

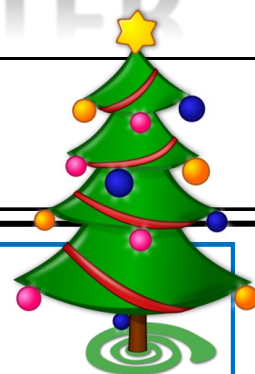


SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14th December 2016

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ



Important dates for your diary

4th January 2017

Children return to school
for the spring term

6th January

Whole School Mass at
church 8:50am

Week commencing 9th January

School clubs start

9th & 11th January

FS Parent consultations

17th January

Open Book - all years

20th January

F2 Family Friday and
coffee morning

23rd January

INSET—school closed

24th January

Year 1 Phonics

Information Evening 6pm

27th January

Year 6 Mass & coffee
morning

31st January

Year 5/6 Swim Team
training

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

We welcome Mrs Hannah Sekhar as class teacher in Year 2 working with Mrs Meech. She has quickly settled into the role and has brought with her some great ideas. We will be using Mrs Betts' skills as a leader to support other areas of school development, but she will continue to work closely with both Year 1 and

Road safety

The Governors have written to the Borough about their concerns for the safety of the children at St. Mary's on the roads surrounding school.

One of our parents has also written to them suggesting that closer monitoring needs to take place before a serious accident happens. We would welcome you also writing to the Borough to support our case.

Thank you to those who do drive slowly and park appropriately and safely, it is very much appreciated.

When dropping off at school in the morning please could we ask that you drive into the school, not stopping on the hazards, then drop your child off. 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 4 or 5 cars could all drop at the same time and hopefully will make it quicker for you all.

Thank you.

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.

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.

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| F2D Seals | 96.2% | F2N G.Turtles | 96.8% |
| Poison D Frogs | 96.4% | G. Penguins | 96.2% |
| Sharks | 95.7% | Marine Iguanas | 95.3% |
| Blue Whales | 94.9% | Swift Foxes | 93.5% |
| Polar Bears | 96.9% | Black S. Monkeys | 91.6% |
| Penguins | 95.8% | Fin Whales | 95.4% |
| Wolverines | 95.8% | White Rhinos | 95.0% |

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

Bad weather warning

As the winter weather comes upon us we would like to take the opportunity to let you know that if a decision is made to close the school, then you will all receive a message to tell you so via text and it will also be on our website.



01202 676207

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

School Council

During our meetings this term, we have been talking about things that we could do to make our school better. We came up with ideas such as a litter picking rota for KS2 playground as it can get a bit messy. We also came up with the idea of writing a weekly diary of what is going on for our classes so children know what is happening each week. Another recent idea we have had is for each class or year group to have a suggestion box. This is for our class mates to have the chance to give their ideas to us to think about in our meetings.

Next term we are thinking about organising a book swap. If you want to hear about us go onto our page on the school website. From Magnus (5M) and Tommaso (5W)

School as a Catholic Community

EPIPHANY 2017 CRIBFEST

How many of us really celebrate the Epiphany? For most people, Christmas finishes just as it starts with decorations taken down on Boxing Day and 'Sales' starting in the shops. And for those of us that do observe the twelve days of Christmas we don't actually celebrate the feast, unlike countries such as Spain, where they celebrate Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) and exchange gifts.

The feast of the Epiphany is so often lost in the return to school and work and therefore in order to focus our minds we are fortunate to be supplied with some prayer cards from the Catholic Children's Society Plymouth which will be given to the children in January. We would ask that you send in a voluntary donation in return in order to focus and to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas and consider those who may have struggled over the Christmas holidays to have a very special time and to pray for better times for them in the year ahead.

Early Birds Breakfast Club

During November at Early Birds we remembered Remembrance Day, we had poppy activities ranging from colouring to word searches.

We all had a great time making our own poppies too! Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Jewell, Mrs Reyes, Mrs Warn.



International Schools



During Anti-Bullying Week, pupils in KS2 learned about anti-bullying ideas from France and French-speaking Canada. French anti-bullying posters were displayed throughout the school and we decoded them together in our language lessons, developing our reading and phonics skills.

We also learned the chorus to a French-Canadian anti-bullying song and we borrowed an idea from a French school, making "une banderole" or a banner, which we all signed, to say "Je suis contre l'intimidation" (I am against bullying),

which is now on display in the school corridor.

