



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14th December

*St Mary's Catholic Primary School*  
*"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"*

## **Important dates for your diary:**

### **14th December Christmas Party day**

Years Foundation, 1  
and 2

Christmas Concert  
St Mary's Church  
hall 7pm

### **15th December**

Last day of term

1:30pm close

1:30-2:30pm

"Carols around the  
tree"—all welcome!

### **3rd January 2018**

Children return to  
school

**\*\*\*STOP PRESS \*\*\***

### **INSET days 2017/18**

2nd January 2018

19th February 2018

25th May 2018

Please see the school  
calendar  
(published subject to  
change)

Dear Parents and Carers,

After another extremely busy and hardworking term for all the staff, children and governors it has been a lovely few weeks in school as we celebrate the festive period. I have enjoyed listening to the children in the foundation stage, year one and year two rehearse for their Nativities and their performances were delightful and showed off the developing talents of all our children as they sang songs and performed, to tell the Christmas Story. I'm sure that anyone in the audience for one of these events will have felt a mixture of pride, admiration and joy at the quality of the pupils' talents. As you can probably imagine there is a lot of hard work goes into ensuring the shows and services are successful and so I would like to thank all the staff for their commitment and enthusiasm over the last few weeks. We are always looking to improve our provision so, whilst it is lovely to hear lots of positive comments from parents and grandparents, I would also welcome any feedback on aspects we could change for next year.

Mrs Wilson has been incredibly busy in recent weeks leading our musical provision, and was very proud to take a large group of children to perform in the Poole Schools' Music Association Christmas Concert at the Lighthouse theatre. This gave them the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents, those pupils who have grasped this opportunity have been a credit to themselves, the school and their families.

Thanks to Mrs Evans, our new Sports Leader, for all the sporting activities which she has organised over the term, with more to come I hear!

The PTA have also been exceptionally busy this term. They have successfully organised the Key Stage 2 disco, the Key stage 1 movie night, the Christmas Fayre, and they supported the children's parties with an extra special visit from Father Christmas. This year they also contributed towards all the children in Key Stage 2 having Christmas Dinner and arranged an army of elf helpers to help with the logistics of serving 300 meals in two hours! Thank you to all those that have contributed in some way, it is very much appreciated by the staff, governors and children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Lots of you have attended many events over the term to support your child and their learning at St. Mary's. We really appreciate your dedication and support, especially with homework.

We look forward to the Christmas concert and the "Carols around the Christmas Tree" which will finish off the term remembering the true meaning of Christmas. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to these events. Please bring relatives and friends.

I hope everyone has a very happy and Holy Christmas.

Helen Armstrong

Headteacher



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[www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk)



Merry Christmas to our Year 5 & 6 Netballers who celebrated by dressing up for Christmas and their end of year party!

We have enjoyed playing every week, despite the recent cold weather! Hopefully next year we can play some friendly matches against other schools.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

### Netball Fun!

Year 3 & 4 Netballers dressed up Christmas Style, for their end of year party and mini tournament!

We have had a great time training.

Merry Christmas everyone and we look forward to seeing you all next year, Netball Club will resume in the New Year.

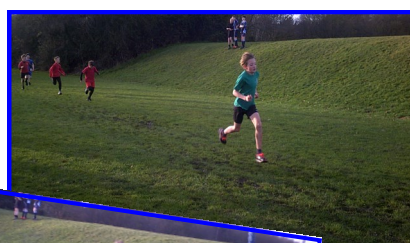


### Sport at St Mary's

#### Cross Country

On Thursday 9th November, a group of Year 5 and 6 children took part in a cross country race at Canford School. We were lucky enough to have two of our boys finish in the top 5! A big well done to all children who took part.

On Thursday 7th December at Ferndown Upper School Year 6 boys excelled themselves, as you can see from the photos below they all enjoyed the competitive nature of this run!



#### Football

We are in the process of organising throughout the year. Mrs Evans received the dates.

some football matches with other schools will make announcements when she has

#### Swimming

We would love to hear all about children's swimming achievements outside of school. Look out for information at the start of the Spring term as Mrs Evans would love to see children's swimming certificates.

#### Julia's House and school Fundraising

Look out for information at the start of the Spring term about our special fundraising event for Julia's House. The children will be collecting sponsorship for running a mile as quick as they can!

#### PE Reminder

Please ensure all children have the correct PE kit in school for their PE lesson. Also a reminder that earrings must be removed or be covered with tape (please ensure your child is sent to school with this) for safety reasons.

## At Christmas...

'Christmas' seems to start earlier every year and it is so easy to get sucked into the frenetic busyness, shopping obligations and financial stress .

