



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

29th March 2018

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ



Important dates

for your diary

29th March

Last day of Spring Term
School closes 3:15pm

16th April

School Restarts Summer
Term

20th April

Whole school Mass at
Church

27th April

KS2 Disco

4th May

Foundation Family Friday

11th May

Year 5 Mass and Coffee
Morning

14th-17th May

KS2 SATs

18th May

Year 1 Liturgy and Coffee
morning

21st-24th May

Walk to school week

21st and 23rd May

Parent/Teacher
consultations

23rd May

KS2 BSO Concert

24th May

Charity cake sale for Julia's
House

Break for half term 3:15pm

INSET days:

25th May 2018

Please see school calendar
(published subject to
change)

Staff News

Mr Rolston has chosen to take voluntary severance to enable him to pursue an alternative career. As a result he will be leaving St. Mary's at the end of April. Mr Rolston has worked in a variety of roles at St. Mary's for nearly 12 years. We would like to thank him for all he has done and offer our very best wishes for his future career.

We would like to welcome Miss Robins who has joined us as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant.

I met with Mrs Watts last week to plan her phased return to school after Easter. I was so pleased to see her feeling much better and she was looking forward to getting back to Year 5. She is still awaiting an appointment for the operation that was cancelled. We look forward to having her back in school. Our thanks go to Mrs Lomas who has worked very hard in Year 5 and I know she will work closely with Mrs Watts when she returns.

Road Safety

Recently I had a meeting with Nick Ellis from BoP Transport and two councillors from Oakdale, Ian Potter and Andy Watts.

In our meeting we discussed that the increasing number of cars in the morning is creating more pollution and issues with safety. Sadly just this week there was an accident with one of our parents on Hunt Road (fortunately nobody was injured).

Nick Ellis has agreed to work with our school council to produce some suggestions to try and reduce the number of cars, this will include looking at places locally where cars can be parked to allow families to walk a short distance to school. I am certain that the children will come up with other initiatives as well. I look forward to watching the children develop this project and sharing with both our local community and families.

After School Club

We are delighted to tell you that we have been given permission to start an After School Club at St Mary's. The club will start after the Easter break and will run from 3:15 to 6:00 Monday to Friday and will be run by staff currently employed by the school, giving the children the benefit of being supervised by familiar people. We hope that this will prove useful to our parents and carers.

If you wish your child to attend the club, please complete a registration form and a booking form for the Summer. Both forms are available on the school website and from the school office.

Children are welcome to still join in with after school activities and then go to After School Club.

Weather

Who would have thought we would have had two lots of snow in March! It did cause some disruption at St. Mary's! Thank you for your support and for making sure the children were safe and enjoyed fun in the snow. As adults I think we all dread the coming of snow and the difficult decisions that we have to make, however the children love it! I have never been asked to keep so many snowballs safe when the children arrive at school holding them in a morning. We have developed lots of super hiding places!



01202 676207

"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"



office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

School Council News

In School Council meetings this term we have been talking about the bank area near the Key Stage Two playground. Key Stage Two have not been able to use this area at playtimes for a long time so we have investigated to find out why.

All the members of school council went onto the bank with Mrs Thain to do a survey of it. We took notes on all the good things we saw and all of the problems we found. We also took photos of these things. We used the photos and notes to write a report about the bank to give to Mrs Armstrong. We were really pleased when we received a reply from Mrs Armstrong. The equipment is going to be fixed!

The School Council have also helped Mrs Evans decide how to spend our share of the the money raised with the Julia's House fundraising event. We had great fun looking through catalogues choosing equipment we can use at playtimes.

Healthy Schools News

Water in school—one thing is clear, a hydrated child is a much happier child for a number of reasons:

1. It boosts learning

- The key to boosting the capacity to learn is to keep well hydrated throughout the day.
- When we are thirsty, mental performance including memory, attention and concentration can decrease by about 10 per cent. Pupils concentrate better because they are not distracted by the effects of dehydration such as thirst, tiredness and irritability.
- Children will achieve more when both their health and learning needs are met. Ensuring free access to water and promoting a regular water intake throughout the school day is a vital role for schools in promoting health and providing a healthy learning environment.

