



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

2nd November 2016

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ

Important dates for your diary

31st Oct—4th Nov

Anti Bullying Week

4th Nov

3St and 4Ho Mass

11th Nov

Foundation Coffee
morning

10th Nov

Fraser Portraits -
individual photos

15th Nov

Open Book evening

18th Nov

Non uniform day in aid
of Children in Need

Year 6 Mass

KS1 Movie Night

25 Nov

Non uniform day for
Christmas Sparkle

Year 1 Liturgy

KS2 Disco

1st Dec

PSMA Concert at the
Lighthouse

INSET days 2016/17

3rd Jan 2017

23rd Jan 2017

24th Feb 2017

5th June 2017

Please see the school
calendar (published subject
to change)

Staffing news—Pastoral Care Worker

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Mrs Whitney who has made the difficult decision to resign from her position as Pastoral Care Worker at St. Mary's. She is starting a new position at present but is spending time with family. We thank her for her hard work and wish her well in the future.

We are fortunate that whilst waiting to appoint a new 'Pastoral Care Worker', Mrs Bernie Wright has agreed to do the role temporarily during the afternoons. If you would like her support then please do not hesitate to call the office and make an appointment.

A huge thank you!

We raised £483.73 for
CAFOD.

The cake sale organised
by the Minnie Vinnies
raised £153.11 They will
decide which charity to
donate to.

Road safety

Following the tragic
accident at Canford Heath
school, please can we
remind you that it is really
important that we drive
carefully on the streets
close to school.

Please can we ask that
nobody turns their cars in
the road. It is also
important to park with
consideration as the
parking restrictions are in
place for a reason.

Thank you for your
support in keeping our
children safe.

Attendance

Please be reminded that, unless there are **EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances the school is not legally allowed to authorise term time holidays. We now have a LA form to request absence, please collect one from the school office if necessary.

If your child's attendance is 90% or less then they are officially classified as 'Persistently Absent'. We are currently working with the Borough of Poole to improve the attendance of these pupils. If your child has missed more than 7 sessions this half term then their absence will be below 90%. We will be sharing this information with parents.

F2D Seals	98.1%	F2N G.Turtles	97.9%
Poison D Frogs	96.6%	G. Penguins	97.3%
Sharks	96.1%	Marine Iguanas	96.3%
Blue Whales	97.2%	Swift Foxes	97.6%
Polar Bears	97.1%	Black S. Monkeys	96.7%
Penguins	96.9%	Fin Whales	97.2%
Wolverines	95.4%	White Rhinos	96.1%

The attendance of your child is also affected if they are late to school in the morning. Please could all families make sure that their child is in school before school starts at 8.50am. Thank you for supporting us to improve our attendance record.

Whole school attendance is 96.3% , our target is 97%.



01202 676207

Email: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk



01202 667505

School Council

We have had two school council meetings so far. We were asked to make a suggestions box so if children had any ideas about how to make this school a better place they could share them.

We have also been making a rota for which class is litter picking and when.

As a group we have been discussing what could help children learn their times tables and number facts. We will update you next time!

School as a Catholic Community

On Sunday 9th of October, a number of pupils went to St. Mary's Church to take part in a rosary service to celebrate October being the month of Mary. In this rosary service, the children dramatized the five Luminous Mysteries on the altar of the church. After each story we said a decade of the rosary: one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be.

Earlier that week, the whole school had made miniature rosaries. The next day, Key Stage Two had an assembly when Peter Harris, a member from the 'St Mary's Rosary Circle,' told us about the meaning of the Rosary.

Key Stage One have also had assemblies where they have been able to use their rosaries.



The Wedding Feast at Cana



The Baptism of Jesus



Jesus heals the sick



The Transfiguration



The Institution of the Eucharist

We have included some photos that we would like to share with you from the Rosary Service at church.

Charlize, Elisha, Elizabeth, Sara and Grace 6L

Harvest Mass

Thank you for all of your generous contributions of food for our Harvest Mass. The Mini Vinnies took boxes and boxes of the food to Poole Food Bank. The volunteers running the food bank were overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you.



Year 2 go to Brownsea Island!

To finish our Katie Morag topic, Y2 went to Brownsea Island for the day. We were very excited as we travelled across Poole Harbour on the yellow boat and spent the day having a look around Brownsea and trying to imagine what it would be like to live on an island. During our walk, we were really lucky to spot several red squirrels and quite a lot of peacocks, including some baby peacocks! The peacocks were especially interested in our lunch, but the adults soon developed the knack of 'peacock whispering' and getting them to leave us!

