



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Learning through faith

Address: St. Mary's C.E. Primary
Academy
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Tel/Fax: 01282 612191
Date: 6th December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I would just like to say a huge thank you to those parents who attended our first Parent Forum meeting last night, the school staff found it hugely beneficial and I hope you did too.

We discussed the following agenda items:

1. Sporting events/after school clubs - Parents who were present at the meeting, plus the questionnaire responses, confirms that everyone is happy with the sporting opportunities provided. One suggestion was that it would be helpful if school could provide parents with a full schedule of sporting activities for the year. We agreed that this is a great idea, unfortunately, the Pendle Sports Partnership do not plan definite dates more than a term ahead of time, but once we have the dates confirmed Mrs Loach will send out a timetable of sporting events as far in advance as possible. Mr Parkinson also said he had a contact who would be able to help with setting up an orienteering course, we look forward to receiving more details.

2. Aspirations Day Event - both parents and staff love this idea. We have held such an event once before and the children gained so much from it. Prior to the event we spend time talking to the children about what 'aspirations' are and why exactly they do attend school - all in preparation for their futures.

We then invite people from various chosen careers/backgrounds. For example, last time we invited a lady farmer, veterinary nurse, plumber, doctor, engineer, fireman, wagon driver, PCSO... All spoke to the children in small groups about the path they had taken in choosing their careers. The children who were dressed up in outfits that represented what they wanted to do when they 'grew up' eagerly asked each person many questions about their jobs and working life. It was a very enjoyable experience for all who took part. We are planning to arrange an Aspirations Day in the new year. If you would like to volunteer to take part or know someone else who would, please let me know.



At St Mary's we believe that it is possible for ordinary people to choose to be extraordinary!

3. Open morning/afternoon - the best time to have these was discussed, bearing in mind a lot of our parents' work. It is hoped that if parents are given plenty of notice they may be able to arrange to come into school for an hour either first thing in the morning or for the last hour in the afternoon. Having been a working Mum I totally understand how difficult it can be.

4. Parental involvement in the organisation of F.O.N. activities - again it appears that it is the timing of the meetings that is proving to be an issue. Parents suggested maybe having the meetings after school, possibly in the pub. It was acknowledged that the FON ladies do an amazing job raising money for the school and people like to support when they are able.

5. School vision and motto - Mrs Nightingale explained following last summer's questionnaire that parents do not know what the school's vision or motto are. As a church school it is important that parents support the school's ethos, which is driven by both its vision and motto. It is the ethos of the school that underpins all we do at St Mary's.

The school's motto is **'Learning through faith'** and our vision is **'At St Mary's we believe that ordinary people can choose to be extraordinary.'** Both of which are on our letterheads and are on the walls of the school hall and classrooms. The motto is also on the children's sweatshirts. We discussed how to immerse parents with the language of the vision and motto in Celebration Assembly via prayer and reference. We will be in the window for a SIAMs Inspection next year, when inspectors will be asking parents of their understanding of the school's ethos, vision and values.

Other business - parents are enjoying more pictures being posted on our Facebook page and it is

our intention to continue posting!!!! 😊 Following a parental request, a text will be forwarded on each Thursday to advise if your child is the Wizard of the Week. Please can we ask not to share this information with your children. Thank you.

The date of the next Parent Forum meeting is 18th March 2023 at 3:30pm, please come along.

Kind regards,

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