2. It's healthy!

- Drinking adequate amounts of water regularly throughout the day can protect health and contribute to well-being.
- Drinking adequate amounts of water can help prevent a range of short and long-term health problems from headaches, bladder, kidney and bowel problems to cancer.
- Water has none of the health problems associated with drinks containing sugar, additives, sweeteners, acids or caffeine.

Please send your child with a water bottle filled with **WATER** to school each day!



Fairtrade Fortnight



A huge thank you to all who supported us during Fairtrade Fortnight. This year's theme was **COME ON IN TO FAIRTRADE**. Our children did just that, through assemblies, learning activities.

Key Stage 1 visited a Fairtrade stall and Key stage 2 pupils ran, and visited, a Pupil Café held in school.

Our takings for this event raised a successful £249.00. A big THANK YOU to all our supporters!



Wanted!

If you have any board games, puzzles, Lego and construction equipment, books etc that your child has outgrown please would you consider donating them to the school.

They are particularly useful on rainy days when the children are unable to play outside and need stimulating and entertaining during "wet play".

Thank you.

Charity

Some of you may be aware, from the parish church, of the work Andrew L. Díaz Russell and his wife, Cris carry out overseas. Below you can see some of the redundant St Mary's equipment which Andrew has been able to use to help the blind. The project are always looking for canes, old glasses, magnifying glasses, computers, (not monitors) old PCs and laptops. Please use this link for further details of this marvellous work: <https://youtu.be/CwbAohIQnuY>



Donations

CAFOD's recent Fast Day raised **£159.06**. Remember the UK Government promised to match this year's donations so thank you for this wonderful donation!



The launch of 'Bag2school' raised over **£136.00**. Thank you to all the parents who cleared out their cupboards and filled the bags full of old clothes, shoes, bags and soft toys. We hope this will be repeated on a regular basis as parents and carers seem delighted to dispose of unwanted items! The money raised will be for the PTA funds.



Easter egg donations: what can we say, we were inundated!

Julia's House, Poole Hospital, Poole Food Bank, Diverse Abilities, Horizon and Muscliffe nursing homes all benefitted from Bunny Bingo, as did a large number of children from each class!

Charity Cake Sale:

£137.05 was raised at the latest cake sale which will go to our local charity, Julia's House. Thanks to the Mini Vinnies for organising this event.

Sport Relief

Thanks to your donations we raised £466.00 out of the £38,195,278 raised so far for Sport Relief 2018 nationally!



We raised a staggering £2012.80 from sponsorship for Julia's House Extra Mile! This will be shared between the school and the charity. All the children who raised any money, no matter how small through sponsorship, received a medallion!



Julia's House
The Dorset & Wiltshire Children's Hospices



Trophy Success at the Lions Club of Poole 40th Swimathon

Congratulations to our twelve swimmers who swam in the annual Lions Club Swimathon. This was a really exciting event and our two St. Mary's teams did their very best and showed super sports - person ship. Well done! Our team members were: Antoni, Benny, Lucas, Arabella, Kaitlin, Alexander, Samuel, Jack, Delen, Samuel and Isabella.

We were awarded two magnificent trophies; both for raising the most amount of money. We won the Lions Millennium Shield for the most money raised by a school and the Lions Silver Jubilee Cup for St. Mary's Team 1 raising the most money! Our swimmers raised an amazing £322.20 for our nominated charity, CAFOD, for the Lent Appeal. Gift Aid was able to be included on the original £292.20 raised by the school. This was the most we've ever raised at this event. A fantastic effort by all – thank you to all the parent, family and friends supporters and the swimming team members!

Next year the event is on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd February and we are hoping to enter a teachers/ TAs team, as well as pupil teams! It should be fun!

