



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

17th October 2017

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

## **Important dates for your diary**

**16th & 18th October**  
Parent/teacher  
consultations y1-6

**18th October**  
2018 Intake open  
morning 9:30am

**19th October**  
Charity cake sale  
F2 Information  
meetings 3:30 &  
6:30pm

**20th October**  
Mass—3M & 4He  
Last day of half term  
3:15pm close

**23rd-27th October**  
Half term - school  
closed

**30th October**  
2nd half Autumn term

**2nd November**  
PTA AGM 7pm

**3rd November**  
3S/4Ho Mass

**7th November**  
Y1 Phonics Evening  
School Photos

**8th November**  
Maths Information  
Evening

**All published dates  
are subject to  
change**

## **Staff news**

Our new staff have settled into the routines of St. Mary's and all our staff are continuing to make a strong contribution to the life of our school.

We had a visit recently from the new Head of School Improvement for Plymouth CAST, Louise Adams. Louise met with the senior leadership team before walking around the school, visiting all classes. She is working with a team of school improvement officers who will be visiting the our school each half term to review the effectiveness of our provision.

*Mrs Armstrong*

## **St Mary's Vision**

We have re-visited the vision and mission of our school. The purpose of a vision is to focus our key priorities. We look forward to working with you all in ensuring that our vision underpins the day to day ethos of our school.

### **Vision**

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

### **Mission**

As a Christian learning community, we nurture the key Gospel values of creativity, respect, spirituality and love through a curriculum that is inspired by the wonder of God's creation.

We strive for the highest standards of personal, social and intellectual development in order to inspire the **CREATIVITY** of all within our community.

By emphasising the fundamental importance of **RESPECT**, we recognise that we are all unique and so support each other along our personal journeys of faith.

We value the **SPIRITUALITY** of every member of our community and provide opportunities for all to experience prayer, worship and reflection.

**LOVE** underpins every action we take and is the cornerstone of all we do.

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

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

**2nd January 2018**

**19th February 2018**

**25th May 2018**

### **Safeguarding**

Please see the following link for a free leaflet giving clear and accessible information on how to keep your children safe whilst gaming online.

<http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Online-gaming-an-introduction-for-parents-and-carers-2017.pdf>



01202 676207

Email: [office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk)

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

## Healthy eating

Please be reminded that:

- no products containing nuts should be bought in to school – we are a NUT free school and have staff and pupils with life threatening allergies. No Nutella sandwiches please!
- KS2 are encouraged to eat a healthy snack at morning break. This should be a piece of fruit and should be ready to eat and ideally not be in a packet
- **Birthday treats policy**— treats should be something similar to small packets of Haribo. In KS2 sweets will be handed to the children to be put in their bag, in KS1 we will put any birthday sweets into the child's book bag. Please do not send in any chocolate.



## Early Birds Breakfast Club

Welcome to a new school year at Early Birds.

We are very much in demand. Please therefore ensure that you use our booking system; a form and payment in advance is required.

May I please remind you that if your child is booked in to start at 8am, our doors will open at 8am, not before.

Parents and carers dropping off, please pull in to the lay-by and not a staff parking space.

Many thanks for your continued support. Thank you. Miss Jewell.



## PTA News

Hello from your PTA!

We have started the new academic year with a bang! We held our first committee meeting in September where we confirmed our programme of events for the year, started planning new and exciting events and ways in which we could support our school from fundraising in 2017/18.

The next half term is our favourite! With the exciting run up to all things Christmassy, we have started to plan our Christmas Sparkle event and will soon be asking for your help to make it the best one yet...

The KS2 Disco held on the 29 September was a great success; lots of moving and shaking on the dance floor from children, parents, teachers and Mrs Armstrong a-like! Thank you to all our helpers who gave up their time to make it such a fun evening.

Our up-and-coming events for the next 6 weeks include:

3 November- PTA AGM- all welcome!

17 November - KS1 Movie Night

1st December- Christmas Sparkle.

If you haven't already done so, please 'like' our Facebook page where you can keep up to date with all PTA information and events; you can also email [pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk) or chat to any of the committee in the playground with your ideas and questions.

Finally, if you are interested in becoming a committee member or regular helper, please come along to the AGM (we provide drinks and biscuits!) or email us- we would love to hear from you.

Have a great half term break!

*Your PTA*

## School Council

Congratulations to our newly elected School Councillor representatives.



We are: Shay (6L) , Christina (6W), Alvin (6W)

Delen (5W), Sienna(5L)

Lola (4E), Sophie(4Ho)

Aoife (3S), Fraser (3M)

Cian (2H), Holly (2D)

Amelia (1M), Poppy-Mae (1L).

We are very excited about our new positions and being able to represent our class in our meetings which are held every fortnight.

