



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

26th May 2017

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Devon Road  
Poole, BH15 3QQ



## Important dates for your diary

**26th May**—Half term starts  
school finishes at 3:15pm  
**5th June**—INSET school  
closed for children  
**6th June**—2nd half of summer  
term commences  
**7th June** Y6 PGL Information  
evening  
**9th June** Non uniform day in  
exchange for Summer Fayre  
prizes  
**9th June** Year 2 Liturgy &  
coffee morning  
**9th June** KS1 disco  
**13th June** new intake parent  
information evening  
**16th June** F2 Family Friday  
**16th-19th June** Y6 PGL  
residential trip  
**17th June** International Day at  
St Mary's Church  
**19th-22nd June** Y5 Bikeability  
**20 June** KS1 Sports day  
**22 June** KS2 Sports day  
**26th-29th June** Y6 Bikeability  
**27th June** School nurse drop  
in session 8:50am  
**27th June** Open Book  
evening  
**28th June** Guitar showcase  
**29th June** Y3 Mass & coffee  
morning  
**7th July** Y6 transition day  
**7th July** Summer Fayre  
**14th July** Leaver's disco  
**21st July** Whole School Mass  
School closes at 1:30pm  
\*\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*\*  
**INSET days 2017/18**  
4th September 2017  
5th September 2017  
6th September 2017  
Please see the school calendar  
(published subject to change)

### Attendance

Government guidelines require schools to intervene at the earliest indication of possible attendance problems. This means that all pupils with attendance below the school and government target of above 95% will be part of the attendance team's monitoring group which includes the Local Authority. We would like to share these statistics which clearly show the impact that absenteeism has as children move through their education.

Attendance During 1 school year	Equals Days absent per year	Which is approx. weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed	Which means this number of school hours missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	50 hours
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	100 hours
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons	150 hours
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	200 hours

### School Council news

We have had a busy half term!  
During Walk to School week, the school council counted how many children walked to school. We have given the numbers we collected to the Council. If we have the highest percentage of children who walked to school in Poole we will the Golden boot award. We are still waiting to hear if we've won!  
We have been asked to think about prizes for children who get high scores on Mangahigh and have given our ideas to Ms Morris.  
We thought that it would be good for KS2 to have a Movie night so we wrote a letter to the P.T.A and they organised one!  
We have also been thinking about how we can help keeping our cloakrooms tidy and are running a tidy cloakroom competition.

### PTA NEWS

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.  
Dates for your diary:  
**9 June 2017** - **KS1 Disco**  
**7 July 2017** - **Summer Fayre**  
**14 July 2017** - **Leavers 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 7 July, if you would like to help run a stall please contact us on [pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk) or write to us c/o the school office.  
Your continued support is always appreciated.  
Your PTA



01202 676207

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

### Raspberry Pi donations

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the school has been lucky enough to receive funding from JP Morgan which has enabled us to purchase a set of Raspberry Pi mini computers.

These devices provide a way for those with an interest to take their first steps in terms of learning to code. As a school we always take part in the week of code event which happens in December and we are now looking for any parent or carer who has subject knowledge in this area to help us make the most of these devices. We don't need you to come in during working hours; advice or links via e-mail would be welcome as would a brief meeting before or after school to explain what you know about getting the most out of these devices.

Please let Mr Howard know (via the office) if you can help us to get the most out of these resources in any way.

Thank you for your continued support.



### Secrets and Codes with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

After weeks of learning songs and rhythms, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 240 children from Key Stage 2 were fortunate enough to watch and perform with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra at Poole Lighthouse.

We arrived at the venue early and whilst we were eagerly awaiting the BSO to take their positions, James from the BSO helped us to practise and warm-up. During the concert we listened to the BSO performing a number of pieces including Elgar's Enigma variations and an extract from Wagner's Ring Cycle. We also enjoyed guessing the film themes after hearing just 2 notes. However, most of all we enjoyed performing the BSO percussion piece and the song Secrets and Codes with the whole BSO!

Thank you to all the parents and friends who gave up their time to walk us down safely, we couldn't have done it without you! We hope that you enjoyed the concert too.



Here are some of the things that the KS2 children noticed and enjoyed:

*"Look, I can see all of the orchestra playing at the same time!" (Year 3 pupil). "I was able to guess all the film themes from the first 2 notes." (Year 6 pupil).*

*"I can't believe how many instruments the percussionist played during the concert: vibraphone, timpani, cymbals..." (Year 5 pupil). "The orchestra was able to play really loudly but then really quietly." (Year 4 pupil). "The Star Wars Imperial March was amazing!" (Year 5 pupil). "I liked seeing the instruments up close on the video screen." (Year 6 pupil)*

*"I loved everything about the concert!" (Year 6 pupil)*



### Early Birds Breakfast Club

We are always happy to accommodate children at Early Birds! Please can we ask that you book and pay online to ease our administration? Please contact the school office if you need to make an emergency booking and we can let you know if there are spaces.

### Calling all Bakers in KS2

It's time to roll up your sleeves and dust off your aprons because Bake off is returning as part of our summer fayre. Details will be distributed after half term.

Mrs Reyes



## Illness

Please may we remind you 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! Please contact the school office for advice if you are unsure as to whether your child should be in school with specific issues such as conjunctivitis, skin complaints etc.

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. Please do not send **ANY** medications in with children. 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.**



## Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who volunteer for the benefit of our children. If you are able and willing to spare an hour a week to join our parent readers group please contact the school office.

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

***Please note that whilst in school we would ask that your mobile phone is always switched off.*** Thank you.

## Changes to pick up

Although 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.

## School Nurse Drop In Session

Please feel free to see the nurse from the school nursing team who will be based in the meeting room on 27th June from 8:30 in the morning until approximately 9:30am.

Please come to the school office to sign in if you would like to see the nurse.

## Road Safety



Government guidance clearly shows that the zigzags outside the school should not be used as a drop off point for your children. **“Keep entrance clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children.”** Please drive into school to drop off your child if you have to drive in to Devon Road—this is the only safe way of dropping off. We are increasingly concerned about the dangerous manoeuvres in Devon Road. Please can we ask that drivers do not do multiple point turns in the road. When dropping off at school in the morning please could we ask that you **do not stop on the hazards** but instead drop your child off in the disabled bays. They can then walk up the steps by the office and along the path to get into school. By doing this it should mean that 5 cars could all drop at the same time and hopefully will make it quicker for you all.

Alternatively why not park in the surrounding roads and walk to school?

It can be fun and interesting. You get to notice things along the way and the benefits are: children love walking with their friends, especially on the journey to school. It makes them feel good. Exercise makes them feel calmer and happier while improving concentration, making it easier to focus in school. It also promotes independence and freedom. Children can also make more decisions about their journey than they can in the car. They can choose to stop and look at something along the way and they can start to make decisions about road safety.

It 's also a good opportunity to master spellings and tables facts.