



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

30th September 2016

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ

Important dates for your diary

7th October

Year 2 Liturgy & coffee
morning

CAFOD Family Fast
Day—non-uniform

10th October

Bikeability
Parent/teacher
consultations

12th October

Parent/teacher
consultations

14th October

F2 Family Friday
PTA Quiz night

17th October

Year 2 trip to Brownsea

19th October

PTA AGM—7:30pm

20th October

2017 Intake open
morning 9:30am
Y3-Y6 charity cake sale

21st October

Mass—3S & 4He

24th-28th October

Half term

31st October

2nd half Autumn term

Welcome!

The new term is passing so quickly and all the staff and children are settled in very well. We would like to welcome our new teachers and staff, as well as our new Foundation Stage children and families to the family of St. Marys'.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the 'meet and greet', which gave your child the opportunity to show you their classroom and for you to meet the teacher.

Everyone is working hard to settle into the routines of the new year group and as I walk around visiting each room I can already see the progress that is being made by your child.

With your continued support we know that we are going to have an excellent term.

Thank you.

Mrs Armstrong

Parking consideration

Please can we remind you not to block the drives of our neighbours, both in Hunt Road and Devon Road. A resident recently missed an important appointment as his drive was blocked.

Parking restrictions have changed over the summer so please ensure that if you park on Hunt Road/Devon Road you have the correct permit displayed.

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.

Foundation	98.3%	G. Penguins	95.1%
Poison Dart	96.7%	Marine Iguanas	97.2%
Sharks	96.6%	Swift Foxes	97.2%
Blue Whales	97.7%	Black S. Monkeys	96.7%
Polar Bears	96.6%	Fin Whales	97.2%
Penguins	97.0%	White Rhinos	95.2%
Wolverines	92.4%		

The attendance record 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%.

***STOP PRESS ***

INSET days 2016/17

3rd Jan 2017

23rd Jan 2017

24th Feb 2017

6th June 2017



01202 676207

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



01202 667505

School Council

Congratulations to our newly elected School Councillor representatives.

Welcome to:

Ava, Max, Ava, Isabella, Matthew, Ellie, Sienna, Julia, Magnus, Tomasso, Charlie and Billy.

Please visit our page on the School website to read the latest minutes from our meetings and to find out what we are working on.

Healthy eating

Please be reminded that:

- no products containing nuts – we are a NUT free school and have staff and pupils with life threatening allergies. No Nutella sandwiches!
- 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 should be something similar to small packets of Haribo. In KS2 they 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 bag.



Early Bird's Breakfast Club

Welcome to a brand new school year at Early Birds.

We have had a great start so far. With our new opening time of 7.30 am, 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 be 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.



Scooters

It is great to see so many children scooting to school and keeping fit. Please can we ask that they do not ride on their scooters in the school grounds for safety reasons.

PTA News

Dates for your diaries-

14 October - Quiz/Fish and chips evening at school from 7.30pm. Adults only.

19 October - AGM from 7.30pm at school.

We will have vacancies for the position of Chair and Secretary. We would be keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on one of these worthwhile roles. It would be lovely to see the fundraising momentum continue and provide more amazing things for our children to benefit from.

We look forward to another exciting year with everyone's support!

Your PTA

Home/School Communication

We are continually working to improve communication between home and school as it is as important to us as it is to you to get it right. Here are some of the things we have put in place:

- KS2 staff will, whenever possible; take years 3 – 5 to the playground at the end of the school day. Parents will be encouraged to see this as an opportunity to get to know the teacher.
- PHSE lessons will continue to develop children's sense of resilience, responsibility, conflict resolution, and emotional intelligence. The Pastoral Care Worker will continue the program to support small groups such as the "Busy Bees".
- Mr Howard is working on an action research project on successful transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and we will continue to put things in place to support a smooth transition to secondary school
- We will introduce coffee mornings after year group liturgies and masses to enable parents to support each other and meet with the Pastoral Care Worker.
- The model adopted for transition from key stage 1 to 2, (offering short early morning, twilight and evening sessions), be repeated where viable. The next one will be for Foundation Stage Parents.
- Termly surgery opportunity for parents to look at progress in books will be provided – "Open Book Evenings". With a 'Meet and Greet' being offered at the beginning of term.
- Homework diaries be recognised as the easiest way to flag up minor concerns between parent and teacher before they grow into significant ones. Diaries will be checked and signed weekly by the teachers.
- The use of the website and twitter will be promoted to provide guidance, support and information to parents.
- Weekly information letters to parents from each year group will be provided.

We welcome any other suggestions and thank you for your continued support.



We still have spaces on:

Years 3-6 Multisports club (Mondays 3:15 – 4:15)

Fencing club (Wednesdays 7:45 – 8:30)

Year 2 & 3 Multisports Club (Wednesdays 3:15 – 4:15)

Years 3-6 Tag Rugby Club (Thursdays 3:15 – 4:15)

Please contact the school office for further information

Watch this space for a new club starting after half term:

Karate & Sports Chanbara for Years 1 – 6!



The School as a Catholic Community

Altar Servers

Colin Morrell, who organises the altar servers at St Mary's Church came to talk to pupils in Y4 and above who have made their First Holy Communion and are interested in becoming an altar server. The pupils were very enthusiastic. Please see the Parish Newsletter for further details.

The Rosary

October is the Month of Mary the Mother of Jesus. To support this, the PTA have kindly funded materials for every child to make a decade of the Rosary.