## Anti bullying

I have recently taken on the role of Anti-bullying champion for the school and will soon be receiving training on how to effectively tackle any issues linked to any form of bullying. I will be using targeted resources created by 'All Together' - a proven programme that has been developed over the last three years and builds upon the work of the Anti-Bullying Alliance's previous SEND anti-bullying champion programme which saw significant positive results.

This will begin with a questionnaire that will be used to create an action plan which will be suited to the individual needs of the children within the school. I will be looking at the levels of well-being and bullying among the children and actively monitoring the progress of this. The school will be supported on and offline to make whole school change to its anti-bullying practices, using a social model approach. I will look forward to updating you again once the programme has begun.

Mr Lakatos.

Anti-bullying lead.

## School as a Catholic Community

It was lovely to see so many of you at both our start of school Mass and our Harvest Mass.

This week we have reconvened our Mini Vinnies with new members taking the lead, putting their faith into action. We have several new members from Y5 and Y6 but we need more (open to only Y5 and Y6). We need people who want to make a real difference to people who need our help and who will set a good example as a role model for others to follow. We meet on a Tuesday at lunchtime for no more than 20 minutes.

Already our Mini Vinnies have become involved with the Harvest Mass and will be accompanying Mrs Betts to deliver everyone's kind offerings of food to Poole Foodbank.



## Enrichment activities at St. Mary's

Some of you may recall children in being given the opportunity to attend a free lecture series at Lytchett School. I am pleased to announce that this is to take place again this year with all lectures beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting for 40 minutes with 20 minutes of questions at the end.

**Tuesday 14th November:** 'Psychology of Performance: Maximising the ability to perform under pressure in sport, the performing arts, and education' presented by Stewart Cotterill, sport and performance psychologist at Winchester University.

**Wednesday 22nd November:** 'An introductory talk on the brain and recent developments' presented by Dr Guy Sutton, Nottingham University

Places for 12 children in KS2 will be offered on a first come, first served basis and will be at no cost. Children will meet at school, be driven to the lecture and then returned to school to be picked up again. I will require one parent helper for each lecture, please contact me for further details.

## STEM award for the school and "Generation Beyond."

Following the success of last year's STEM outreach scheme which was led by our STEM Ambassador, Mr. Sean Noonan, I am delighted to inform you that the school has won an award for the commitment of staff in encouraging and inspiring young people in STEM subjects.

### STEM club members with our award

We are now moving on to a new project which is open to children in years 5 & 6. "Generation Beyond" is a national competition to produce a 2 minute video (for upload to You Tube) outlining a design for a module to carry astronauts to Mars. The deadline is 15th December 2017 and pupils can work alone or in groups to a maximum of 4 with the following weightings:

Scientific knowledge 30% Ingenuity and innovation 30%

Effective communication 20% Overall presentation 20%

Further information will be made available this week. Please contact me via the office if you can help with scientific/technical/video production guidance.

## Illustration competition.

On the 23rd November we will be visited by Sara Diaz. Sara works as an illustrator and animator who has travelled around the world with her projects. She will be talking to children from across the school about her experiences and career before working with some smaller groups of talented artists on their own mini-projects. To get into these groups, children will need to impress Sara with their illustration on the theme of "What I want to be when I grow up-in Lego." The entries must be hand drawn and depict the child themselves as a Lego "avatar" in whichever occupation they wish to pursue. More information will be made available after half-term.

Mr. R. Howard

Leader for the Academically More Able.



## Music news!

**Instrumental music lessons** - are now in full swing with the pupils demonstrating great responsibility in reading the timetable and attending lessons on time. I hope that lots of practise is being done at home. Please note that tuition fees are due by 22nd October, thank you.

**Music clubs** – Clubs have begun with good attendance and enthusiasm!

**Concert dates** – Please note these down, we look forward to seeing you there!

Poole Schools' Music Association Christmas concert at Poole Lighthouse – 30th November

St. Mary's School Christmas concert at St. Mary's Catholic Church – 14<sup>th</sup> December

More details and dates will follow shortly! Mrs Wilson



## Road Safety

Please be aware that there is a no cycling sign on the lane next to school.



Please be considerate to pedestrians if your child is cycling or using a scooter to travel to and from school.

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.

## 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 now in to 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 but will ask that you complete a form with detailed instructions beforehand.

The school nursing team will be in school on December 1st to administer the nasal flu vaccine for children in Years 1-4. Further information to follow.

Thank you.

## 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](mailto:office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk) **by 9:00 am please.**

Thank you.

## Hot school meals

Please be reminded that dinner money 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.

## Hail Mary Reflection by Mike Amodei

Have you ever stopped and thought about what we are actually praying when we say the prayer, 'Hail Mary'?

Find some time during the month of October to reflect on the prayer as if you are hearing them for the first time.

