



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

20th January 2017

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ

Important dates for your diary

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

3rd February

Year 2 Liturgy & coffee
morning

7th February

Safer Internet Day

9th February

KS2 charity cake sale

10th February

Year 3&4 Mass & coffee
morning

13th—17th February

Half Term—school closed

20th February

Science Fair

INSET days 2016/17

23rd Jan 2017

24th Feb 2017

5th June 2017

Please see the school
calendar (published subject
to change)

Welcome!

Welcome back to school, we hope you all had a lovely Christmas. We wish you all the very best for 2017 and look forward to working with you all closely as we move forward. The year got off to a successful start in school as we spent the first few days concentrating on handwriting and spelling. This will continue to remain a focus and we look forward to experiencing continued improvements in the standard of our children's written work. They are all rising to challenge!

Staffing news

Our thanks go to Mrs Rigler who is leaving us. Mrs Rigler has worked at St. Mary's for a number of years as a Teaching Assistant.

We wish her well with her new post with the LA.

Bad weather warnings

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

Road Safety

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.

Attendance

The Attendance Officer, Mrs Preece from the Borough of Poole, continues to work with us to improve our whole school attendance data.

This week she visited school with the family outreach worker to discuss all the children whose attendance is less than 95%. As a result, we will be sending out letters to parents offering help and support to try and improve attendance figures. Mrs Preece will also be inviting individual parents in for meetings and will be monitoring children who arrive in late to school.

F2D Seals	96.2%	F2N G.Turtles	96.9%
Poison D Frogs	96.5%	G. Penguins	97.0%
Sharks	96.1%	Marine Iguanas	96.2%
Blue Whales	95.5%	Swift Foxes	97.1%
Polar Bears	97.1%	Black S. Monkeys	95.9%
Penguins	95.7%	Fin Whales	96.8%
Wolverines	95.4%	White Rhinos	96.2%

Did you know: there is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement: of pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school, only 35% manage to achieve five A* to C GCSEs, including English and maths.

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

Maths

As you will know, for the last year, we have been using an online program called Mathletics to support learning in maths.

This year, we have decided to change to a program called **Mangahigh**. We are already familiar with it as they are the host of the 'Boss of the South' Competition that we did so well in last term.

This means that the Mathletics logins will no longer work. On Wednesday this week, we are (re-) launching Mangahigh and everyone will be reminded of their details to login.



Early Bird's Breakfast Club

Welcome back Early Birds... Let's enjoy a great new year together!

We enjoy a lovely breakfast, fun and games every school day. Start times are either 7:30 or 8:00 am, the cost is £3.25 and £2.25 respectively.

May I please remind you to book and pay online in advance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Jewell, Mrs Reyes and Mrs Warn



Health & Safety

We are still receiving reports that the paths on Devon Road are regularly covered in dog mess. Please be aware when walking up the path with your children.

If you believe it to be a problem we would ask that you to use the **REPORT IT** facility at the Borough of Poole. Hopefully if enough people call then something will be done to stop this from continuing.

Safeguarding

After successfully completing his Level 3 Safeguarding training, Mr Howard has joined the safeguarding team in school.

Mrs Betts is the Designated Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Armstrong and Mr Howard will be the deputies. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have any safeguarding concerns.

Music News

Concerts and shows

Thank you to all parents and staff who attended, supported and helped at our many concerts last term. The children worked extremely hard and showed great dedication in learning their words and music to wow their families and friends.

Clubs

All begin this week. A timetable can be seen below. We are trying out some new and exciting clubs this term!

	Before school	Lunchtime	After school
Tuesday			String Group 3:15-4:15pm Y3-6
Wednesday		Glee Club 12:40-1:15pm (Y5 & 6 only)	
Thursday		Boomwhacker Group 12:40-1:15pm Y3-6	
Friday	KS1 Choir 8:30-8:50am Y1-2	Bitesize Orchestra 12:40-1:15pm Y3-6	

Instrumental lessons

Instrumental lessons have all commenced this week. Timetables are on display for the pupils on the music noticeboard. Please encourage children to check it on the morning of their lesson as some last minute changes are sometimes necessary. If you have any queries regarding instrumental lessons, please contact Mrs Wilson via the school office.



