



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

21st March 2017

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Devon Road  
Poole, BH15 3QQ

## Important dates for your diary

23rd March—Class photos  
 24th March— Non uniform day in aid of Comic Relief  
 30th March—Yrs 1-6 Reports published online  
 31st March—Year 5 Mass & coffee morning  
 7th April—last day of Spring Term, school finishes at 3:15pm.  
 24th April—Summer Term begins  
 28th April—Year 4 Mass & coffee morning  
 28th April—KS2 Disco  
 5th May— F2 Family Friday  
 8th-12th May—Year 6 testing  
 19th May— non uniform day in aid of Summer Fayre  
 19th May— Year 1 Liturgy & coffee morning  
 22nd & 24th May—Parent/Teacher consultations Y1-Y6  
 22nd– 26th May Walk to School week  
 24th May— KS2 BSO concert  
 25th May—KS2 Cake Sale  
 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

**INSET day 2016/17**  
5th June 2017

**Please see the school calendar (published subject to change)**

### Staffing news

We are saying goodbye to Marion Hall, one of our team of Midday Assistants, who is retiring this month. After 29 years of service at St Mary's, we would like to wish Marion a long and healthy retirement with her husband and family.

### Staffing news

Our thanks go to Mrs McNamara who will be leaving us at Easter. Mrs McNamara has worked at St. Mary's for a number of years and has achieved a great deal, including the International Schools Awards.

We would like to thank Mrs McNamara for her drive and enthusiasm and to wish her well for the future.

### 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 them. Dates for your diary: 28 April 2017 - KS2 Disco and 9 June 2017 - KS1 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.

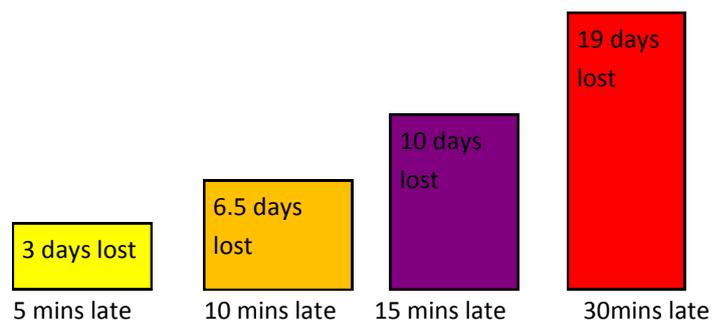
Your PTA

### Attendance

Attendance during 1 school Year	Equals days absent per year	Which is approx. this 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

F2D Seals	95.9%	F2N G.Turtles	96.2%
Poison D Frogs	95.6%	G. Penguins	96.3%
Sharks	95.7%	Marine Iguanas	95.8%
Blue Whales	95.2%	Swift Foxes	96.4%
Polar Bears	96.5%	Black S. Monkeys	95.9%
Penguins	96.3%	Fin Whales	96.6%
Wolverines	96.2%	White Rhinos	96.3%

**Every minute counts!** Below is a graph showing how being late to school **everyday** over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



01202 676207

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

### Safeguarding

After successfully completing Level 3 Safeguarding training, Mrs Hazell and Mrs Wright have joined the safeguarding team in school.

Mrs Betts is the Designated Safeguarding Officer. Please feel free to contact any of the team if you have any safeguarding concerns.

### Winner!

Julia from Year 5 was a winner in the Oakdale Libraries garden photo competition.

Well done Julia!



### Early Birds Breakfast Club

We have made an exciting addition to our breakfast menu... Baked Bean Wednesdays!

All the children look forward to Wednesdays even more now than they did before!

Miss Jewell, Mrs Reyes and Mrs Warn



### Head lice

Unfortunately we have noticed an increasing number of reported outbreaks of head lice.

In order to help reduce their spread please can we ask that hair longer than shoulder length is tied back as head lice are spread by direct head to head contact, unavoidable in primary school children! See the link below for advice:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice>

### Tweets

Please look at the 'Tweets' on the 'Quick Links' page of the St Mary's website.

