



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th February 2018

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ

Important dates for your diary

8th February

Cake sale 3:30pm

9th February

Break up for Half term
3:15pm

19th February

INSET day—school
closed to pupils

20th February

Children return to school

23rd February

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

KS1 Disco 6-7:00 pm

1st March

World Book Day

2nd March

3S/4H Mass & coffee
morning

16th March

Year 1 Liturgy & coffee
morning

22nd March

Class Photos

Reports to be sent home

23rd March

Sports Relief

(details to follow)

Year 5 Mass and coffee

morning

29th March

Easter Holidays begin
school closes at 3:15pm

*These dates are
published subject to
change*

Road Safety

Sadly we received letters from residents in Pound Lane and Devon Road last week stating some of our families are parking illegally and blocking their drives. Please could I ask you to be respectful of our neighbours in all the streets surrounding the school. I know it is challenging when you are all trying to find a place to park but we must take into consideration that our neighbours do not want to be blocked in/out of their houses.

Safeguarding— Social Media and Facebook

It has been brought to our attention that parents of children in our school, are using social media to share information about different children in our school. Please be reminded that you must not put names of our children on Facebook. I have spoken to the police and the professional online safety helpline and they have agreed that this should not be happening and will support the school further if it continues.

Please think how you would feel if it was your child being named on a social site.

Mrs Armstrong



The children have been working hard learning and thinking about how to say safe online. Please see the attachment from Miss Howard, our e safety Leader, which explains what the children have been learning in school this week.

Attendance

F2D Seals	96.2%	F2N G.Turtles	96.9%
Poison D Frogs	97.9%	G. Penguins	97.5%
Sharks	94.2%	Marine Iguanas	97.3%
Blue Whales	96.6%	Swift Foxes	96.6%
Polar Bears	96.5%	Black S. Monkeys	95.4%
Penguins	97.4%	Fin Whales	94.0%
Wolverines	95.9%	White Rhinos	96.9%

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

Health and Safety

Every term as a school we have a 'Fire Drill'. The children are very familiar with the procedures that we follow and are always praised for how well they conduct themselves during this time. Over the next few weeks we will be having a practise of our 'Lockdown procedures' so that the children are familiar with the events that they will be expected to follow. It is purely a precautionary measure in line with our health and safety requirements. I look forward to feeding back how proud the children made us feel with their exemplary behaviours.



Early Bird's Breakfast Club



May I please remind you to book and pay online in advance. If your child is booked in for 8 o'clock please we be aware that we cannot accept him/her any earlier as we have to ensure we have the correct staff /child ratio.

Miss Jewell

After school care provision

Thank you to all of you who completed the survey to gauge interest in an after school club on our premises. We have submitted a business plan to CAST and hope to hear if they will agree to it by early March.

School Council news

This term the School Council have been looking at the Key Stage 2 bank area and how we can improve it.



We are now thinking about the school library and how we can use this more.

We have also helped decide the reward for the winning house at the end of last term.

Sports

It has been a busy half term for sport at St Mary's. To kick start the year, the Year 6 boys football team played Hillbourne Primary School away from home. This was the first football match for the boys as a team. They won by a staggering 12-0! Well done boys!

Later in January, a group of Year 5 and 6 children attended an indoor athletics competition at St Aldhelm's Academy. The children all did fantastically well!

Julia's House Mile

On Friday 2nd February, the children took part in Julia's House Mile. They ran 5 laps of the astro and KS2 playground to raise money for Julia's House.

All funds will be split 50/50 between ourselves and Julia's House. We will be using the money to buy new playground equipment for the children. We have already received lots of sponsorship forms back and look forward to receiving more. Please can you make sure they are all returned by Tuesday 20th February as Julia's House will be coming to school that week with medals and prizes. All children who have raised sponsorship will receive a medal, the class which raised the most will receive a trophy and the children who raised the most will receive a special goody bag.

Football Tournament

On Monday 5th February, 8 of the Year 6 football team attended a football tournament with AFC Bournemouth at Littledown. There were 30 teams in total playing in the tournament. They boys did amazingly well in their group stage, winning 3 matches and drawing one. They then went on to play in the semi-finals. The game ended 1-1 after extra time which meant it went to penalties. Unfortunately we lost on penalties 5-4. They boys played so well throughout the tournament and we are so proud of what they achieved.

Cross Country

On Tuesday 6th February, 4 Year 6 boys attended a cross country competition at Canford School. They faced tough competition and freezing conditions. The boys did really well and did St Mary's proud!

We are lucky to have a fantastic range of sports clubs provided by Premier and staff at St Mary's. Don't forget to check the website for up to date clubs lists.

Before/After School Activities

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

Wednesday morning Recorder Club run by St Mary's music leader Mrs Wilson (starting 21st February).

Monday after school Hockey Club, Tuesday morning Fencing Club, Tuesday after school Cheerleading Club and Thursday morning Archery Club, and Thursday after school dance run by:



Premier®
Education Group



Music News— Instrumental lessons

Please remind your child that 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.



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. Please note that all unclaimed clothing will be donated to charity if not claimed by the end of this half term.

Abide with Him Applications are now

being taken for places at the Plymouth Diocese Catechetical Summer Camps, to be held at Grangehurst, Buckfast Abbey. Camp details and application forms can be obtained from our parish priests or on-line from the camp website:

www.pdsommerncamps.org.uk

Toys in school

Please could we ask you not to allow your child to bring toys into school during the day. We are finding that more and more children are bringing in little toys, collectable cards and teddy bears and as a result they are causing upset at break time and lunchtimes.