Year 4 Poole School's Swimming Gala

Congratulations to the Year 4 swimming team! We came 6th place overall in Poole. All the children put in their very best effort, and for most of the team, this was their first ever swimming gala. Well done!

Year 4 team:
Oliver, Alex,
Samuel and James

Sophia, Elysia, Lily,
Lola and Mareena.

The Year 4 Team
are pictured
below.



Year 5/6 Poole School's Swimming Gala

Well done to the Year 5/6 children who represented St. Mary's in the Poole School's Swimming Gala! We put in an excellent effort. The Year 6 boys team did especially well, and were awarded 3rd place in the 4 x 25m mixed stroke relay. They were: **Luca , James, Samuel and Antoni .**

Huge congratulations go to **Luca and James** who both achieved 1st place in their 50m events and 2nd place in the 25m fly (James) and 100m freestyle (Luca). Well done!

Year 5 team: **Oscar, Benny, Byron and Harrison. Sienna, Nicole, Sophie and Rhianna.**

Year 6 girls team: **Lily, Keira, Vicky and Aoife.**



Eco Club Poole School's Environment Badge Competition Winners

Thank you to everyone who entered our badge competition to design a badge for the Eco Club members to wear. We had an over-whelming response and it was very difficult to choose a winner! The overall winner was Alicia from Year 3.

Congratulations for your fantastic design Alicia! Alicia's design was made into badges and our 24 Eco Club members are now proudly wearing them. The winners of this competition are:

Overall winner and KS2 winner: Alicia

KS2 2nd place: Jennah

KS2 3rd place: Charlotte

KS2 4th place: Deon

KS1 1st place: Lotanne

KS1 2nd place: Aaron

KS1 3rd place: Noah

KS1 4th place: Harriet

All the winning designs can be seen on the Eco Club board in school.



Science News

Fourteen more children were awarded a 'Great Scientist' award certificate for this Spring term, in our assemblies this week. Well done!

St. Mary's continues to deliver exciting Science lessons and develop our children into young enthusiastic scientists! Our four main Science principles continue to underpin all our lessons. These are:

'Science teaching at our school is good when...'

- We create an environment where children are confident to 'have a go'.
- Science lessons are practical, 'hands on' and active.
- There are many opportunities for child led scientific enquiry, where children discover for themselves.
- Children are engaged and are encouraged to ask questions.

We have had several visitors to St. Mary's this term, including a ranger from the Urban heath Partnership and several RSPB visitors. We took part in the **National Big Bird Watch** in February, and the data collected from our surveys was imputed into the national survey for the UK. Thank you to all our enthusiastic bird watchers from the Eco Club, Year 1 and Year 3.

Eco Club News – Language Bonanza Event

In February, ten of our Eco Club members were selected to go on a trip to Poole Grammar School to take part in their annual Language Bonanza Event.

The children were extremely well behaved, immersing themselves in the activities the pupils organised for them, and they were a credit to our school.

They enjoyed celebrating languages and cultures from around the world with a special lunch, which included healthy, freshly cooked dishes from around the world.

They also took part in quizzes and language games, lead by the Grammar students themselves.



Blue Peter Badge Winner!

Congratulations to Grace M who won a Blue Peter Badge last month for her care and commitment to the environment and to nature. Grace has helped create our bug hotel, designed an Eco Club badge and has been a committed member of the St. Mary's Eco Club for several years.

The Blue Peter team were really impressed with her 'fantastic work' that she does. Not only was Grace awarded a special Green Blue Peter Badge, but she was also awarded a Blue Peter badge card that allows her free access to over 200 Blue Peter Badge attractions throughout the UK. Well done Grace! We are very proud of you.