There are often really interesting Tweets about the 'hands on' Science that we do in school.



### Music News—New music clubs at St. Mary's in 2017

Our two new clubs are well underway this term and have seen many children enjoying a different style of music making.



**Boomwhacker club** has gained a very loyal following and have performed many different songs including Pachelbel's Canon, the Imperial March from Star Wars and Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter to name a few.

**Bitesize Orchestra**—Bitesize Orchestra is just what it says – a very small and quick experience of what it is like to play with a group of instruments. We welcome all instruments in our Bitesize Orchestra and play in a range of styles. The repertoire changes every week and we use NO music! We evolve our music from a few notes and all children are able to participate no matter what their ability level.



**Instrumental music lessons for 2017/18 - sign up details coming soon!**

**'Have a go' instrument workshop in the Summer Term.**

**Guitar Showcase evening in the Summer Term.**

**Letter for BSO Secrets and Codes concert for all KS2 children.**



### **Governor News!** Did You Come To The Science Fair?

I've always avoided learning more about basic scientific laws ever since failing my mock 'O' level chemistry back in the dark ages. However, as a governor, I couldn't duck out when invited to be one of the judges at St Mary's Science Fair after half-term. What a stimulating and informative morning it turned out to be. The children were all so enthusiastic in explaining and demonstrating their projects with even the youngest having a better grasp of scientific principles than myself. The variety and ingeniousness of their presentations was amazing. Clearly lots of time and effort during half-term went into achieving such a high standard and many children told us how much support parents/carers had given them, so I hope you also enjoyed researching & helping to test out their experiments.

Apart from cookery recipes, I don't remember knowing about the agent & reagent properties of bicarbonate of soda, food colouring and vinegar before, but I'm sure a good many of you have had to restock your food cupboards following your children's need for unlimited quantities to produce spectacular volcanic eruptions. There were some very detailed analysis of sugar content in soft drinks, germs on X Boxes, the varying air pressures that enable planes to stay airborne, making 'slime', and lots more. The more scientifically expert judges than myself were really impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of scientific methods and I came away having learnt an amazing amount from them.

It is always exhilarating as a governor to visit classrooms at St. Mary's & observe your children enjoying lessons, so thank you for continuing to encourage and reinforce their learning at home.

Mary Norrish, Foundation Governor

### **ASE Annual Science Conference – Reading**

Mrs Mills had the privilege of exhibiting Science work from Year 1 at the conference, in a Primary Pop- Up event.

Over 200 teachers and teacher trainers looked at the work, which focused on 'hands on Science' through continuous provision.

There was excellent feed back and many teachers were impressed with the opportunities we provide our children to develop their Scientific enquiry skills, co-operation, thinking and questioning skills, and problem solving skills.



### **La Jolie Rondie—French Club at St Mary's**

This club runs on Wednesdays The dates for the summer term are: 26.04.17-12.07.17 (11 lessons).

If you would like to enrol your child on this course the cost for this forthcoming term is £47.85.

There is the option to purchase the accompanying CD and book for £21.00. Please note that this payment is not required for children already enrolled.

### **British Values**

Do you remember from the last newsletter that we asked the question below:

"Try asking your child (KS2) what our British Values are.....? "

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect

KS2 children should be able to demonstrate actions for each of the above.

  
**INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL AWARD**

### **International Schools Award:**

Bringing the world into the classroom  
St Mary's has been awarded the British Council International Schools' Award Intermediate accreditation, following assessors' appraisal of our international project work over the last two years.

Our pupils have shown great insight and understanding of the world beyond national borders, in their language-learning, humanities' work and citizenship education. Our school was praised for its commitment to nurturing an international ethos and to embedding international links into our wider curriculum.

We have also been able to celebrate our international community through our project work and to help our pupils prepare for their future in a digitally connected, global world.