Thank you for your support with this.

Bad weather warnings

As the winter weather seems to be still with us 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.

Thank you.

Staff news

Unfortunately Mrs Watts is still off ill.

We ask that you keep her in your prayers and we pray that she makes a speedy recovery and that she will return to her school family soon.

Thank you for your continued support.

Charitable Donations

The retiring collection from the Christmas concert at church raised £189.34 which has been split between Julia's House and the school music fund.

Christmas Jumper Day raised £89.67 for Save the Children.

We are proud of the way St Mary's families support our charity choices, thank you for your continued support.

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) "Putting All Children First"

We collect used stamps, broken jewellery and out of circulation coins for this worthwhile charity.

If you have any of the above please drop them in to the school office where we have a collection box.

Your "Coins for Cribs" donations for this charity raised £280.26. Thank you.



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.

Healthy School

Please can we remind you that in line with our Healthy Eating Policy all children must have water in their drinking bottles which they have with them during the lesson time.

Also if your child brings in a snack for break time this must be fresh fruit or vegetables. We know that children like to bring in treats for their friends on their birthday. Please can we remind you that wrapped sweets such as 'Haribo' are acceptable and will be given out at the end of the day so you as the parent can decide if you would like your child to have them on that day.

Thank you for your support.

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

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 for confidentiality and 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

Would you like to learn to speak English as another language?

- Feel more confident talking to your children's teachers or with health staff?
- Practise listening to other people?
- Attend an English course at St Mary's School?

We may have the opportunity to offer parents and other family members to learn to speak English as another language, from the Skills and Learning Agency, who may be able to run a course here in school.

We anticipate that this would be a free of charge course, with no costs involved to participants.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the school office 01202 676207 or speak to Mrs Wright, Pastoral Care.

PTA

On the 13th March we will be holding our first collection for '**Bag2school**'. This will help the PTA raise much needed funds to support in school as well as helping the environment. We are hoping for a record collection of unwanted clothes and shoes!

In the term before Christmas we provided funding to support 2 school trips, new e-learning equipment, Christmas school meals for KS2 and new picnic tables for KS2 children which we look forward to being delivered soon. Our project for the spring term will be to fund the replacement and repair of the wooden playground equipment so that the children can enjoy it when the weather gets better. The new tables take a good few hours to put together and recommend 2 people at a time. If any of you have a spare hour or two after school one day where you could help Mr Rolston with the build it would be very much appreciated. Please just let the office know when you are available to help.

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: 23rd February - **KS1 Disco** and 27th April - **KS2 Disco**.

Please keep Saturday 10th March free in your diary to come to the '**Dippy Day**' which will be held at St. Mary's School. There will be 2 sessions 10-12noon and 1-3pm. Please feel free to bring along friends and family to join in the event. There is no charge but refreshments and raffle tickets will be on sale. If you wish to help on the day with refreshments please let us know.

At the moment we are planning our Spring events which we will update you on in due course in addition to a new silent auction for the Summer Fayre; as always if you can offer any help please contact us at pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk or write to us c/o the school office.

Your continued support is always appreciated. *Your PTA*

A generation of Alter Servers

Harry, one of our Year 4 pupils,
is following in his grandad's footsteps
to serve alongside him at our local
Parish church, St. Mary's Catholic Church.
Well done Harry.
God bless you both.
Mrs Wright.



Dear God,

May the sunlight
and the rain be
reminders that
You are at work
renewing the earth. As a God of
renewal, You are ever at work in our
lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to
the needed changes in our lives this
Spring. Awaken us to new life and
perspective, for we pray in Jesus'
name.

Amen.



Miss Howard would like to share this poem with you by
Emmanuella in Year 4:

LITTLE REFUGEES

Little refugees,
lucky to survive,
sailing cross the seas,
living dangerous lives,
Will they get a chance
to be as lucky as we are?
those little refugees,
waiting from afar.

Refugees, refugees,
waiting for some love,
praying hard, super hard,
to Lord our God above.

Big ones, small ones,
no matter what they are,
they are all, refugees!
Wishing to the stars.

I wish to be that little star,
and I don't care, of what they are
cos' if I was that little star,
I wouldn't care of what they are.
(I'd love them as their little star.)

no matter
what they
are.

Lonely refugees, sailing across the
sea, waiting for some care,
so they can get to a home,
to be free and not be mean.

We can help by sending some
food and water so they don't
need to get dehydrated or
hungry. (atleast get 1 meal a-
day.)

We can also help by giving
them money, (by charity) give
them some clothes and food.

Catholic Life of the School

Last week I was fortunate to be invited to the
dedication of the new Chapel at St. Edward's school. It
was lovely to be a part of a service with both the
Bishop of Salisbury and the Bishop of Plymouth.

The Chapel used to be a MFL room and it has been
transformed with the work of children and made into a
very prayerful space.



I am hoping that perhaps some of our children can go
and visit the space and be supported by the children of
St. Edward's in prayer.

The Minnie Vinnie's Mike Royles visited St Mary's last
week to support them during one of their meetings.
They are busy planning the cake sale today. I know you
will all be generous in your donations and in the pur-
chasing of the cakes!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Armstrong