The Catholic Life of St Mary's Catholic Primary School

As a Governor it is my privilege to come into St Mary's School for a number of different reasons during the term; governor meetings, staff meetings, staff CPD, to see children's work or to be a part of various events. However due to work commitments I rarely get to be in school for any of the year group Masses or liturgies. So it was a real pleasure to be in school during a Friday in Lent and to take the time out to visit the chapel in the morning break time, when the Mini Vinnies were leading one of the Stations of the Cross.

I was so impressed that a group of around 12 children, from a variety of year groups, came to the chapel and without prompting from an adult, knew which station they were to be praying that break time. They handed out the cards, and agreed amongst themselves who would read the introduction, who would lead the prayers etc. Then they proceeded to pray in a very respectful and mature way Station 10.

While the children were praying, more children arrived outside the chapel, but they waited very patiently until the first group had finished, then they swapped over and this new group of again about a dozen children, took over and repeated the process all over.

It was truly beautiful to experience children understanding the importance of the Stations of the Cross and respecting others while they were praying. The children are a real credit to the Catholic ethos of the school.

Eunice Masters
Governor



Uniform

As we are approaching the summer term it is perhaps a time to look at uniform.

Children are now permitted to wear blue gingham dresses, let's hope the weather improves! Shorts must be tailored and dark grey or black in colour.

Please remember sensible black shoes for all. A full list of uniform requirements is on the website.

Thank you for your continued support to keep high standards of uniform at St Mary's.



Year 1 news!

This week Year 1 had some very exciting visitors!

The week was the culmination of our science topic about animals. Some of the staff brought in their pets, and Mrs Mundy talked to the children about each one.

We were visited by a dog, a snake, a rabbit, two guinea pigs and two ferrets. The children asked great questions, and used their new knowledge to create fact sheets about the animals. The children were even able to touch the animals if they wanted to! A fabulous afternoon was had by all - including the pets!



eSchools

We have decided to move away from the eSchools platform and are looking at alternative options for parents evening bookings.

If you used eSchools to view your child's attendance and need a detailed attendance report in the future, please contact the school office and we will be happy to provide this.

Thank you.

Health and Safety

We are really pleased that lots of our children are cycling, scooting and even bouncing to school on pogo sticks. When collecting your child in the afternoon please do not let them ride, scoot or bounce in the school grounds as we have had a couple of near misses.

Thank you.

Safeguarding—Key Personnel for Child Protection

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Mrs Sharon Betts

Contact details: email: s.betts@st-marys.poole.sch.uk Telephone: **01202 676207**

The deputy DSL(s) are: Mrs Helen Armstrong; Mr Richard Howard, Mrs Bernadette Wright and Mrs Amanda Hazell

Contact details: email: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk Telephone: **01202 676207**

The nominated child protection governor is: Mrs Mary Norrish

Contact details: email: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk Telephone: **01202 676207**

The Headteacher is: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Contact details: email: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk Telephone: **01202 676207**

The Chair of Governors is: Mrs Ann Harris

Contact details: email: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk Telephone: **01202 676207**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any one of us with any concerns.

Staff vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Caretaker to look after our lovely school!

The position will be for a split shift daily and working part of the school holidays.

If you may be interested in this post please contact Amanda Hazell, PA to the Headteacher a.hazell@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

We would be delighted to give any interested parties a tour of the school!

Please our website for further details.

PTA NEWS

Thank you everyone for your support this term with the launch of 'Bag2school' and for bringing in your generous **Easter egg** donations. We are pleased to confirm that with your help we will have some wonderful donations for Julia's House, Poole Hospital and Poole Food Bank. As you know these charities are very close to St Mary's and I know that these will be greatly received.

'Dippy Day' was a magnificent event and we give thanks to Mrs Armstrong for bringing this event to St Mary's. It was lovely to see a good turnout and the papier-mâché artwork was amazing. Please take a look at them in the hall next time you are in school.

We are pleased to report that the new picnic benches have arrived and I trust you will agree that they look fantastic and the children have already made good use of them. Our project for the spring term will be to fund the replacement and repair of the wooden playground equipment so that the children can enjoy it when the weather gets better. We hope that the works will start shortly ready for the warmer weather.