But Advent conspirators are joining the Advent Conspiracy and steering the party back to Jesus, through four pillars of Advent:

**Worship Fully** – because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus

**Spend Less** – Love is expressed more in the nature of the giving than the gift itself

**Give more** – Let people know you love them this Christmas by being available.

**Worship Fully** – Gratitude calls us to think beyond our personal failure and success.

**Love all** – Widen the circle of our concern to people who don't think like us, look like us or behave like us.

May this advent lift your spirit and turn your attention to our greater aspirations.



## School Council

In the School Council we have been talking about the KS2 bank area. We've looked at what is good and bad about it. We have taken photos of it and are writing a report about what needs to be fixed.

A Governor attended our last School Council meeting. It was a good opportunity for them to see what happens at our meetings.

Lola—Year 4

## PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

As a school our budget is increasingly being squeezed by the government.

One way of us generating extra funding is for all pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding to actually apply for it. If you think you may be eligible you can check the criteria at [www.poole.gov.uk/PupilPremium](http://www.poole.gov.uk/PupilPremium) . Please note in fact that this form can be used for all year groups. You will also find this information on the reverse of the application form. Application forms are available from either the school office or the Borough website. All completed forms should be returned to Free School Meals and Education Transport, Dolphin Centre, Poole, BH15 1SA.

All pupils who are eligible and apply will receive a school uniform subsidy, day and residential visit subsidies and free educational resources (e.g. books, phonics flashcards). Access to additional tuition, whether 1-1 or as part of small groups, is also possible.

If you have any questions about Pupil Premium Funding then please contact the school office and ask for Mrs Rushton, our School Business Manager.

## Safeguarding at St Mary's

### E Safety

Last week I attended my Level 3 safeguarding update. There were lots of useful links for parent and carers.

A key website for parents to access information with regards to online safety is the NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Also the Dorset Police Online safety information <https://www.dorset.police.uk/neighbourhood-policing/safe-schools-communities-team/online-safety-education/supporting-parents/>

### Facebook and other social media

We appreciate that lots of parents took photographs and videos at the recent performances. We would just like to remind everyone to be mindful of how these are shared on social media.

Thank you





## Music News!

### Another successful Poole Schools' Music Festival Concert!



30 pupils from St. Mary's Catholic Primary School joined 16 schools from across Poole to join together and celebrate the festive season at the Poole Schools' Music Festival Concert in the Poole Lighthouse. 12 primary, junior and first schools made up the Junior Choir and wowed parents with a range of choral numbers including some fabulous solos and song actions; it certainly got the audience in a Christmassy mood! The children also had the unique opportunity to sing with pupils from the four secondary schools and showed great maturity and musicality to perform some beautiful items.

Huge thanks and congratulations go to all our pupils who have worked so hard to learn all the songs off by heart and have participated in the event with great enthusiasm and

community spirit. We can't wait for next year!

**STOP PRESS!** If you missed our performance at Poole Lighthouse, you can see us in action on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in our Christmas Celebration Concert at St. Mary's RC Church. We look forward to seeing you there!



I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to more exciting musical activities in the New Year!

Spring tuition information will be sent out shortly.

Mrs Wilson.



### Well done and thank you!

St Mary's School raised £408.27 for Children in Need by donating to wear Spotacular clothes instead of their St Mary's uniform!



### Cake Sale!

The Mini Vin- raised **£130.21.**

Thank you for all of your donations!



### Poppy Appeal

Thank you for buying from our poppy supplies. We managed to raise £55.30 for the Royal British Legion.

### Catholic Community

Is there more to life than this?

St Mary's and St Anthony's are running an Alpha course on Wednesday evenings, January to March 2018. Each meal, talk and discussion gives an opportunity to think, and talk about, the big questions of life, faith and reason, God and meaning. For details please contact :

Andrew Williams

[andrewwilliams1150@gmail.com](mailto:andrewwilliams1150@gmail.com)

Tel: 01202 460162

Is there  
more to  
life than this

Alpha

### Parent Reader's Group

Thank you to the parents who commit to reading with our children weekly.

You all do a fantastic job and I would like to say a big thank you!

Mrs Cassidy



## Eco Club gets off to a Great Start!

In October, the applications for Eco Club were launched, and we had an over welling response! Over 40 children applied to become an Eco Warrior and 23 children were awarded a place. Our new Eco Club members are: Year 5: Sherwin, Marina, Ciara, Nicole, Angela and Olivier. Year 4: Ellie, Elayna, Roobyn and James. Year 3: Finn, Amelia, Sienna, Annabelle, Chelzin, Kaitlyn, Jennah, Anastasia, Deon, Jake, Kally, Beatrice and Phoenix.