We were also very lucky with the weather, as it only rained a little bit during our lunch break, but we found shelter under two large oak trees.

To finish our day, we returned on the yellow boat with a tour of the harbour. During the voyage, we enjoyed some colouring of animals found on Brownsea Island as well as some word searches.



Thank you to the PTA who kindly helped us keep the cost of our trip down.

All the adults who came with us said that we were a really super group of children, who were a credit to St Mary's Primary School.

Well done Year 2!

Early Birds and before school clubs

Please can we ask that parents dropping children at breakfast club, or before school clubs only park in the lay-by and do not park in the parking spaces. Thank you.

Please also be aware that our new system for booking places at Early Birds, introduced in September, means that it is essential to book and pay in advance. We are unable to accommodate walk in's as we need to ensure we are not full.

Thank you for your understanding.

Year 1

On the 14th October Year One were inspired by visiting Christian author John Stewart.

He shared his own story and art-work with us on the theme of forgiveness as this tied in with our Sacraments RE work.

PTA News

Welcome back! This is an exciting term for children and the PTA as we start to prepare for all our winter and Christmas events! You will be hearing from us a lot over the following weeks but we have listed below the key dates for your diary up to the Christmas break.

We will be needing lots of help to ensure the events are a huge success and will be sending out a letter in books bags, giving you the opportunity to volunteer your time to help and the Christmas Sparkle/Movie Night/Disco/Nativity Raffles. Please do help where you can so that everyone gets the opportunity to enjoy these events with their children.

We have a committee meeting early November and will be sending more information shortly...watch this space!

November 18: KS1 Movie Night

November 25: KS2 Disco

November 25: Non-uniform days for Christmas Fayre prizes

December 2: Christmas Sparkle

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Kind regards, Your PTA

Science News

Gold Primary Science Quality Mark Awarded to St. Mary's

Mrs Mills and Miss Ramsden travelled to London, on the evening of Thursday 20th October, to receive the Gold Primary Science Quality Mark Award, at the Royal Society of Chemistry, in Piccadilly.

It was a very special event and both teachers were very proud of St. Mary's achievements.



Science Questions of the Month

True or False? Running a screen saver on your computer saves energy



Year 3 Poole Harbour Bird Watching Cruise

On Friday 30th November 60 children from Year 3 boarded the 'Birds of Poole Harbour' ferry and began their bird watching expedition. It was a super trip led by a local bird watching specialist and volunteers. The children used binoculars to spot wildlife and, despite the rain, they managed to see a variety of different species of birds from cormorants to spoonbills.

Thank you to 'The Birds of Poole Harbour' for this excellent free trip.

We hope to arrange to go again next year.



Switch off fortnight

Between the 14th and 27th November St. Mary's will take part in 'Switch off Fortnight', a national energy campaign. During these two weeks (and afterwards) we will be thinking hard about ways in which we can reduce the use of electricity in order to save energy and money, and to look after our environment.

Please think about ways in which you can reduce energy consumption at home too (e.g. switching off lights when you leave the room).

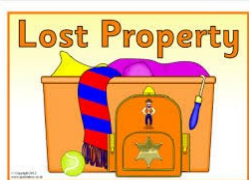


Lost property

Please would you ensure that all items of clothing and kit are named.

If items are named we will always endeavour to return them to the owner.

We will display lost property at the end of each term and after that anything unnamed will be donated to charity.



that nothing containing nuts is bought in to school.

This includes sandwich fillers such as Nutella as many nut allergies are airborne and can therefore easily cross contaminate.

Thank you for your support.

As we have a number of children and staff with life threatening allergies to various nuts we ask

Flu vaccinations

Please note that the school nurse will be coming in on December 7th to offer intra nasal vaccinations to children in Year 1-3.

Contrary to what a number of GP practices have told parents the intra muscular vaccinations will not be offered in school settings.

Coughs & sneezes, vomiting bugs etc!

We have been advised by the Borough of Poole to 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, 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 or cold we are happy to administer **prescribed** medicine in school but will ask that you complete a form with detailed instructions beforehand.

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 readers, there is a particular need for readers to come in to Year 1 to listen to the children please contact the school office if this is something that you would like to be part of.

Safeguarding

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

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

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.



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.

Reflection

November is the month dedicated to remembering the dead. On All Saints' Day, November 1st we honour the saints, and on All Souls' Day, the following day, we not only remember those who have died but also celebrate life.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

