St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Dover

Learning for life with God as our guide

Friday, 15th December 2023

Our Christian Values

Peace; Friendship; Respect; Trust; Perseverance

A Message from Ms Comfort

It's Christmas!

There has been no let-up in our school Christmas celebrations which have continued this week.

On Monday, Key Stage 2 families joined us at St Mary's Church for our annual Carol Service. The children presented song, readings and drama all in the re-telling of the Christmas story.

Key Stage 2 classes had an amazing time at the Marlowe Theatre on Tuesday for our annual pantomime trip – there was plenty of opportunity for audience participation which the children and staff fully embraced!

Wednesday was our Christmas Dinner Day. Our school cooks did a grand job catering a Christmas Lunch for us all – huge thanks to them for making this such a successful event. Our Christmas jumpers brightened up the hall and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Party Day on Thursday allowed the children and staff to come together to pit their skills and wits against each other in a variety of games and activities! Thank you to you all for contributing party food for your child to enjoy.

We ended our school celebrations with our weekly celebration Collective Worship this morning, a really lovely time together which rounded off our school Christmas festivities perfectly.

Thank You

As this calendar year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and children for their work during 2023. In addition I would like to thank the families for their ongoing support.

Reception Class 2024

Do you have a child born between **1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020?** If so they will be eligible to start school in September 2024. We invite families to book an appointment to come and have a look around our school at a time to suit. Please spread the word to anyone you know with a child of the right age.

The deadline to apply for a primary school place is Monday, 15th January 2024.

Return to School

The new term starts for children on **Wednesday 3rd January 2024** – I look forward to seeing you all then and to welcoming in the new year.

On behalf of all of the staff I would like to offer the very best Christmas wishes to you all.

Ms Helen Comfort - Executive Headteacher

Collective Worship at St Mary's CEP School, Dover

There was a 'festive-spirit' in the air as children continued to participate well in our final week of Term 2. The children sung festive songs linked to our Carol Concert and Nativity performance; the pupils were reminded of the meaning of 'Advent' - we lit our final two candles of 'joy' and' peace' due to us breaking up for Christmas Holidays. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and could discuss with their partners how they show joy and peace at Christmas time.

Revd. Melissa and Trish Simmons (one of our staff governors) delivered an engaging Collective Worship, which focused on the history and significance of the 'candy cane'. Did you know that a common story of the origin of candy canes says that in 1670, in Cologne, Germany, the choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral, wishing to remedy the noise caused by children in his church during a traditional Christmas Eve service, asked a local candy maker for some 'sugar sticks' for them - to keep them quiet! I wonder how you will control the excitement in your house at Christmas time?

As always, a wonderful Celebration Collective Worship rounded the week and term off with a range of awards and celebrations presented - well done to all!

Carol Singing

On Wednesday, Mrs Wallis took members of the Key Stage 2 Choir Club to sing at Laureston House Residential Home.

The children sang beautifully a collection of traditional carols to the residents, including: Away in a Manger, We Three Kings and We Wish you a Merry Christmas!

The residents thoroughly enjoyed our choir visit and joined in with much of the singing too!

The winning Houses for best attendance this week are ……
TEMPLE
FISHER & RAMSEY !!

GOLDEN MANNER POINTS

1st – Class 6 – 140 points
2nd – Class 2 – 125 points
3rd – Class 1 – 105 points

HOUSE POINTS

1st – LANG – 185 points
2nd – FISHER – 166 points
3rd – TEMPLE – 133 points
4th – RAMSEY – 130 points

HOUSE POINTS
END OF TERM 2 WINNERS

1st – LANG – 1155 points
2nd – TEMPLE – 1099 points
3rd – FISHER – 1030 points
4th – RAMSEY – 931 points

Thought for the Week

Go with the Flo…

Help with the cost of living

- **Kent Together** can direct to the right service, call 03000 41 92 92(text relay 18001 03000 41 92 92)
- **Citizen's Advice** can give lots of information about grants and benefits you may be entitled to and help people on a low income http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/
- **Trussell Trust** can help you find a local food bank http://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help or 0808 208 2138
- If you are pregnant or have young children, you may be eligible for Healthy Start vouchers https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/
- Optivo provide free guidance to reduce debts http://www.optivo.org.uk/
- **Kent Savers** can help you feel more in control of your finances kentsavers.co.uk
- **Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS)** can offer support if you experience an unforeseen, short-term crisis http://www.kent.gov.uk/ksas and offer an emergency welfare scheme. http://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/benefits/home-essentials-in-a-crisis

You may be able to get help with:

- groceries, for up to seven days
- baby food, milk and nappies
- furniture, such as beds and seating
- crockery
- bedding, curtains and carpets
- essential electrical appliances, for example a fridge and/or cooking appliance
- clothing
- utilities, including prepayment gas and electric for up to seven days
- emergency travel arrangements via public transport, for example to flee a crisis.

