



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

Like a hive of buzzing bees, the children and staff are still busy with their learning and growing. The classrooms are going through a huge makeover and the display boards are all now ready for the new year and the signs of the end of term are present across the school. Unclaimed plimsolls, packed lunch boxes and jumpers will soon meet in the hall to share their stories of abandonment as our wonderful school year comes to an end. With less than one week to go, we are reflecting on what has been an amazing year. Our school is such a happy and vibrant place to be with something exciting happening each day. Our facebook page is a montage of magic that our children experience on a daily basis. The year flies past and doesn't give you any warning that it's about to end. In the blink of an eye, another cohort of children leave us for secondary school and a new group of children join our family in Year R. Our new Year R children have already started their new adventure in our school and with new aspirations, the rest of the school have all been meeting their new teachers and teaching assistants. The children have enjoyed being with their new class teacher and building new relationships. This will hopefully make the new start in September more manageable and less stressful for the children (I am not sure about the teachers!), so we can all hit the ground running.

Whilst the end is always a celebration, there is always a sense of sadness too, as we will inevitably say goodbye to staff and pupils. Our current Year 6 have been such an integral part of our school and have been taught by so many of our staff – they will be missed. The reception teachers who have been working with them this week have all said how lovely it is to see them so mature and ready for their next school and how funny it is to remember them as the innocent young children with a whole primary adventure ahead of them.

This year, we are saying goodbye to Miss Amos, Miss Kleinman and Mrs. O'Connor. All have been amazing and hardworking members of our team and have had such an impact on our children.

Mrs. O'Connor left two weeks ago with a car boot full of flowers, gifts and lovely cards. She worked here for more than 10 years as a receptionist/admin assistant/after school club assistant. Her support with our after school club has been fab. We will miss her a lot and hope that she thrives in her new role outside of school life.

Miss Kleinman joined us as an NQT and has grown as a very strong teacher. She has taught many of the children in the school and I know we will all miss her. She has an exciting new role as an assistant head teacher in a new school. We are all very proud of her and know you will join me in wishing her the very best of luck.

Miss Amos has been instrumental in supporting our younger pupils in KS1 and will be deeply missed. We will hopefully see her again but in the meantime we wish her the best of luck.

As the staff and children enjoy a break, the school will be hibernating over the summer and undergoing a few small changes. These will further remind us of who we are as a school and that we are here to ensure all of God's children flourish.

So as the term draws to an end, I'd like to thank you all for your support. Thank you for attending our school events and making our children feel valued in their learning journey, for bringing your children every day and supporting the teachers in their drive to ensure your children flourish. Thank you for ensuring they are smart and on time and that holidays are taken out of term time. Thank you also for being patient with us when we make mistakes and allowing us the time to make things right for you and your child.

I would also like to thank all of our amazing Governors who give up so much of their time for our school, particularly, Emma Lane, who has taken on the role of chair and has already had such a huge impact on the school in shaping a wonderful team of governors.

Over the summer, it would be very helpful if you could keep your child engaged with reading times table challenges on their rockstar account online and perhaps even some diary entries. I am sure your child's new class teacher will thank you for it!

I look forward to hearing of your children's adventures over the summer on their return.

Have a great break!

Mr. T.M. North, NPQH

Sports Day

All of our sports days were amazing and with so many of the parents and families in attendance, it showed us all what a wonderful community we have around us and how fantastic our children here at St. Mary's are. Seeing so many of the children supporting each other, behaving so well and pushing themselves was a delight. Some of you will have seen several of our pupils going out of their way to encourage and support their friends along the track and even running the long distance race to ensure their friend made it round. This brought tears to my eyes and as the head of the school, shows me just what a wonderful role our school values play in the lives of our children. The scores have been totalled and the winning team was Strive, which is the Red team. However, we were all winners because the aim was to be a community, to have fun and be together.

Term Time Dates

As a school, we must have good attendance and follow the law. We are proud of the work we have done to improve our attendance. As a community, we have pulled together and raised it from 93%, which is inadequate to above 96%. This is so much better. I look forward to awarding our 100% attendees in the new year with another fab visit somewhere.

This year, our attendance has been negatively impacted again by people taking term time holiday without permission. If term time holidays were not taken, our attendance would have been above 97%. This would put the school in the top 10% of all schools and shows just how much education and school is valued. The school does not want to issue penalty notices and will do all we can to avoid this because we want to maintain good relationships. However, where the goodwill of the school is taken for granted, we will have little choice. The governors have set new term dates again which allow for term time holidays to ensure you can access cheaper vacations. Please take advantage of this as it has been done for this reason and to create more learning time before key assessment points.

The dates are on our website, previous newsletters and facebook. Please book them in now, so we can work together to ensure your children have the best education possible.