Your child can sing along here (remember to make sure they have your permission first!):

"Contre l'intimidation, Non, Non, Tous ensemble on dit NON!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRpCgmECLDA>



School Events

A special thank you to the PTA who have given up lots of time over the past 3 weeks to run different events. The Key Stage One Movie Night, the Key Stage Two Disco and the Christmas sparkle were all a great success.

Also thank you for organising the Christmas Cards once again.



"The Merciful God of the Old Testament" With Fr. Nicholas King S.J. *Internationally renowned scripture scholar and writer*
www.nicholas-king.co.uk

St. Mary's RC Church Friday – Saturday 13-14th. January 2017

Friday at 7-8 pm - "Can We Handle the OT?"

Saturday Mass 10 a.m. Fr. Nick to preach.

11 – 12 noon "The Psalter - Heart of the OT"

1 – 3.30 p.m. "The Merciful God of the OT"

Cost **£5** per person. Tea / Coffee provided.

Please bring a packed lunch to share on Saturday

For more info call Declan tel. 01202 661869

or email: mcconville@ntlworld.com

GATHER 2017 Gracious Gift

We are delighted to announce that catechists, teachers, parents, clergy and friends from across the Diocese of Plymouth will be meeting together on 3–5 March 2017 at the Best Western Livermead Cliff Hotel Torquay for a time of friendship, support and inspiration. The weekend will include keynote speakers, plenary talks, shared liturgies, quiet space for prayer, a choice of workshops and plenty of time to meet, talk, laugh and be encouraged in our faith. Bishop Mark O'Toole will celebrate Mass with us. Residential rate £150 (2 nights B&B, lunch and dinner on Saturday). Single room supplement £20. Non-residential rate £40. Please contact the school office for further details.

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Betts and the deputy is Mrs Armstrong.

With recent publicity in the media surrounding sports coaching we thought this may be a good opportunity to remind parents and carers to be vigilant when choosing a club or activity for their child.

The following websites contain advice and guidance that may assist you in decision making:

The NSPCC runs the Child protection in sport unit which has a web site with a lot of useful information for sports clubs and for parents <https://thecpsu.org.uk/>

Specific advice for parents /carers can be found at

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/related-information/information-for-parents-and-carers#what-to-look-for-in-a-sports-club>

The Poole Family information directory also has good guidance for parents/carers about the questions to ask when looking for a club or activity for their child

<http://www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com/kb5/poole/fis/advice.page?id=i187Jeb1r7M&category=1>

E Safety

As Christmas approaches we know that many new devices will be being purchased. Don't forget to double check the settings and make sure your parental settings are as you would like them.

Governors

Following recent events in school we have had more interest being shown in supporting the school by becoming a Governor. We will be organising an "initial come and find out more about the role" meeting in the New Year. More information to follow soon.

Thank you!

We raised £380.66 for Children in Need on our non-uniform day. Thank you for your kind donations.



Year 6 Raising Money for Charity

It's that wonderful time of the year and our pupils Sara, Sophie, Amelia, Charlotte Elizabeth and Keisha worked hard to organise a Charity Stall, selling Jewellery and drawing in many customers to win a prize on the tombola at our spectacular Christmas Sparkle. Their hard work was well rewarded as they raised a total of £51.35 for the Aleppo crisis in Syria. Well done Year 6 for all your efforts! The girls will present a cheque to Sarah Adams, RE Advisor from Plymouth CAST, who has been raising money for this worthwhile cause.



Christmas Creations Competition

Thank you to all our talented pupils who entered our Christmas Creations Competition. Our Christmas sparkle fayre was adorned with all your outstanding entries. Our popular and exciting event included; Colouring & Designing Christmas Cards, handmade tree decorations, Christmas Crackers, stockings and table decorations. We received a total of 125 entries it was an over whelming response. Your entries were a joy and a privilege to display, judge and award prizes to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places to each category.

You are all amazing and well done everyone who took time to participate in this event.

Keep your eyes open for any future competitions or If you have ideas for other competitions to share please let us know.

Mrs Reyes



CAFOD Fast and "wear a bright colour day"!

Thank you—we raised £483.73 to help people build a brighter future through CAFOD's projects around the world.



STEAM club

The school's STEAM ambassador, (SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ART MATHS) Mr. Sean Noonan, has been running a KS2 STEAM club this term in order to promote a love for these fascinating subjects. Club members have observed a range of experiments, honed their tables skills and presented talks to fellow members on STEAM related topics of their choice. Following the scheduled meeting on the subject of providing challenge for more able pupils in the Spring Term, we hope to expand this provision for children in KS1 in the new-year. Please contact Mr. Howard for further details

Science News!

