

HEADTEACHER'S BLOG

Miss Deakin & Mr Gilmour

October 2020



Because of teamwork, the team really works...

What a delight these past few weeks have been!

We are privileged and honoured to be part of such a dedicated and happy team. When you are used to working in a small school, you really see the importance of positivity, collaborative work and having an absolute love of spinning many plates at a time. Luckily, we love this and we love being at St. Mary's. Before I begin this blog, I would like to thank the established staff team at our school because they have been so welcoming and happy to help. The creativity, tireless hours spent on enabling wonderful learning areas for the children and the absolute dedication for St. Mary's is in abundance.

The children are an absolute delight and credit to parents and carers. I can't put into words how endearing they are and I have to say how impressed we are with how they have all come back so enthusiastic, happy and ready to learn. There have been some staffing changes but we continue to teach with vibrancy and the children continue to learn with excitement. May I add how polite the children all are here-they really cannot do enough for you and they chat to us (and each other) with such sparkle and warmth. Yes-this is a wonderful place to be.

I was going to call this blog a couple of different titles because there have been a few comical moments involving my time here, which have involved in 'busy bodyness' and manual labour. If something needs to be done, it just needs to be done.

My ears pricked up when Mrs Gornall had told me that they had great plans for the outdoor EYFS area and that was it! On hearing that there were substantial works due to start soon, I had a pen to the ready and less than substantial shoes for walking in mud! Wellies would certainly be needed and ideas were bounced here and there. This is what I love about primary schools, so many ideas just waiting to come to life. Huge pipes were on their way with pallets, tyres and various other resources to facilitate excellent outdoor learning. All was calm during many conversations with the building contractors until I popped out and the man sighed! I don't think I explained an outdoor doorway too well and he had a bit of a shock as to what we actually wanted creating! Mrs Ball and Mrs Gornall had all this in hand and the pictures did a better job at describing the plans than I ever could!

The first idea for the blog title was: I gave her a wrinkle. (quote from a member of staff) It turns out that I could not use this title because I did, in fact, not give her a wrinkle. She is absolutely wrinkle less!

Every area in a school should be a magical learning area for children and we were on a mission to make the most of the Caterpillar room. The day I wore scruffy clothes to help transform the room into another learning room was great, tiring and terrible because my wisdom tooth decided to make an appearance and it wasn't easy. Mr Gilmour is not the most useful handyman and he took far too long when building the role play furniture. The pair of us, through fits of laughter, couldn't

fathom how to remove a gymnastics horse, from the room, through a doorway, what seemed like a narrow doorway - but, be reassured, we can run a school! It is quite unbelievable really how long simple things can take. Since then, a week has passed and Mrs Gornall has tirelessly resourced the room and created wonderful areas for the children to learn in. The room looks brilliant now and the children love it. I was told, the same week, that I had tired one member of staff out with all the furniture removal and it had caused the appearance of a wrinkle!

The second idea was for a title: He was a shadow of his former self. This was because Elmer (the colourful elephant) disappeared from the Caterpillar room and left behind a great big Elmer shadow on the display board. He is safe and well in the outdoor reading shed but it was one of those moments you had to have been there for.

The third title was: Once a week is enough! Now, I'm not one of these people who is easily offended but I do know people who tolerate my company in a school for more than one day a week - so I think I will leave that one out.

Title 4: He called him 'little man'. Mr Gilmour made a classic blooper last Friday with our skilled ICT technicians. I'll explain because Mr Gilmour is still embarrassed. Mr Gilmour has a baby whose name is Josh. The ICT technician apprentice shares the same name too. Mr Gilmour also calls his son 'little man' and he associates 'little man' with the name Josh. Oh dear- you can probably guess what is coming now. Yes, he did, he called the ICT technician apprentice 'little man' purely out of an 9 month old habit. This is fine if you know the background but when you meet someone for the first time, it can be quite awkward. Oh well, we are all on very good terms and we have our new website!

In other news: Mr Gilmour has arranged a new promotional school video to be made for our new website, and it will look amazing. Using drone technology, it will really show you the beautiful grounds that the children have at our wonderful school. Exciting times ahead!

As you will all know, we are looking for a full time teacher in Class 2. We are excited at the prospect of finding a new member of staff to join our hard working, committed team at St. Mary's. We hope to have someone in place as soon as we can!

Have a lovely weekend everyone!