Quiet the room. Sit comfortably. Play some background music (perhaps the "Ave Maria" or other Marian hymns).

Remember that the first part of the prayer is contained in Scripture; the second part was added later as a formula of petition to Mary. As you hear the words, imagine you are hearing them for the first time. Let them sink in slowly so that you can reflect on their meaning. Then pray each phrase of the Hail Mary in your own heart and slowly reading the reflections.

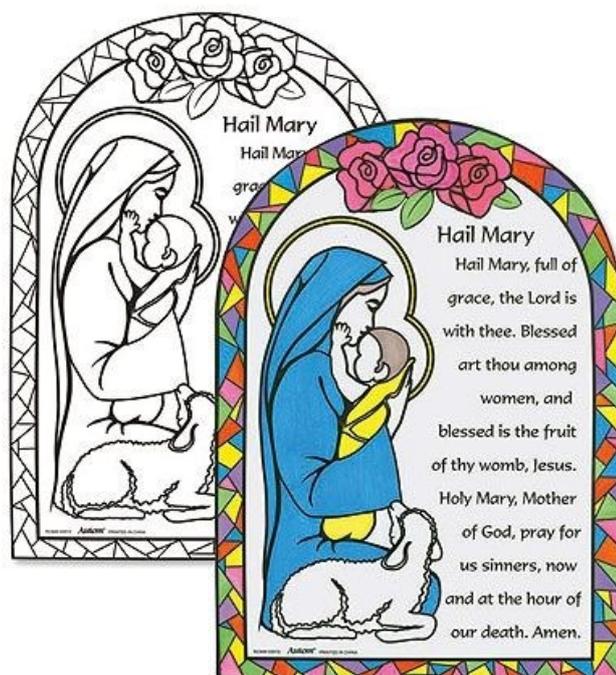
Hail Mary. (Pause.) God, through the messenger of Gabriel, greets Mary. A poor girl of an out-of-the-way village, Nazareth, Mary was probably an early adolescent when she heard this greeting. We are able to greet Mary in the same way and to exult in the same joy in Mary that God had for her.

Full of grace, the Lord is with thee. (Pause.) These two phrases are related. The reason Mary is full of grace is because the Lord is with her. The grace with which Mary is filled is the very life of God who is the source of all grace. Because she is full of grace, Mary is completely devoted to God who has come to dwell in her and whom she is about to bring into the world.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. (Pause.) These are the words with which Mary's cousin Elizabeth greets her. We join Elizabeth in greeting Mary this way. Elizabeth is the first of countless numbers of people from every generation who have called Mary "blessed." Mary is blessed because she believed and accepted for herself God's words to her. As the patriarch Abraham was the father of all believers, Mary has become the Mother of all the faithful, including a new generation of Gentile believers who are welcomed and received by her Son, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God. (Pause.) This brings the second movement of the prayer. Because she has given the world Jesus, Mary is the Mother of God. She is also our Mother as Jesus spoke from the cross to his beloved disciple John: "Behold your mother," Jesus said. We are deeply indebted to God for having given us Mary as our Mother. We, too, marvel with Elizabeth at this great gift, echoing her words: "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" When we bring our prayer to Mary, like her, we give ourselves over to the will of God for ourselves. We say with Mary, "thy will be done."

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour our death. (Pause.) We acknowledge ourselves as poor sinners as we reach out to our Mother of Mercy. We give ourselves to Mary, first for today, and with an eye to the future when we will entrust our lives to Mary at the hour of our death. We pray in the confidence that she will lead us to her Son, Jesus, in paradise.



## Community Links

Thank you to the group of ladies from a local church who gave up their Saturday morning to dead head the plants and weed the raised borders and planters around school.

They also cleaned the bicycle rack area, which is looking spick and span!

Thank you!



## 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: neutral or dark coloured hair accessories being worn in hair, ties being used with shirt 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.



## Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who volunteer for the benefit of our children.

Parent helpers do a sterling job and we are very appreciative.

We are always grateful for parent volunteers and readers, please contact the Mrs Hazell if this is something that you would like to be part of.

All volunteers will need to be DBS checked in line with our safeguarding policy.



## Achievements

**Bikeability**— Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in this year's cycling training funded via the local authority: Alexander, Aaron, Anna, Benny, Charlie, David, Emily, Joseph, Michal, Rory, Sherzin and Soraya. Well done!

**Sports Leaders**—The following pupils from Year 6 will start their Leadership training at Poole High School: Gianluca, Charlotte, Jake, Aoife, Connor, Shay. Please join us in wishing them well with this exciting opportunity!

More and more children are coming into school sharing their achievements from clubs outside school for eg swimming and gymnastics medals. We thought it would be good to celebrate these achievements in the newsletter. If you would like to send a photo of your child with their awards and a short explanation we would love to share your good news!