Lots of exciting events have been going on this term in Science.

Visit to Christchurch Junior School Science Fair

Four of our pupils from St. Mary's were very fortunate to be invited to Christchurch Junior School for their annual Science fair. Sophie, Leo, Joshua and Matty enjoyed chatting to the Christchurch pupils about their exhibits, and we took lots of ideas away about how we were going to organise our own Science fair. This will take place in February after half term.



STEAM Club Get Designing

The STEAM club have been working with the STEAM Ambassador, Sean Noonan, this term and they have been exploring scientific design.

Thank you to Mr Noonan for all his enthusiasm and we are looking forward to some more exciting projects in the new year.



Eco Club Plant and Raise Electricity Awareness

The Eco Club have been busy planting in the Key Stage 1 playground and they helped promote saving electricity in the 'Switch off fortnight' event. They designed some super signs which you will see around the school to remind you to turn off the lights! The Eco club continue to litter pick enthusiastically! Well done!

Science Club!

The Science Club have been having lots of fun with Alice Mott, discovering amazing things about materials and their properties. They have been investigating slime, making lava lamps and finding out about why some things float and some don't.



Year 1 Get Hands on with 'Let's Explore!'

The Year 1 children have been asking fantastic questions and exploring materials, light and weather this term during their 'Let's Explore' time. They have been using data loggers, borrowed from our Science partner schools, to find out about the outside and inside temperatures. We hope to purchase a set of these data loggers for our school.



Year 6 Explore Animal Adaptations

Throughout the school children have been following their own lines of scientific enquiry and discovering for themselves. Our Year 6 children have been finding out how and why animals are adapted and evolve to survive in their environments.

Science Question of the Month

Why does an orange with a peel float, but an orange without a peel sink?

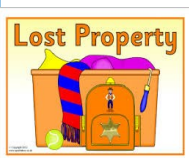


Lost property

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.



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 that **nothing containing nuts is**

School Nursing Team

Please note that the school nurse will coming in on 8th Feb 8:45am – 9:30 am for her drop in session.

These are usually held in the meeting room so please come to the school office to sign in first.

Thank you.

Minie Vinnie

On Tuesday 13th December the Mini Vinnies were invited to the Saint Vincent de Paul Christmas get together. Before we went, we all worked hard to make some shortbread which we took down with us. It was a great success, as there wasn't any left by the end of the afternoon! We also took some games and had a good chat with the members of the SVP. Mike Royles was also there and talked to us about some exciting ideas for us to be part of in the new year.

Mini Vinnies at St Mary's



Our Mini Vinnies meet up once a week to identify and help those in need within our school and local community. They pray as part of each meeting, undertake an achievable project that will make a difference in the lives of the poor, isolated or marginalised, learn and develop into more socially aware and responsible adults, fundraise for St Vincent de Paul, visit the elderly and other activities which they love to be involved with.

St Mary's British Values

Following a visit from an ex-member of parliament to the school, 14 children from Y6 made their way to London at the start of the month in order to visit the Palace of Westminster. Accompanied by a Governor, they used the knowledge gained from their previous meeting to really gain a deeper insight into how our parliamentary system works.

The children observed a live debate in both chambers of the house, were given a tour of the central lobby (plus ceremonial areas) and saw direct evidence of an extraordinarily dense weight of history from the tradition of holding an MP as hostage at Buckingham Palace to a statue damaged during a suffragette protest in the halls.

Having been given an informative and challenging level of information within the Palace itself, the next stage of the day involved the children using interactive voting technology to demonstrate their grasp of the differences between local, regional and national governance. Sadly, our scheduled meeting with the Robert Syms, MP for Poole, did not take place.

A final stop at the gift shop before catching a jam packed train out of Waterloo brought the day itself to a conclusion. In the new year the children will be carrying on their work in this area by using a loan box of parliamentary items to hold a series of debates across the school; look out for more information on this shortly. Mr Howard.



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.

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.



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

Thank you.

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.

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—A modern prayer request to God for protection, provision and shelter for children in hardship or difficulty.

O Lord,

Be warmth

Be light

Be food

Be sleep

Be encouragement

Be protection

Be peace

Be father

To the children who are cold, hungry, in darkness, tired, hopeless, frightened, sad or worried across the world. We believe you can shelter these little ones. Hear their prayers. Amen.