Household Support Fund can help with fuel and food vouchers. If you qualify, Kent County Council will issue your household with energy vouchers to the value of £150 and supermarket vouchers to the value of £150 which can be redeemed towards food and essential household items https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/benefits/household-support-fund

Help with Housing

- Canterbury Housing Advice Centre (Canterbury District only) provide a free, confidential, independent and impartial advice service on a wide range of housing issues and problems including homelessness, accessing accommodation in the public, private and voluntary sectors, repossession, landlord/tenant issues and housing benefit. They also assist those who become, or are about to become, homeless to find alternative accommodation http://www.chac.co.uk/ or 01227 762 605
- Porchlight http://www.porchlight.org.uk/commissioners-and-professionals/our-services/housing-and-homelessness-services

SEND Spotlight

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity that provides mental health support and training in UK schools. They believe that children should not have to face mental health problems alone.

Parenting Smart offers practical advice for parents and carers of children aged 4-11. All of their content is created by Place2Be's parenting experts. It's based on evidence and their experiences working with children, young people and their families. You can browse the topics for answers to some common parenting questions at:

https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/

Learner of the Week

Congratulations go to the following Learners of the Week:

Class R – Our Learner of the Week in Turtles Class has grown in confidence and always tries their best. They have persevered in phonics and reading this week, and enjoyed completing games on the computer. Well done!

Class 1 – Starfish Class Learner of the Week is **Sheng** as he has made a great effort to settle into life at St Mary's. Sheng really enjoyed our recent trip to the cinema, and listened carefully to all the instruction to keep safe on the walk there and back. He is trying hard to learn new sounds and apply them to his reading. Well done Sheng!

Class 2 – Our Learner of the Week in Otters Class is **Thomas**! Thomas always has a positive attitude to his learning and loves to take on a challenge. He is kind and polite to everyone he meets, and loves to help others. He is a pleasure to have in Otters Class. Well done Thomas!

Class 3 – Puffins Class Learner of the Week is **Zante** as he is a good friend to everyone. Zante has developed more independence this term, particularly with writing tasks. He tries his very best to form his letters correctly, and has been able to read and explain what he has written with interest. Well done Zante – we are very proud of you!

Class 4 – **Gracie** is Penguins Class Learner of the Week for the brilliant effort she has made in class; her confidence has really shone. She has worked hard to recall her multiplication facts as well as being a brilliant historian. Gracie sung beautifully at the carol concert and was an excellent role model during our pantomime trip. Well done Gracie – a lovely attitude, as always!

Class 5 – Our Learner of the Week in Orcas Class is **Fernanda** as she is a kind and respectful member of our class and tries hard in all areas of her learning. Fernanda is becoming increasingly confidence when trying new things, and recently produced a great acrostic poem on the Chocolate Cake theme. Keep doing your best Fernanda!

Class 6 – Seahorses Class Learner of the Week is **Saphira** as she is a wonderful St Mary's student and demonstrates our Christian values wonderfully. Saphira read clearly and confidently as our recent carol concert, and has engaged in our class learning, Christmas crafts and activities this week. Well done Saphira!

Term 2 Reading News!

Congratulations to our seven winners of the Term 2 Reading Incentive Prize!

Pupils receive a raffle ticket for returning their reading books **and** their signed purple reading record to school, every Wednesday. Each week the raffle tickets are added to a class 'pot'. In Collective Worship this morning, winning tickets were drawn for each class. The winning children received a 'reading for pleasure' prize, including some fabulous new books and gifts to enjoy at home.

Term 2 Winning Readers

Class R – **Zoey**
Class 1 – **Winter**
Class 2 – **Levi**
Class 3 – **Tino**
Class 4 – **Henley**
Class 5 – **Leo**
Class 6 – **Mileigh**

Keep reading in the Christmas holidays!

Mrs Wallis

Christingle Service

St Mary's Church, Dover
Cannon Street, Dover

Christmas Eve at 4:00pm

A traditional Christmas service for the whole family as we explore the nativity story and the first Christmas, with Christingles!

Admission to

Primary school in Kent 2024

Apply online at *kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions*

Opens Friday 3 November 2023 and closes at midnight on Monday 15 January 2024

For children born between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, Transferring to Primary school in **September 2024**

What to do

Choose a school

It's important to find out more about the schools you are interested in before you decide to name them on the application form.

