



Believe Enjoy Strive Succeed

Principal Comments

With the very sad news of Nick Adams' passing away, the school has lost an incredible and much loved community member. The contributions he made to the school and the local community are significant with the children at the heart of everything he did. As such, a valued and important member of our school family, it was fitting that we contributed to the recent celebration of his life. Our Year 6 pupils have once again made us very proud. They wrote a beautiful poem to remember him and proudly and articulately shared it at his memorial service which was held on the 26th January. As a school and a community, our thoughts are with his family and our thanks are to God for Nick who dedicated so much of his time to us.

A Poem for Nick

A man who has left treasures in his wake,
Who helped develop Folkestone for other people's sake.
The deserted fields he turned to glory,
A playground which will forever form part of his story.

Nick's heart was of solid gold,
He enthralled us with the wisdom he told.
His Christian values; mighty and true,
A modern-day crusader for me and for you.

Nick helped to make the roads safe and sound,
His spirit spread throughout our lively town.
A man who strove to keep us all safe,
In people he instilled an abundance of faith.

He showed a kind and loving nature to us all,
Thank you Nick Adams for improving our school.
You will be the brightest star in the sky tonight,
Like a burning flame we will keep alight.

**By Y6 Ash Class
Folkestone St. Mary's Primary Academy**



Internet Safety Poster Competition

St. Mary's Academy School Council is running an internet safety poster competition. Posters have to be in by 9th February and should be handed to the class School Council representative. In KS1, posters should be handed into the class teacher.



Recycling Wanted

Clean tins (baked beans, spaghetti, peas etc.), water bottles, pot noodle pots (or similar) and shoe boxes. Please pass them to Mrs. Carol Errington (outside the Year 1 entrance every day) until the end of this term only. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings will take place on Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th February. Appointment slips will be sent home with your child before the end of this week. Please complete the slip and return to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you.

February Holiday Club

The February Holiday Club information/application forms went out in book bags last week (for KS2 children only) and the deadline is this Friday 29th January. Please return the forms to Mrs. Carol Errington urgently. Emails will be sent out this weekend confirming places. Please check your emails.

A tribute to Nick Adams

When he became community warden, Nick made immediate contact with the local schools including St. Mary's and by a fortunate coincidence, we were making a special drive to develop Citizenship as a subject across the school. Nick, on a voluntary basis, committed himself to help me to teach each KS2 year group as a whole group for 45 minutes a week.

Effectively, Nick was committing himself to 3 hours joint teaching at St. Mary's a week, plus a promise to attend our school council and also to give some time as an occasional additional midday helper. He felt this would enable him to gather directly from the children useful knowledge about how they see the world and their hopes and fears for their locality.

As a result of Nick's help, our children became very well versed at managing the issues that challenge young people, including anti bullying strategies, road/rail safety, e-safety etc. He was also equipped to talk through with the children international events and he drew frequently on his own experiences of living and working in Africa.

With Mr. North's arrival, Nick continued to visit us regularly and I actually e-mailed Nick 24 hours after his death, being unaware of what had sadly happened and I was due to hold some discussions with him about continuing to litter pick the Southern Way DJ Park. Even now, standing at the school gates at 3.15 pm, I expect to see him when someone is parking badly or raising some community issue. Nick was always good at turning up just where you needed him - a rare quality indeed.

The Southern Way DJ Park to me sums up beautifully Nick's commitment to his role. During the first Summer of his employment, he had a street conversation with two pupils who happened to be from St. Mary's. Their names were Danni Gardie and James Phillips. They said to Nick how boring it was for children in this area as there was nowhere to play and why couldn't that piece of waste land opposite Southern Water, between the viaduct and the level crossing, become a park?

Nick suggested they raise this with their school council which they duly did and he also spoke with me. From a discussion on the St. Mary's School Council which Nick attended, we put together with the children a plan for the Park.

To cut a very long story short, we (the children, Mrs. Milton, Nick and I) arranged public meetings, lobbied councillors and various grant making bodies and set up a legal arrangement with Southern Water for the park to be built. It was far from plain sailing but every time we hit a barrier, it was Nick's enabling hand that saw a way through. Eventually in 2008, the Park was opened and its continued success depended upon the Southern Way Association which Nick helped set up and which brings together the children of 2016 with older residents.

To conclude on a personal note. I didn't know Nick as fully as I would have liked but from the little bits I do know, he clearly had a very full life, squashing more into his short life than those who live longer.

Until recently, I played club cricket and when playing a match in the Sandwich area, I suddenly found Nick on the opposite side. I know he loved coaching rugby and he told me once as a child, his mother used to buy him a platform ticket on Clapham Junction just to watch all the trains. I will always think of Nick when passing that station.

In short, Nick had a passion for life and he sets a great example to us all to live and work to the best of our ability, always optimistic, never giving up.

The children contributed in a moving way at Nick's memorial service and we give thanks to God for his life.

John Bird