Governors

The Governors have started their 'Review of Governance' with a National Leader of Governance. Once this review is complete they will know specifically what skills are needed in the new Governors that will be needed to be recruited. We will continue to keep you updated.

Eunice Masters — Foundation Governor

As a governor I have had the pleasure of visiting the school several times since the Christmas holidays. It was a real privilege to come into school on the open book night on Tuesday 17th January. I visited several classrooms and spoke to teachers and parents alike. It was so nice to see children sharing their work with their parents. Several parents I spoke to shared how they valued the opportunity to chat to their child's teacher on a more informal level than the traditional 'Parents evenings'. I look forward to my next visit.

Year 3 place

Due to one of our children leaving the country we currently have a place in Year 3. If you know of any friends or family who are looking for a school place in this year group please let them know. We are always pleased to show visitors around the school!

Admission applications should be made through the Borough of Poole team www.poole.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-colleges/school-admissions/applying-for-a-school-place-in-year

Homework survey

You will have been sent a link recently with an online survey attached. The survey is anonymous, multiple choice and takes less than two minutes to complete. Please could you find the time to answer the questions as they will help us in our efforts to work with you to improve the school.

Many thanks, Mr. Howard.

Reminder of the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WH88VYQ>

British Values

Following an excellent visit to see the work of the Commons and the Lords in action, I am pleased to tell you that we have been successful in securing a "Parliamentary" loan box for the term.

The children who went to Westminster will now be teaching other pupils about the British Values at our school using the items from the box.

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

Answers will be published in the next newsletter.

Mr. Howard.



International Schools

KS2 celebrated the Epiphany in French style this January, tasting the traditional Galette cake eaten to mark the Kings coming to see Jesus.

The children were excited to see who would find the "fève" hidden in the sweet puff pastry pie. Each KS2 French class crowned their king or queen, who then had to choose a friend to be their king or queen for the day!

We sang the galette song, performed the galette dance and watched a French cookery show to learn how galette is made, as well as a French news bulletin about this lovely tradition.

Mrs McNamara



After School Activities

There are spaces available on most of the clubs held after school. Please contact the school office for further information or collect a form if you wish to enrol your child.

Bumped head policy

We have found that when we are trying to contact parents and carers of KS1 children we are increasingly having to leave answerphone messages on mobile phones, which, in turn, means that you have to contact the school.

We have therefore decided to trial a text message service to report any minor bumps that occur around the head area. We hope that this will mean that you are able to pick the message up quicker and less worry is caused.

Please rest assured if your child experiences a bump that we believe requires immediate attention we will always ensure that we speak to one of your child's emergency contacts. With this in mind please ensure that we are always kept up to date with any changes to your child's details.

Thank you for your support.

School Council

This term we had our first ever joint meeting with the House Captains. We discussed the reward systems we use in school and the possible improvements that could be made to them. It was a very exciting meeting and we had lots of interesting ideas.



Have fun learning how to make your own computer games, animations and websites!
Poole Central Library

The club is aimed at 9-11 year olds.

Book your place at any Poole Library

or phone **01202 262449**, or email

centrallibrary@poole.gov.uk

More information can be found at: www.codeclub.org.uk

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.

We have a number of unclaimed spectacles in the office, please call us if you recognise them as your child's!



Thank you to everyone who sent in a box (or 2!) for this worthy charity. We had 89 boxes collected which is marvellous.

It would be wonderful to beat this next year! Miss Howard



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.

Thank you for your support.

School Nursing Team

Please note that the school nurse has changed the date to 9th 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.

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.

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

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.

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.



RE

In RE this week, our focus for learning and asking questions has been on the faith of Judaism. This week we had a visit from Lynda Ford-Horne, a practising Jew.

Lynda spoke to Y1, Y2 and Y3, sharing the routines of what happens in a Jewish home on a Friday night, the eve of the Sabbath. Lynda also told us about how boys and men dress when they go to the synagogue and how the Torah is read.

Y4 had excellent questions for Lynda.

They listened very respectfully about the importance of the Torah and Yom Kippur.

The focus for Y5 and Y6 was repentance and Shabbat. Lynda talked about the ritual for the start of Shabbat and the significance that this brings to the lives of the Jewish people.

The children found the talk stimulating and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