Read the guide to Primary admissions at ***www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.***

You can name up to three Primary schools, inside or outside of Kent, but you must name them all on the same application.

Apply for a school place

A simple, fast, convenient process which opens **Friday 3 November 2023** and closes at midnight on **Monday 15 January 2024.**

You will first need to set up an online account. The applicant is you, the parent/carer; you will then need to add your child's details before starting an application. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been correctly submitted.

You can log back in at any time to view the information submitted.

Receiving your offer

On offer day **(Tuesday 16 April 2024)** an email will be sent after **4pm** informing you of your offer.

You must accept or decline the school place you have been offered by **Tuesday 30 April 2024.** A link to a guide with information you will need to provide the school with will be in your offer email.

If it has not been possible to offer your child a place in your preferred school, you have the right to appeal. You can also add their name to the school's waiting list.

Moving house during the application window will likely complicate your application and we therefore advise you to pay special attention to key dates in the admissions process. KCC has no discretionary authority to vary the process for parents who cannot complete address moves in time to make use of them for admissions purposes. If you have queries relating to this, please email the team on one of the email addresses below.

Key dates

Friday 3 November 2023	Online application process opens. Go to ***www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions*** to register and apply.
Monday 15 January 2024	Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to ***kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk***
Tuesday 16 April 2024	Offers of school places sent to parents via email after **4pm.**
Tuesday 30 April 2024	Parents should contact the school to accept/refuse the place that has been offered and can use the link in the offer email to ask for their child to be added to the waiting list of schools named on the original application.
Tuesday 14 May 2024	Appeals need to be lodged by this date to be heard before September – appeals information can be found at ***www.kent.gov.uk/schoolappeals.*** You can only appeal for schools that were named on the application form.

Need help?

Email ***primaryadmissions@kent.gov.uk*** or ***kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk***
Full information booklet can also be viewed online at ***kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions***

Only one application per pupil will be accepted. If you apply online, do not complete any other form of application. Keep your login details safe and use your registered email address for all communication with the team.

The confirmation email may go to your junk/spam folder of your email – please check here before contacting our team for confirmation.

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

Lunch Menu – Week 1

Week beginning Monday 1st January 2024

Please follow the link below to register and pay for your child's meals:
https://chandcoparents.myschoolmealorders.com/login

£2.67 per day – All meals must be paid in advance

YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK ONE

WEEK COMMENCING 30/10/2023 – 20/11/2023- 11/12/2023 – 02/01/2024 – 22/01/2024 – 04/03/2024 – 25/03/2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Margherita pizza (gluten, milk, soya, may contain egg) (v)	Butter Chicken with rice (milk)	Sausage toad & gravy (egg, gluten, milk sulphites)	Beef bolognese & pasta (gluten)	Fish fingers (fish, gluten)
MAIN MEAL TWO	Salmon fishcake (fish (salmon) gluten)	Mac n cheese (gluten, milk) (v)	Meatfree mince & Yorkshire (egg, gluten, milk, soya) (vg)	Five bean chilli Nachos (gluten) (v)	Herby lentil flatbread (gluten, milk, soya, may contain egg) (v)
SIDES	Baked potato Wedges Baked beans, Homemade bread (gluten, milk, soya, may contain egg) Salad	Sweetcorn, Tomato & garlic bread (gluten, milk, soya, may contain egg) Salad	Roast potatoes, Winter veg medley, Crusty bread (gluten, may contain soya) Salad	Sweetcorn, green beans, Homemade bread (gluten, milk, soya, may contain egg) Salad	Chips, peas, Homemade bread (gluten, milk, soya, may contain egg) Salad
PUDDINGS	Flapjack with apple (gluten) (vg)	Chocolate biscuit (milk, gluten) (v)	Ice cream (milk) (v)	Sticky apple cake (egg, gluten, milk, soya) (v)	Winter fruit strudel & custard (egg, gluten, milk) (v)

Available daily

Jacket potatoes with beans, cheese (milk), fresh fruit

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD INGREDIENTS BE UNAVAILABLE

Term 3 2024

Monday 1st January:
BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 2nd January:
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 3rd January:
FIRST DAY OF TERM 3

Thursday 4th January:

Friday 5th January:

Follow these links to our website and social media

https://www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk/

https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-C-of-E-Primary-School-820857021275490/

https://twitter.com/stmarysdover

As always, please don't hesitate to make contact via email or telephone with any queries, comments or concerns you may have.

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