



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed

Please note the first newsletter of this term is being sent out as a paper copy. Newsletters are usually sent electronically every fortnight. Paper copies can be obtained from the school office. There is a copy in the school notice board. The newsletter can also be found on the school website and on St. Mary's facebook page.

Principal Comments

What a fabulous start to the school year we have had. The children have returned and brought energy and life back to the school building. The classrooms are buzzing with excitement and the smiles on the children's faces each day as they leave school tells me that the teachers are doing a great job. I've already seen chocolate being made, children searching for a stolen genie lamp, minions being searched for and French cuisine sampled. I hope you have all had a fantastic summer holiday and whilst sad not to have the children with you every day; pleased to see them back here in our extended school family.

Our new Year R children have begun their school journeys and are attending half days this week. I am so impressed with the way they have managed this transition. They have walked straight into school with big smiles and full of confidence; some not even turning back. Perhaps less so for the parents but a few tears and tissues are expected at this significant time. My son started his new school this year and I confess to being a little emotional too!

Thank you to all of the parents that supported us in hearing their children read over the holiday and persevered with some of the home learning. It has made a big difference to the way the children have returned. Our expectations are rightly high and my message to my staff is that we have to do everything we can to ensure the very best of our pupils so that they excel and flourish in school. At home you can help by reading with your child, practising times tables and ensuring they take pride in their home learning. May I also thank you for getting your children to school on time; I know the challenge that can be! If your child is not attending breakfast club (which is amazing and full of healthy choices) then they can be on the school site from 08:30 onwards. Our lessons start at 08:45 which is when the real fun starts!

As recently outlined on our Facebook page, school ends in KS1 at 15:10 and in KS2 it is 15:15. Lessons finish at these times and there is an element of packing up time too. I do expect that all pupils are out of their phases within 5 minutes of the end of the day.

We are regularly updating our Facebook page so please do log on and follow us. We use this to communicate to our community what is happening, reminders of key events and celebrations of our pupils' work and achievements. Currently there is an online survey to campaign for a new road crossing along Tram Road. This is a particularly vulnerable crossing and we need your help in encouraging the council to provide a solution to keep our children and pupils safe.

Finally, there is a suggestion box outside the school office, so if you have any thoughts please do share them or alternatively come in and talk them through with me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. T. North (NPQH)

School Photographs

On Friday 16th September, the Herald newspaper will be in school to take photographs of the new Reception classes.

On Tuesday 27th September, the Kent Messenger newspaper will be in school to take photographs of the new Reception classes.

On Thursday 29th September, Kittles Photographic Company will be in school to take photographs of every child individually. Groups of brothers and sisters can be taken (a letter will be sent out individually for you to indicate if you would like brothers and sisters' photos to be taken together).



Charity Fund Raising

Over the last school year, we raised £227.88 for Children in Need, £35.00 for British Red Cross, £324.58 for Pilgrims Hospices, £170.10 for Barnados Big Toddler and £1,261.86 for Burkina Faso.

A big thank you and well done to anyone who has contributed to these fantastic amounts.

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.

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

Term Dates—2016/17

Friday 14th October 2016—Staff Development Day (children not in school)
Friday 21st October—End of Term 1
Monday 31st October—Start of Term 2
Wednesday 21st December—End of Term 2
Tuesday 3rd January 2017—Staff Development Day (children not in school)
Wednesday 4th January—Start of Term 3
Thursday 9th February—End of Term 3
Friday 10th February—Staff Development Day (children not in school)
Monday 20th February—Start of Term 4
Friday 31st March—End of Term 4
Tuesday 18th April—Start of Term 5
Monday 1st May—Bank Holiday
Friday 26th May—End of Term 5
Monday 5th June—Start of Term 6
Friday 14th July—Staff Development Day (children not in school)
Friday 21st July—End of Term 6

Entrance to the Highfield Industrial Estate

Neason Way

I have been asked by the Police to request that you do not park in the entrance to the Highfield Industrial Estate. There is a school at the top of the Estate and therefore the access must be kept clear at all times. Thank you.

Entrance to the Junior Playground

Can I ask parents not to go through the green gates onto the Junior Playground in the mornings. If you have a query or need to speak to a member of staff, please call at the school office and the ladies will help you. Thank you.

Bikes & Scooters

If your child wishes to cycle/scoot to school and leave the cycle/scooter in the school grounds, can you please obtain a cycle permit from the school office and complete and return prior to your child leaving his/her cycle/scooter at school. Thank you.

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.

Main Gates

For your information, the main gates to the school will be closed each morning at 8.15 am for parents dropping their children off to Breakfast Club.

Road Crossing Patrol—Tram Road

The school is currently in discussions with KCC regarding the need for a crossing patrol at Tram Road zebra crossing. This will be in addition to the two patrols we currently have in place.

Please support our campaign to ensure KCC provides a road crossing service at Tram Road by following the link provided and indicating that you will use the service. Thank you.

<http://doodle.com/poll/patm673qzquxw3c5>

Can I ask you to take care when crossing your children over Penfold Road. One of our Road Crossing Patrols is on long term sick and we have moved Mr. Wallace to the Five Ways Junction, so the road will be unmanned for a while. We are trying to set up a relief road crossing patrol to cover absences but it is a lengthy process.



St. Mary's Summer Holiday Club

What an amazing two weeks we had at our summer holiday club this year. The first week, KS2 only, started with some indoor athletics, baking and designing pencil cases and the rest of the week was just as busy with lots more sport and baking more cakes, biscuits and pizzas. In our craft activities, we made some jewellery and photo frames. St. John's Ambulance came in and taught the children some First Aid and we walked to The Warren for lunch and enjoyed exploring and rock-pooling. The star attraction of the week was the Inflatable Human Football Table and the Neuron Race Game.

Our second week welcomed the Year R and KS1 children too, as well as some sheep, cows, goats, pigs, chickens and a dog! Don't worry – it was all part of the schedule as the Mobile Farm Experience visited and took over the field. The other activities for the week included baking (cakes of course!), biscuit decorating, lots more sport, a bouncy castle and inflatable obstacle course. In our craft sessions, we made some lovely jam jar candle holders, as well as pretty sun-catchers and creative sand art pictures. We went to the cinema to see the BFG and had an outing to the East Kent Railway, where we enjoyed a woodland walk, leaf hunting and saw a magnificent model railway. Just in case all that didn't wear the children out, we booked a disco party to finish the week off!

The children had a fantastic time but all this wouldn't have been possible without the staff giving up their holiday to help run the holiday club. Thank you to: Mrs. Errington, Mrs. Milton, Mrs. Calway, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. O'Connor, Miss Hutchings, Mrs. Airey, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Beresford and Mr. Coull.

