



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed



Principal Comments

What another amazing year at St. Mary's. I am not a big fan of tests but it is always nice to see the school's results rise year on year. Our children offer so much more to us than a set of numbers but, equally, we should still all be very proud of their results. We have had tremendous success.

Our children have made exceptional progress across the school. In Year R they have left above national figures again, despite starting from lower than the national average. Their writing is wonderful and shows the impact that our curriculum and resourcing of Early Years is having. They are getting the best start possible.

Our Year 2 pupils have also achieved our best results ever in the school. Over 80% of the pupils reached expected in all subjects and over a third of the year groups reached exceeding in Reading, Writing and Maths. They have built on their Early Years success and have shown the impact of the great teaching in Years 1 and 2. They will start Year 3 ready to excel further. Well done to them all, they are such a great year group.

Further to this, our wonderful Year 6 pupils have also made exceptional progress and many of them have reached expected and exceeding levels in their KS2 SATs. I am so proud of what they have achieved, their perseverance and their attitude to learning. During the Leavers' Service at Church, I sat with my eyes full of tears. The children were so proud of their achievements and I could sense equal pride beaming from the benches full of parents. Their singing was inspirational and their reflections equally so. They leave us this year and will flourish in their new schools as a result of great foundations set here. It will be a very sad day for us all. They have blossomed into young, caring citizens ready to shine bright and succeed.

All of this wonderful news comes from the sustained and dedicated service our staff show to the children and the support you as their family give them and the school. On top of great results, we have the best attendance scores we have had for many years – 96%. This is significantly better and shows what a little bit of teamwork and motivation can achieve.

This past week has also been a busy week. It's been a pleasure to hear the pupils say that they love their new classes and the teachers echoing this. This week has been full of learning too with teachers getting their new classes ready and setting even higher aspirations.

Over the summer, please remember to encourage your children to read daily and practice their basic number skills with times tables. This will help them leap frog into their new year groups and continue to help build an Outstanding Primary School at the end of Warren Road.

I'd like to thank you all and my amazing team here for our success. Have a lovely summer break.

Trevor North, NPQH

Pupil Collection

We have found it increasingly difficult to ensure a safe passage for all of our pupils at the end of the day in KS2. This is due to a high volume of pupils leaving the same entrance, causing a large number of parents gathering at the bottom by the front entrance. From next year, the following arrangements will be made:-

Years 3 & 4 will be collected from the KS2 playground. Please feel free to wait on the playground from 15:10 onwards to collect.

The teacher will bring the class out and wave them off to you.

Year 5 will leave at the front entrance as they normally do.

Year 6 will leave via the KS1 playground, using the rear entrance of the school.

Staffing

With the usual ebb and flow of staff through a large school, we are bound to be saying goodbye to someone at this time of the year. This year, we say a farewell to Mrs. Errington. She has been a dedicated member of the team for many years and has played a large part in ensuring the pastoral side of the school is strong. Summer School, Funky Monkeys and Extended Schools have been very well led under her guidance. On top of this, she has also been a long serving Governor and has ensured the school remains strong. We are very sad to see her leave but she has found a new role in a school very close to her home. We wish her all the very best.

We also say goodbye to Mr. Frost, as he starts a new career in graphics, Miss Skelton who will be training to be a teacher and two of our wonderful cleaners—Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Bayly. I am sure you will wish them all well in their new adventures.

We welcome to the school two new teachers—Mrs. Laslett and Miss Hogg. Mrs. Abed, who will join the Academy as a learning support professional.

Congratulations go to our wonderful Mrs. Hall, who will return as Mrs. Gardener due to her recent wedding. Many congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Gardener.

Change of Term Dates

You will have seen the terms set out by the Local Authority for the next academic year on our website. These dates make terms 4 and 5 very short and unfortunately right at the point that our Year 6 and Year 2 pupils prepare for their key stage tests. In order to make the terms much better suited to promote good progress for pupils, we have taken the decision to adjust them accordingly. The term dates will be:

- Term 1:** Monday 3rd September to 19th October 2018
Monday 3rd September – Staff Development Day
- Term 2:** Monday 29th October to Wednesday 19th December 2018
Wednesday 19th December – Staff Development Day
- Term 3:** Thursday 3rd January to Friday 15th February 2019
Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th January and Friday 15th February – Staff Development Days
- Term 4:** Monday 25th February to Friday 12th April 2019
- Term 5:** Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 24th May 2019
Bank Holiday: 6th May
- Term 6:** Monday 10th June to Tuesday 23rd July 2019
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July – Staff Development Days

The governors and the school leadership recognise that this may cause disruption to pre-booked holidays and therefore will authorise holidays which have been booked in advance should they clash with term dates. If this affects you in this way, then please bring your booking confirmation to the school office with your holiday request form. If this decision impacts your arrangements in other ways, then please make an appointment to see Mr. North at your earliest convenience so that we can work together to resolve them. Thank you in advance for your support and patience with this decision.

Medical Appointments during School Hours

If it is necessary for your children to have medical appointments during school hours, unless it is an absolute emergency, we must always see evidence of the appointment i.e. a copy of the appointment letter or appointment card. We should be grateful if you could give the school as much notice as possible. Thank you.

Herald Cup

On a beautiful evening at Hythe Town Football Club, St. Mary's were looking to retain the cup for two years. For some, it was their first taste of a final; for others, it was their chance to gain a second title. The team knew that they would be facing a strong Churchill side, who had beaten Sandgate convincingly in the semi-final. A tough test awaited. Churchill started strongly and were making their height advantage count as St. Mary's struggled to win anything in the air. Toby was tested in goal on several occasions, however he was not to be beaten, with Lennon always on hand to tidy up any danger that was present. Cody was working hard to keep the ball up front, wriggling between defenders on a couple of occasions, although our midfield was finding it hard to offer him as much support as they would have liked. With only a couple of minutes left until the break, St. Mary's began to apply some sustained pressure on the Churchill defence for the first time, working as a team to close them down. For the first time, Churchill began to look nervous. Sensing this, Churchill failed to clear the ball, allowing the ball to break to Jayden just inside the box. He was presented with the chance to strike and he rifled the ball into the back of the net via the crossbar. The net ripple was met with jubilation from both the players and St. Mary's supporters, who were excellent all evening. Half way there. Following a few pointers from Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Cobb, the team prepared for the second half. Jai replaced Atli in midfield, who had worked tirelessly in the first half to try and win the ball back for the team. As the game progressed, St. Mary's began to dominate the game, with Dan, Lucas, Jayden and Jai seeing more of the ball in midfield. Jayden and Cody tested the Churchill keeper's hands with some powerful strikes but the score remained 1-0. Time ebbed away. A long ball over the top caused a problem on a couple of occasions, with Churchill proving dangerous with the pace they had. Toby made a couple of crucial saves, accompanied by some sterling work from the defensive line of Charlie, Lennon and Max in front of him. Moving into the final ten minutes, Theo and Tillie emerged from the sidelines to give St. Mary's some added energy in the final minutes. They would both have been desperate to play even longer but their superb attitude must be mentioned as they supported their team, encouraging them from the sidelines. With the nerves at breaking point, the whistle finally blew. Scenes of jubilation broke out on the pitch. Parents and teachers celebrating together on the sideline. It was a fantastic sight. The occasion really brought everybody together.

There was still time for the main event of the night following the trophy presentation and paparazzi style photography – the sprinkler dash. At the first opportunity, children dashed to soak themselves (and teachers) followed by sliding through the grass. The team can be really proud of themselves and what a fitting send off for some of our Year 6. Thanks to all the team, parents, staff and supporters who came along and made a great evening.