Mrs McNamara

## STEAM Club

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics) club run by our STEAM ambassador Mr. Sean Noonan, continues to challenge and motivate those who attend. Following on from experiments involving oobleck (a non-Newtonian fluid) and density stacking, this week saw the group following the work of some "Raspberry Pioneers" in Y4 by hooking up the microcomputers to the school's ICT suite.

The raspberry pi mini computers were generously donated to the school through the corporate responsibility department of JP Morgan and the kind efforts of Mrs. Brown, a parent at the school. We are now looking to expand our provision in this area; if you are aware of any good projects for those taking their first steps with this technology please let us know via the school office.

Sean Noonan, STEAM ambassador.

Mr. Howard, AMA (Academically More Able) Leader.



## School Council

This half term the school council have been thinking about how we can help keep our school tidy. We've noticed that lots of children in KS1 are leaving their coats and drinks out on the playground at the end of break and lunch times. The school councillors have spoken to their class to remind them to collect their things and we've asked the lunchtime supervisors to remind us as well. We have also been working on ideas to help keep our cloakrooms tidy too and will bring these with the children soon.

We also had a look at the Parliament loan box. We had lots of fun trying on the wig and robes.

## Celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight 2107

Our pupils put Fairtrade into their breaks over the past two weeks. Key Stage 1 pupils were able to visit the Snack stall to purchase their favourite snack.



Pupils in Key stage 2 were invited to attend our popular Café and enjoy their snacks too!



When enough people choose Fairtrade, it helps farmers put food on the table and send their children to school.

Thank you everyone for supporting this event. Mrs Wright.



The Big Children in Need  
**SPOTACULAR**  
with LLOYDS BANK

**THANK YOU!**

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

...for raising a fantastic

**£378.86**

to help disadvantaged children and young people across the UK

Receipt no. P055 0314045

LLOYDS BANK Proud Schools Partner



As we have a number of children and staff with life threatening allergies to various nuts we ask 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 other's food.

Please do not be offended if we return items to you that should not be in school.

Thank you for your support.

## Year Two News

On CAFOD Family Fast Day, Year Two had a visit from two CAFOD volunteers to help us understand the difficulties that refugees face. We did this through drama. We quickly had to get into family groups and pack our bags but we only had ten minutes to decide what to take with us. A lorry came to pick us up but the roads were so bad that some of us lost our belongings in our bags and there was no time for the lorry to stop. Our belongings were lost forever.

At one point the lorry turned over. Luckily, we were safe but the lorry was out of action so we all had to walk. A few of us had hurt our legs so we needed support from other people in the group. We walked to the port so that we could catch a boat to take us to safety.

When we arrived at the port, we found that the boats were not big enough so some of us had to be separated from our families. As we climbed on the boat, we were asked to pay so we if we didn't have any money in our bag we had to sell our belongings to the boatmen.

Eventually we got on the boat but the sea was rough and the belongings that we did have left got soaked, so they were ruined. We did reach a new land but we had nothing with us.



## What have you been doing for Lent?

Year Two are saying an extra prayer every day before lunch. This is our year group Lenten promise and we all have our own promises too. We also have the opportunity to visit our beautiful chapel, every Wednesday lunchtime, so that we can quietly say a prayer and write a prayer to go on the prayer wall. So many children choose to do this by giving up some of their playtime. Well done Year Two!



We have recently subscribed to home access for

Education City. This is available to children in all year groups and diary stickers with login details have been issued.

There is a link to the Education City website on the My Links page of the school website.

There is a choice of activities in various categories: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, French, Spanish or Learn English. We hope children are finding this a useful resource.

## Online Maths – Mangahigh

All children in years 2-6 have been given a sticker to put in their diary with their username and password, and our school code (328466). Enter Mangahigh via the school website (Children > My Links) where the school code is also shown. It's been great to see so many children using the program at home and we have a new trophy being awarded for the best student of the week. St Mary's came 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the British Isles Competition for February. Fantastic!

### 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.



### 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.