I ask that if you bring your dog onto the school site, you keep the dog close to you on a short lead. We recently had a very frightened child because a dog was on a long lead and allowed to roam. Thank you.

### **Boxfit Event**

We recently had a boxfit event in school for Year 6, see below some pictures of the event.



### **Flu Vaccinations**

Parents in Years, 1, 2 and 3 will have received/will be receiving a letter inviting them to give permission for their child to receive the flu vaccine that is now part of the childhood flu programme. The vaccination is given as a simple spray up the nose which is painless and very quick. Serious side effects are uncommon.

For full details, see Mrs. Errington or Mrs. Milton but in order for your child to have the vaccine in school, you need to complete the online consent form by going to: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms> and select the consent for for childhood flu immunisation. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request a consent form to be sent to you in the post. The flue immunisation will take place on Thursday 10th November in school.

### **Tea and Chat**

We are having a special 'Tea & Chat' on Friday 7th October and we've invited Staff Nurse, Liz Lester, from the School Nursing Team to come along to talk to parents about the services they provide for children and young people and families.

I couldn't get everything on the poster advertising it but just some of the things they deal with include:

School entry health screening

National Child Measurement Programme (height and weight) for YR and Y6

daytime and night time wetting and soiling

behaviour management

healthy eating and lifestyle

emotional health and wellbeing

puberty and growing up

stopping smoking

drug and alcohol misuse

For more information see Carol Errington or Rose Milton

### **Y6 Swattenden Trip**

May I remind you that the next Swattenden payment of £30 is due on Friday 30th September and the final payment is due on Friday 28th October 2016.

### **Secondary Selection**

Your child has recently brought home a booklet called Transfer to Secondary School 2017. This gives the dates of the process for applying for a secondary school for your child. Please read the booklet carefully and visit any of the secondary schools that you are considering for your child. You must apply on line for a secondary school place at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) by Monday 31st October 2016. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the process, please call at the school office.

### **Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. Anyone who is interested should collect a letter with further details and a nomination form from the office and return it to Mr. Bird by the end of school on Monday 17th October. Alternatively, the forms can be sent electronically if you email [office@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys-folkestone.kent.sch.uk). In particular, we are looking for a governor who can offer skills in Science, Technology and Maths. If anyone would like to discuss the role of governor more fully before they submit a nomination, please make an appointment to see Mr. Bird. Thank you.

### **Parents' Evenings**

You will have received slips for parent consultations with your child's teacher. Please complete the slip and return as soon as possible.



### Macmillan Coffee Morning

We had a really successful Macmillan Coffee Morning with parents and people from the community, including a couple of dog walkers who saw the notices. We raised the magnificent sum of £225.58. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

