



Folkestone
St Mary's Church of England
Primary Academy

Wednesday,
04 October

Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

The term is flying by and the harvest season is here. I am very much looking forward to our harvest celebrations in the coming weeks and having you all at our parent evenings to celebrate your children's successes as well.

It has been a busy few weeks for us here and I have been privileged to have seen a wealth of amazing learning opportunities. I have been so impressed with the teachers and their creative teaching. Our Year 1 children have really settled into KS1 and our new entrants in Nursery and Year R are also flying. They are already secure with routines, confident in their learning and the friendships that are forming are lovely.

The community feel around the school is also very strong and I hope our new parents are feeling welcome and happy here. Our community warden has been in to see us several times and is now litter picking with some of our children to look after the park. He is also working with me to try and rectify the traffic situation around the school.

Parking:

Parking is notably better this year but we still have parents who are parking on the zig-zag lines and blocking the access and making it very dangerous for our parents and pupils who are walking into school. There are plenty of parking spaces along Wear Bay Road and parking here also gives a little help towards the step count; 10,000k is the target I believe! Just last week we had a very near miss when a parent was leaving the site. No one wants an accident to happen and with the frequent requests from the school for considerate parking, as well as strong parental support for a safer access, I really am disappointed to have to still be requesting that the zig-zag lines and school gates are not blocked. Come on folks, we can do better!

Collecting pupils:

After school, please ensure that the children are collected and off the site by **15:30**. We are happy for you to supervise the children while they run off any remaining energy on our playground but we must have it cleared so that our Funky Monkey group can access the resources and the after school clubs are not impacted upon. Please do not be offended if a member of our team nudge you along.

Worship

Our worship in the last few weeks has continued with the awe and wonder of the world around us. We have watched some great clips on some amazing sea creatures and animals, as well as playing a few games and quizzes. The children have tried really hard to reflect on what is important to them in God's creation and how we can all work to care for the world. France class and Burkina Faso class have led some wonderful assemblies, re-telling the stories from the bible on our themes of the sea and land.

Communication:

I hope you have all noticed that we have significantly improved our communication platforms. We now have a notice board by the KS1 entrance which has the school's weekly events shared on a two week cycle. This is updated every Tuesday. Please keep an eye on it for changes! We will also continue to use Facebook and the website.

Finally, thank you all for supporting the new approach to home learning. The project approach gives plenty of time to immerse the children in deeper thought about an issue, while the weekly tasks can recap key skills. Please do not let your child leave it until the last minute - it will be rushed and the quality will have a limited impact on their learning. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you need more information on this. We really do need your help in ensuring the children achieve their very best in school.

Thank you all for being such a great community and for your continued support.

Trevor North, NPQH



TARGET

Attendance is currently 97.00%, well done and keep up the good work.

School Photographs

For any child/family who missed the school photographer recently, we are planning to organise some retakes. If your child missed having his/her photograph and you would like this done, please give your name to the school office and we will let you know when the retakes are being done. Thank you.

Parking near to St. Mary's

To further ensure the safety of our children and families, the Community Warden will be visiting the area surrounding St. Mary's Academy and will report any vehicles that park on double yellow lines or park so inappropriately that they cause obstruction. The registration numbers will be forwarded to Parking Enforcement and DVLA.

Term Dates

End of Term 1—Friday 20th October 2017
Start of Term 2—Monday 30th October
Training Day—Friday 17th November
End of Term 2—Tuesday 19th December
Training Day—Wednesday 20th December
Start of Term 3—Thursday 4th January 2018
End of Term 3—Friday 9th February
Start of Term 4—Monday 19th February
End of Term 4—Thursday 29th March
Start of Term 5—Monday 16th April
Bank Holiday—Monday 7th May
End of Term 5—Friday 25th May
Start of Term 6—Monday 4th June
End of Term 6—Friday 20th July
Training Days—Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th July

VACANCY FOR A ROAD CROSSING PATROL

We currently have a vacancy for a Road Crossing Patrol at Penfold Road, Folkestone. The vacancy is for approximately 80 minutes per day 8.10 to 8.50 am & 3.00 to 3.40 pm each day.
If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in this position, please contact the school office.

Parents' Evenings

These will take place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October from 3.30 to 6.30 pm, with the exception of France, Sri Lanka, Peru and Australia, these classes will have their parents' evenings on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October, as their teachers are on a course on the Wednesday. A slip will be sent home with your child this week. Please complete and return as soon as possible. Thank you.

Transfer to Secondary School 2018

Applying for secondary school is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. The application process has now begun. The booklet "transfer to secondary school 2018" was sent home recently with your child and gives you dates and information regarding choosing a secondary school. The process will close on 31st October. You can go on line at www.kent.gov.uk/ola to complete the application form or you can complete a paper copy (the Academy can obtain a paper copy for you if you prefer).

If you have any queries regarding the process, please speak to Mrs. Gardiner or your child's teacher, who will be only too happy to help.

Crossing with the Road Crossing Patrol at Junction of Wear Bay Crescent

If you or your child use the road crossing patrol - Mr. Wallace to cross over the road before and after school, please note that KCC has instructed Mr. Wallace to only cross over children at Wear Bay Crescent, he is not allowed to cross over children at any other road. Thank you.

ParentPay

From 30th October 2017 (after half term), St. Mary's will be using ParentPay. This is an online payment method to process payments made to the school and reduce the need for cash. You will be sent a letter next week which will explain how you can activate your online account and start making payments. The majority of payments to the school will be made this way from that date.

Please note, dinner money (which is payable to Caterlink and not the school) should be still be brought in as normal in a named envelope.

Those of you with children at secondary school will already be used to this way of making payments to a school and I am sure most of you will find this system a more convenient way to pay. If you prefer not to pay online, then please speak with the office staff and they will be able to arrange for you to make any payments via a PayPoint machine if this is easier for you. We will only be able to accept cash in exceptional circumstances and will not be able to provide change. We will still collect cash for charity tag days.

I trust you will support the school with this new system which will remove cash from the classroom and free up the staff to spend more time with your children.

If you have any queries with this, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the finance team. If you need help registering your account, Mrs. Errington will be available to help.

Swattenden Information Session

There will be a meeting for parents and children who are attending the Swattenden residential centre on Monday 13th November. The meeting will take place in the junior hall on Monday 16th October from 3.30 to 4.00 pm.

Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival Services will take place on the following days:-

Nursery, YR & Y1 will take place on Wednesday 18th October at 9.15 am and again at 2.15 pm

Y2, Y3 & Y4 will take place on Thursday 19th October at 9.15 am

Y5 & Y6 will take place on Thursday 19th October at 2.15 pm

We would be very grateful for donations of produce i.e. tins, bottles, packets etc. These can be sent in any time from now until Tuesday 17th October. Thank you in anticipation.