The Eco warriors have been very busy recycling, litter picking and designing eco posters. This term our main focus has been working on our 'Pond Project'. We are currently digging out a new pond in the pond area environment. This is a really exciting project and the new pond should be ready to receive life wild by the Spring. We will be holding a **'Big Dig'** in the new year, where we will be asking parents to grab a spade and help us complete the pond! Details to follow in the January.

We were very lucky to have the help of seven 6th form students from Canford School to help us start the pond project. They spend the morning hard at work starting to dig out the pond. Our thanks go to these amazing students and to David Allen and Nick Jones for helping to organise this community project. We look forward to inviting these students back to see the completed pond in Spring.





### Changes to pick up

We understand that delays in pick up can inevitably happen, can we ask that you telephone the school office as soon as you are aware so that we can ensure that the class teacher is informed.

If your child is signed up to an after school club it is essential that you let us know if they will not be attending as a register is taken and we need to check on the whereabouts of any missing children. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to keep all children safe in school.

### Safeguarding

The Senior Designated Leader for Safeguarding is Mrs Betts. The Deputy Lead is Mrs Armstrong.

Mr Howard, Mrs Hazell and Mrs Wright are also Deputies.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any concerns.

### Uniform

Thank you for sending your children to school looking smart and following our uniform policy. It is lovely to see: please keep to our standard uniform of neutral or dark coloured hair accessories being worn in hair, ties being used with shirts that have a top button, no pinafores in key stage two, blue skirts and charcoal trousers.

We very much appreciate your support in ensuring your child wears the proper uniform.



### PTA News

Thank you for all your help and support over the past year.

We would all like to wish you a peaceful Christmas and look forward to working with you to raise funds for the benefit for all the children at St Mary's.

*Your PTA*

We are always delighted to hear of pupil's extra curricular activities!

If your child would like to share their achievements with the St Mary's community please contact their class teacher.

We will endeavour to share these via the newsletter whenever but cannot promise to include every article.

Thank you.



### Happy Christmas!

F2D enjoying party day today!



### Road Safety

The Chair of governors and I will be meeting with Nick Ellis from the council to discuss the transport issues around St. Mary's and looking for ways to try and make it as safe as possible for all our pupils.

This meeting has been arranged in response to a parent writing to our Governors and asking them to look at the road safety issue on the roads surrounding our school. We will keep you all updated with this.

On the same theme please can I remind you that we operate a drop off system in the morning to allow parents to drive up to school and not have to worry about parking.

Please drive into the school slowly (5mph) and drop your child off in the drop off zone.

Please do not park on the left hand side of Devon Road as you are coming up to school or do turns in the middle of the road as this causes concerns for the safety of our children.

**Finally please can I ask you to be considerate to our neighbours in Devon Road and the surrounding residential area. Thank you for your continued support.**

### First Day Contact

First day contact will be made with parents if a child is absent and the reason has not been communicated to school. This should in no way be considered to be intrusive or a nuisance, it is purely to ensure the safety and well-being of all our children.

Please ensure that you call the school absence line on 01202 676207 option 1 or alternatively email the school office at:

office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk **by 9:00 am please.**



Thank you for helping us to ensure all the children are safe at all times.



### Hot school meals

Please be reminded that dinner money and Early Bird bookings should be paid in advance of the meals being taken. Please contact the school office if you would like to pay online for trips and lunches.

Thank you for your support.

### Attendance

Poole Borough Council have re-organised their attendance provision for schools and we have been allocated Jan Traynor who will be working closely with our school and our parents.

Her focus will be around those who are persistently absent from school, those for whom attendance has dropped below 95% and those who are late into school in the mornings.

As you know attendance figures are monitored closely by the Department for Education and hopefully the support that Poole Borough are offering will enable us to provide the support you may need.

If you would like to meet with Jan then please arrange a meeting via the school office.

### Coughs & sneezes, vomiting bugs etc!

Whilst we continue to improve attendance we have to acknowledge that we are still in the season of germs! Please may we remind parents and carers of the 48

hour rule which is particularly important at this time of year.

If your child has suffered a tummy upset please do not send him/her to school until 48 hours after the last symptom. If you are aware that sickness has been caused by something other than a bug, (for example too much party food!) please ensure you inform the class teacher as in such instances the 48 hour rule does not apply!

If your child is suffering from a cough, cold or any illness that allows them to be in school medicated we are happy to administer **prescribed** medicine in school, if it requires giving 4 times a day, and we will ask that you complete a form with detailed instructions beforehand.

Thank you.