We have some exciting events taking place in the next few months, these events have been very popular and the children have always enjoyed themselves. **27th April is the KS2 Disco** and **8th June is the KS1 Disco**.

We are always grateful for any help and support parents can provide at our events. At the moment we are planning our **Summer Fayre** on 29 June, if you would like to help run a stall please contact us on pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk or write to us c/o the school office. Half an hour of your time will help this event be a success. As always, if you or your company is able to provide a raffle prize we would really appreciate your help.

We previously mentioned we are hoping to have a silent auction at this year's Summer Fayre and if you have a talent, skill or business that you would be willing to share please let us know. This can include services such as car washing, cooking a meal, surf lesson etc.

Your continued support is always appreciated.

Your PTA



Joe Roebuck visit

On Wednesday 7th of March Mrs Evans arranged for KS2 to have a visit from the Olympic swimmer Joe Roebuck, and Amy Smith, Commonwealth medal holder, as part of a Sports for Schools initiative. Joe set up a circuit training event in the school hall for all of the KS2 children which was great fun! Some of the staff joined in and it was lovely to hear the cheers from the children! As the children had completed the circuit so well there was time to give the Year 2 children the opportunity to take part, they have never changed in to PE kit so quickly due to the excitement! Joe also completed a sponsored circuit and showed the children his medals. Hopefully this afternoon will inspire the children and staff to take up a sport! The children had a fantastic afternoon and as a bonus £978.93 was raised through sponsorships, which will be shared with the initiative. Thank you for your support.



Netball

Congratulations and celebrations to our Year 5 Netball Team, who represented St. Mary's at the High Five Netball Tournament, achieving a well-deserved, Runner's Up place.



Excellent play by our team: Delan, Aoife, Chloe, Keke, Kieran, Julia, Rhianna, Angela & Julia.

Well done!

Year 3 Trip to The New Forest Wildlife Park

Our Year 3 children enjoyed an exciting trip to the New Forest Wildlife Park this term. They learnt about the habitats and characteristics of animals such as: otters, owls, lynx, wolves and deer.

The trip was led by experienced park rangers who taught us many interesting facts. The children used this information to create advertisements and to write descriptive stories in our English lessons.

You can see more photographs of the trip on the board in the corridor outside the Cookery Room. Thank you to all our parent helpers for helping us out on the trip.



Reflection

I wonder how your Lent is going?

If you are like me all those aims and good things we had planned to do for Lent might have gone by the wayside! But as always I'll try to do better next year!

But the main purpose of Lent is to prepare our hearts and our minds for the joy of Easter.

So, as you break up for your Easter holiday, we will be in Holy Week – this is the time when we remember Jesus going to Jerusalem knowing that he would end up on the cross.

On Wednesday the priests of the Diocese celebrate the Chrism Mass with Bishop Mark in the cathedral. In this particular Mass the Bishop blesses and consecrates the special oils we use for the sacraments in the coming year. The people hear the priests and Bishop Mark renew their promises as they dedicate themselves anew to Jesus and his ministry.

On Maundy Thursday in our parishes we celebrate the night when Jesus asked his friends and disciples to celebrate the Eucharist in memory of him. This is when we re-enact the washing of the disciples' feet – I wonder if it will be your foot we are washing?

Good Friday is always a solemn day for me as I go around with a serious face because this is the day we remember Jesus dying on the cross. Will you be joining us on the Walk of Witness which we do in Poole and Broadstone?

Holy Saturday always seems like an empty day as Jesus lays in the tomb, until the great celebration of the Easter vigil on Saturday night. On this night we are like Mary in the garden, seeing that the tomb is empty, for Jesus has risen and brings us all to new life!

It remains for me to wish you all and your families every blessing for a happy and joyous Easter.

God bless.

Father Colín



**Your prayers are powerful.
They mean so much to everyone
who wants to make the world a
better place for all
God's children.**

