



**Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed**

**Principal Comments**

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a restful break and enjoyed the half term with your children. It is lovely to see them back, fresh and happy to be in school. We have started this term thinking about friendship in our collective worship. We are focussing on our value of STRIVE and teaching the children that friendship is something that must be worked at. We have drawn on the stories from the bible to support us with this and will be linking friendship and loyalty to the work of the disciples.

Last term we had another school inspection from SIAMS. This is an inspection to evaluate the school's distinctiveness in its Christian ethos. The inspection looks at a whole range of areas and is as equally demanding as an OFSTED inspection. May I thank all of those parents who were able to meet with the inspector and share all the very kind things about the school that you did. We received our final report this week and are extremely pleased to share with you all that we are GOOD in all areas.

This is fantastic news. In just a few short years St. Mary's has become a school which we can all be immensely proud of. The staff, governors, pupils and parents have all worked together to achieve a truly fabulous school. We are now GOOD in all areas with OFSTED, performing above national figures in KS1 and KS2, have won an award for our Forest School and are now GOOD in all areas with SIAMS. To add to this wonderful list of success for the school, we have just received the news that we have almost tripled the amount of first place applications to our school. This means that we are an extremely popular school!

These achievements do not come easily (the grey hair and weary eyes are evidence of this!) but I want to take this time to thank you all for your support and challenge over the last few years. It is the work that we do together and the ideas and challenge that you bring forward that drives us on. Please keep suggesting things and working with us to ensure that we move to be the very best that we can be and provide the very best for all children for the very long future.

This term we have more exciting events happening, please look out for the dates in your children's learning logs, Facebook or the School Website and notice board.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH

**Secondary School Selection**

This week (Wednesday or Thursday), you will find out what secondary school your child has been allocated for September 2017. If you wish to lodge a parent appeal for a place at another school, please make an appointment to speak with me to discuss this.

**Term Dates**

End of Term 4: Friday 31st March

Start of Term 5: Tuesday 18th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May

End of Term 5: Friday 26th May

Start of Term 6: Monday 5th June

Training Day: Friday 14th July

End of Term 6: Friday 21st July

**Tag Day**

On Friday 10th March, we will be holding a Tag Day to raise money for the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity. Children can come into school dressed in their own clothes and pay a fine for doing so. You will shortly receive a letter informing you about some assemblies and workshops that the NSPCC are carrying out in school.

**Attendance:**

We are excited to give you a brief update on the attendance here at St Marys. With Ofsted identifying that we all need to work together to raise attendance, it is clear we have risen to the challenge. We are now at 95.4%, which puts us on track to meet our end of year target. May I thank you all so much for your efforts. Please do aim to send your child in every day. We have recently revived our rewards too! From this week onwards:

Any class with 98% or higher each week will earn a non-uniform day.

Any child with 100% each week will earn a raffle ticket. This will be drawn termly with small prizes for the child drawn from each class. These will be pocket toys, stationery, stickers and other fun things.

At the end of the year there will be a child drawn from each phase who has had 100% all year who will also win a prize. This will be more significant and reflect the achievement attending every day for a whole school year is.

Each class that achieves 96% or higher will also receive a token. Once 8 tokens are gained, there will be a reward such as a visiting drama group, pizza party, ice cream van or other celebrations within the budget for each class set.

Well done to our three classes this week who have achieved 98% or higher.

### Holiday Club

Wow! What a fantastic February Holiday Week we had - it was so busy and full of fun that there was no way any child could get bored.

On Monday morning, we were no sooner in school and registered than on our way to the Sports Centre for some really fun activities - footgolf, indoor gym, sports hall badminton, basketball and of course, the best of all, tobogganing!!

On Tuesday morning, we were off to Broadstairs to Revolution Skatepark and Climbing Centre where all the children had the opportunity to climb a 9m high wall! We did have a few daredevils amongst us that achieved this amazing climb. Well done to those that made it to the top and to those that gave it a try.

On Wednesday, we were in school all day but that didn't mean we were lazing around - there was plenty of dancing, sport and cooking/decorating cakes, as well as children making a beautiful pen pot.

On Thursday, we invited Xtreme Vortex in again with their Lazer Tag Dome - the children really enjoyed this activity and whilst they were waiting to go in the dome, they managed to pluck a few ducks. Congratulations to Tyler who managed to complete the task in 22 seconds!

We also made some colourful Hama beading, prepared and cooked pizzas and Millies Cookies and kept fit with sports hall athletics.

And finally Friday, again no sooner had we registered than we were off out of school and up to the cinema, then there was the long walk back to school, lunch and some team games to end the week.

None of this would have been possible without staff willing to give up their holiday week to help run the holiday club so special thanks go to Mrs. Errington, Mrs. Milton, Mr. Wright, Mrs. Calway, Mrs. Airey, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. O'Connor, Mr. Ransley and Mrs. Wood.