TERM DATES FOR 2019/2020

TERM 1

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday 2 nd September 2019 | Staff Training Day |
| Tuesday 3 rd September | Start of Term 1 |
| Friday 18 th October | End of Term 1 |

TERM 2

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday 28 th October | Start of Term 2 |
| Thursday 19 th December | End of Term 2 |

TERM 3

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday 6 th January 2020 | Start of Term 3 |
| Thursday 13 th February | End of Term 3 |
| Friday 14 th February | Staff Training Day |

TERM 4

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday 24 th February | Start of Term 4 |
| Friday 3 rd April | End of Term 4 |

TERM 5

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 14 th April | Start of Term 5 |
| Friday 8 th May | Bank Holiday |
| Friday 22 nd May | End of Term 5 |

TERM 6

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Monday 8 th June | Start of Term 6 |
| Friday 17 th July | End of Term 6 |
| Monday 20 th , Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd July | Staff Training Days |

Head Boy and Head Girl

This year, Ed and Sophie have been wonderful role models and amazing support with the school council and the day to day events in school. We will miss them. I would like to thank them on behalf of us all here for their dedication. Last Monday, we thanked them as a school and they welcomed the new Head Boy and Head Girl to the role. Kiera and Sam will be leading the school with the Senior Leadership Team next year and taking on even more of an active role in school growth. I have high aspirations of the school council under their leadership. All of the pupils that put their name forward are a credit to their families and the school. They were so courageous, confident and visionary in what they want for the school. To have the confidence to stand in front of a whole school and share this vision was inspiring. At such a young age, they have shown such potential for the future and I dare say will do a much more effective role than some of the current parliament members!

Y6 Leavers' Service

The Year 6 Leavers' Service will take place on Thursday 18th July 2019 at 2.00 p.m. in the Parish Church of St. Mary & St Eanswythe. Only Year 5 children will join with Year 6 in their celebrations. A letter has been sent out giving further details.

Year 6 Swattenden Trip 2019

May I remind you that the next payment of £40.00 for the Year 6 Swattenden Trip is due on Friday 26th July via Parent Pay. The trip will take place in the week commencing Monday 11th November 2019.

District Sports

On Wednesday evening, a group of children attended District Sports at The Three Hills Sports Park. Children from Years 3 to 6 represented the school in a range of disciplines, ranging from 400m to the long jump. Due to school sizes, St. Mary's were taking part in the large school category, which meant there was stiff competition in every event for the pupils taking part.

The effort from all the children was fantastic and there were some successes for the Years 5 and 6 girls' relay team, who managed to finish second in their race. The mixed relay team for Years 3 and 4 managed to finish third in their race, earning points for the team. In the longer distance races, Dan Donovan and Caroline Airey both had an excellent race to finish well inside the top half of the field, with Caroline finishing 4th in a large field of runners.

All of the children had an excellent attitude and gave their best to their event. It was great to see the team supporting and cheering from the side. Many thanks to all the parents and staff who came along to support the event also.

The team that took part was as follows: Cody Stanton, David Pyburn, Brandon Sims, Thomas Burgess, Lola Aisawi, Tosia Grzesko, Tillie Judge, Lilly-Rose Stephens, Ava Moore, Jacob Worsley, Poppy Wild, Libbie Ball, Jacob Worsley, Laurynas Upenieks, Jonah Ward, Josh Osborne, Isla Everitt, Dan Donovan, Caroline Airey, Allani Everitt and Finley Spencer.

School Meals

From September, we have been informed that the cost of a school meal is increasing from £2.05 per day to £2.20 per day (£11.00 per five day week). Cheques should be made payable to Caterlink. From September, all payments should be made on the Monday of each week for the week ahead. If payment is not received, Caterlink will chase this payment and it may well be that they will stop any further meals for your child until the outstanding amount is received. Caterlink money envelopes are available from the school office.

Summer Fete

Our school community has shone out even more through the summer fete. It was such a wonderful afternoon with the sun beaming down on us and everyone smiling. I can't believe how many of you came to support us! I hope you all had a lovely time and enjoyed the fruits of the PTA's hard work. They raised the magnificent sum of £1,477.20. They have been such a delight to have with us this year and have built on the work of previous years. Together, the PTA have raised enough money to be able to buy our children some wonderful new things for the playground. These will hopefully appear over the summer ready for the new year!

School Uniform

Please, as you start to think of new uniform, pay close attention to the policy and guides. All pupils must wear the uniform we set out and from September, this will not be flexible. Navy blue v-neck jumpers and cardigans must be worn. Shoes must be shoes and not an interpretation of them. No trainers or boots are allowed and all children must have plimsolls for indoor PE and trainers for outside PE. Their PE kit must also be in line with school policy – this must be a white t-shirt and blue shorts. A tracksuit can be worn in the winter months. These must be kept in a PE bag in their locker. As always, names on everything!

I have purchased new uniform for spares in the school should any child not come with the correct one. This is an important part of our school and I trust that you will support this as it forms part of the home school agreement and encourages a community feel. If your child wants to bring trainers for playtime, that is fine and will save the shoes!