

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close. It has been an excellent year and I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

Our Year 6 data is once again fantastic (see table) and again above the national percentages for children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing, mathematics, GPS and combined. This represents further incredible achievements for the children. The children and the staff have worked incredibly hard during the course of the year and can be rightly proud of all that they have achieved in every part of the school.

Key Stage 2		% achieving the expected standard or above (National in brackets)		
Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS	r/w/m combined
83% (73%)	79% (78%)	83% (79%)	83% (78%)	76% (65%)
% achieving greater depth				
Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS	
34%	14%	41%	48%	

The children look so smart in the new uniform and the House coloured PE tops. The ties (each made from two plastic bottles and designed by one of our children) have been presented to the current year 5 ready for September, when I am sure that they will rise to the challenges of Year 6 admirably.

Sports day was once again a super event, with all of the children taking part and displaying sportsmanship, determination and resilience. There have been many other sporting events this year including the Colour Dash, Ski trip, Football, Netball, Tag rugby and Cross country events, to name but a few. The children always represent the school in the best possible way and we receive many compliments from spectators and organisers alike. For next year we have purchased smart St Mark's sports tops for the children to wear at events. This increased representation at events has meant that the school has now achieved the School Games Mark Gold. We are very proud of this and it shows our strong commitment to sport.

We have won the Clean Air competition which was a TWBC promoted competition. The competition taught children about air pollution, particularly related to car engines being left on. The banners created by the children were fantastic and we were very proud to see them in the Courier. This sort of project goes hand in hand with the school's promotion of safe driving and parking around the school. Operation Motion also supported this and we were awarded a scooter pod.

The year has also contained a great range of trips and visits, which have enhanced the topics that have been covered throughout the year, such as Chatham Dockyards, Wakehurst Place, Howletts, British Museum, Leeds Castle, Bore Place and Rochester Cathedral.

The PTA have once again been absolutely brilliant with all of their help, support and fundraising. We are very grateful for all that they do and the support that you provide for the school.

I would also like to thank the Parents Reps. I really value the conversations that we have and I believe that there has been a very positive impact on the school as a result of our discussions and the modifications that we have made.

I hope that you all have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you again in September. I wish the Year 6 children well at secondary school and I look forward to hearing about all of their future successes.

Best wishes,

Mr Bird