



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

Welcome back. This year is flying past with Term 6 here already. We have an exciting term ahead of us, as we will be trialing a different approach to our timetable. The hours of the school day will remain the same (don't panic!!) but the organisation will be a little different for Key Stage 2 pupils (Year 3 and up).

If you are reading the news, you may have noted that the workload of teachers is an ongoing challenge to get right. Our teachers here at St. Mary's put in a tremendous amount of effort and time to create the wonderful school we have. On average, my team here are working 65 hours per week in order to deliver what we are. They model our value of service and dedicate themselves without complaint. However, I am not sure our fresh faced teachers will remain this way if we continue! With so many teachers leaving the profession due to a huge workload (we don't finish at 15:30), I know I will have your support in doing what we can to ensure our team stays as strong as it is.

In response to this, we have made a decision with the governing body and the school council to deliver a university style of curriculum in the afternoons. This will mean that your child will be taught by subject specialist teachers in the afternoons in the areas of PE, Science, ICT, Art, History & Geography, RE and Citizenship & Wellbeing. We have had such success with the specialist teaching of Art & DT, it makes sense to include the wider curriculum in this too.

By arranging the curriculum in this way, we are able to ensure very high standards across the year groups, a high level of consistency in the teaching and coverage of the curriculum, clear leadership of specific subject areas and will cut the working hours of teachers down by at least 25%. A further benefit of this arrangement is the preparation for secondary school. It offers the pupils a chance to get used to having different teachers from the school to learn with.

Your children will still have their class teacher every morning until lunch time for the core curriculum subjects—Reading, Writing and Maths.

We are expecting a few hiccups along the way as we navigate this change but are all very excited and keen to ensure this works. Wish us luck.

Attendance remains good and on track to meet our target. Thank you again from all of us. The number of children arriving late is decreasing too, which is great news.

Please ensure you are supervising your children at the end of school. Children are not allowed to climb on the railings or play in and out of the staff cars. There have been a few scratches caused to some cars recently due to this. Can I also ask that you do not let your children scoot up and down the slope leading to reception. They are crashing in to the glass doors, which is an accident in itself waiting to happen. Thank you.

Trevor North, NPQH

School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform, see below:-

BOYS Navy v-neck jumper, grey trouser/shorts, white shirt, academy tie, navy/grey/black socks, black shoes

GIRLS Navy cardigan/ navy v-neck jumper, grey pinafore, skirt or trousers, white blouse, academy tie, navy rights or white socks, black shoes, blue check dress

Children should be in possession of t-shirt, shorts and a pair of plimsolls for the PE lessons, which should be kept in school in a drawstring bag for the term.

All clothing should be clearly marked with the child's full name.

In the Reception classes, children are not required to wear ties and should wear white polo shirts.

Pre-School Afternoons

If your child is starting at St. Mary's in September 2018, you will by now have received a letter confirming the afternoons your child should attend for pre-school. The afternoons will take place on 6th June, 13th June, 20th and 21st June, all starting at 1.45 pm. If you are unsure as to which date your child should attend, please telephone the school to confirm. Thank you.

Year 6 Leavers' Service

The Year 6 Leavers' Service will take place in the Church of St. Mary & St. Eanswythe on The Bayle, Folkestone on Tuesday 17th July at 2.00 pm. Further details will follow shortly.

School Dinners

Please note that if your child is currently in Year 2 and is transferring to Year 3 in September, he/she will not automatically be entitled to free school meals as they currently are in Year 2. You will need to apply for free school meals for your child prior to September 2018. Thank you.

Term Dates—2018/19

End of Term 6 for Nursery is Monday 23rd July

End of Term 6 for the whole school is Tuesday 24th July

Term 1—Monday 3rd September to Friday 19th October

Staff Training Day—Monday 3rd September (school closed to children)

Term 2—Monday 29th October to Wednesday 19th December

Staff Training Day—Wednesday 19th December (school closed to children)

Term 3—Thursday 3rd January 2019 to Friday 15th February

Staff Training Day—Friday 15th February (school closed to children)

Term 4—Monday 25th February to Friday 5th April

Term 5—Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 24th May

Bank Holiday—Monday 6th May

Term 6—Monday 3rd June to Tuesday 23rd July

Staff Training Days—Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July (school closed to children)

PLEASE NOTE: Nursery dates are slightly different to the school dates and these will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Sports Days

Sports Days this year will take place on the school field as follows:-

Y5 & Y6—Monday 25th June

Y1 & Y2—Tuesday 26th June

Nursery—10.00 am and 2.30 pm—Wednesday 27th June

Y3 & Y4—Thursday 28th June

YR—Monday 2nd July

All sports days will start at 1.30 pm, with the exception of Nursery—the times are as stated above and Reception will start at 2.00 pm.



VACANCY FOR A SCHOOL CLEANER

**We currently have a vacancy for a cleaner in school for 15 hours per week
(afternoons, preferably 3.30 to 6.30 pm but can be slightly flexible with timings),
term time only with a small amount of holiday work**

The position will start from September 2018.

**If you are interested in applying, please give your contact details to the School Receptionist
Thank you.**