Pupils from the school will also be leading a Rosary service on **Sunday 9th October at 3.00** in St Mary's, followed by light refreshments. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Year 6 Fossil Hunting Trip

Last week the Year 6 children travelled to Charmouth to take part in our annual fossil hunting expedition. We were greeted by a local geologist who told us about what to look out for on the beach. Fuelled with enthusiasm, the children then began their search for fossils. It was quite a challenge to find ammonites and belemnites this year, but some children and staff (especially Mrs Meech!) were successful. Several children found fossilised wood and one of the best finds of the day was rock found by Jayce. Thank you to the staff and parent helpers for making this trip so enjoyable!



Science Questions of the Month

If you can find out the answers to these Science questions, jot them down and tell your class teacher or Mrs Mills! Stickers to be won! If you've got any Science questions that you would like people to answer, please send them to Mrs Mills (Blue whales Class, Year 1).



Sport: True or false? Olympic gold medals contain more silver than gold.

Space: What is the closest star to the Earth?

Forces: How do aeroplanes stay up?

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!



A quick reminder of days:

Tuesday	Keyboard, strings & brass
Wednesday	Guitar
Thursday	Woodwind
Friday	Drums

Music clubs – Letters have been sent home and most clubs have begun with good attendance.

We are currently running:

Day	Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Tuesday			String group
Wednesday		Mixed choir	
Thursday			Orchestra
Friday	KS1 choir	Boys' choir	

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

Poole Schools' Music Association Christmas concert at Poole Lighthouse – Thursday 1st December

St. Mary's School Christmas concert at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Poole – Thursday 15th December

More details and dates will follow shortly!

Mrs Wilson

Year 1 Corfe Castle trip

On Wednesday last week, the Year 1 children visited Corfe Castle as part of their 'Cool Castles' topic. They learnt about the castle's exciting history, explored wildlife in and around the castle, climbed to the top of the castle, and ventured in the Keep. At the end of the day the children performed a medieval battle scene re-enactment to the parents. It was fantastic! Thank you to all our amazing parent helpers for helping on this trip.

Did you know...

Corfe Castle is over 1000 years old?



Eco Club News

This week the Eco Club forms will be available for your child to collect and fill in if they would like to be part of the Eco Club this year. Please hand these forms into Mrs Mills in Year 1.

Last year our Eco warriors took part in the Annual Poole Park Litter Pick, planted poppies at Poole Grammar school, ran a 'Waste Week', took part in the National Big Bird Watch... and the list goes on!

We are aiming to achieve the Schools Environment Gold Award for the second year running this year.



PSQM Gold Award Success!

Congratulations to all the children and staff at St. Mary's for achieving the Primary Science Quality Mark Gold Award. Our staff and children all worked hard last year for this award and our hard work has paid off!

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) is the only national award scheme to develop and celebrate the quality of science teaching and learning in primary schools. Schools achieve a PSQM award through a year-long process of initial audit, followed by action and reflection. "Gaining a Primary Science Quality Award is a significant achievement for a school. The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure science understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."

Mrs Mills—Science Leader



Swimmers!

Three of our St Mary's pupils won trophies with Poole Swimming Club at their annual club championship awards last week.

Congratulations to Zack, in Year 6 and Luca and Jamie in Year 5 for the fastest times in the following categories:

Zack:

100 metre boys freestyle age 10

200m boys backstroke age 10

50m boys backstroke age 10

Luca:

50m boys backstroke age 9

50m boys breaststroke age 9

50m boys fly age 9

100m individual medley age 9

Jamie:

50m boys freestyle age 9

200m boys freestyle age 9

200m boys breaststroke age 9



International schools

European Day of Languages:

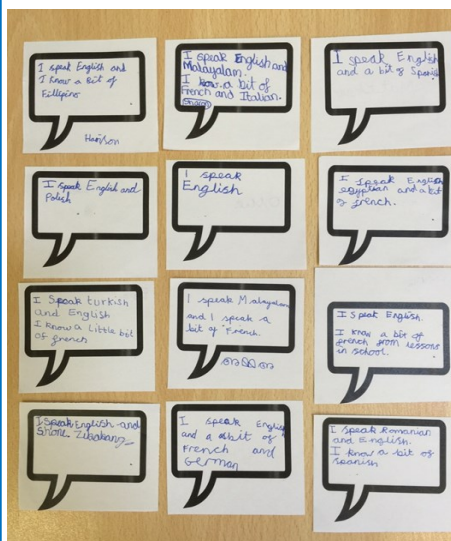
September 26th marks the European Day of Languages. We will be celebrating the many European and international languages spoken by our children and staff at St Mary's.



We are putting together a wall of languages, where every child in KS2 has listed the languages they speak fluently at home and in school. Some have also added languages they are learning or know a little of.

We have been discussing the importance of language skills for our future employment and life chances.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to value the talents of our EAL children, whose bilingual or even multilingual skills will be showcased in recordings for our Languages area on the [website](#).



Watch out for updates!

Mrs McNamara



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 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. Thank you.

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, 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.

Prayer—Journey with us

The scorched earth, and all those who hunger cry out to the Lord: Journey with us, O God, and pour out your mercy upon us. Hand in hand, we plant seeds, water crops, protect shoots as they grow. Together, we pray: Journey with us, O God, and pour out your mercy upon us. The dry land rejoices, the people sing for joy as life blooms and the harvest is gathered. In hope of this vision, we pray: Journey with us, O God, and pour out your mercy upon us like the morning dew, so that together we may build a brighter future, a future of plenty for all.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen

