

Message from the Headteacher

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support this half term. Thank you to the parents and carers of Year 2 pupils who joined us for the Year 2 liturgy last Thursday afternoon. The children considered our Gospel Values (8 Bees) and how we can all share the light of Christ by being kind, humble, fair, forgiving, peacemakers and compassionate.

This half term we have focused on the Catholic Social Teaching theme '**subsidiarity**' where everyone's voice, no matter how small, matters. As adults this reminds us all of the importance of listening to our children. Children want busy adults to notice them, to stop and listen – when we do this it makes the children feel valued and loved. This is a key message for teachers, parents and leaders across our world.

Next half term will be a busy one as we begin our Lenten journey starting with Ash Wednesday. We will be celebrating Book Week and hoping that all families renew their commitment to listening to their children every evening, reading them bedtime stories and visit their local libraries. Our Catholic Social Teaching theme next half term is **solidarity** – the need to stand together as one community and to support the vulnerable.

The staff of St Mary's School hope everyone in our community has a peaceful, happy and restful half term break.

Important Dates

Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
17th to 21st February	Half Term Break
Monday 24th February	INSET Day – school is closed to children for staff training
Wednesday 26th February 16:30	Books at Bedtime (please see more info on poster)
Friday 28 th February	Sponsored Bounce (EYFS and KS1)
Friday 28th February - 28th March	Class 4Lo swimming lessons
Week commencing 3rd March	Book Week
Tuesday 4 th March 14:30	Stories from Around the World Parent/Carer Volunteers welcome
Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday – the season of Lent begins.
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Monday 10th March 15:30/18:00	Parent/Carer Information sessions -Times Table Checks 15:30/Y6 SATS 18:00
Week Commencing Tuesday 11th March	Book Fair in school (Poster attached)
Thursday 13th March	CAFOD Family Fast Day

Monday 17th March 15:30	Parent/Carer Information session - Phonics Screening – Year 1
Thursday 20th March 2025 - 14:30	Year 1 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)
Friday 21st March 2025	World Down Syndrome Day - Fundraiser
Tuesday 25th March 15:30	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Thursday 27th March - 15:30	Parent/Teacher Consultations
7th to 21st April	Easter Break
Tuesday 22nd April	School Photos (Class)

Announcements

Staffing Update

Welcome to Miss Venters who has been appointed as a midday supervisor and will join our team next half term. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Barron to our midday team and also as our new clerk to the local governing body.

We currently have vacancies for one to one teaching assistants (end date August 2025) - applications are available for the school office this week.

Sponsored Bounce

EYFS and KS1 pupils will be taking part in a sponsored bounce on Friday 28th February in order to raise money for our Mermaid trail. All funds raised will go to support Julia's House, our local children's hospice. Miss Emblin will be sending out information this week.

Holiday Club

SC Holiday clubs will again be running a holiday camp at St Mary's school. For more information about this and other holiday sessions, please see their website. <https://sc-holiday-clubs.classforkids.io/camps>

St Mary's parents can have a 10% discount using code : MEX125

Books at Bedtime

We look forward to hosting **Books at Bedtime** again this year. Children can return to school at 4:00pm on Wednesday 26th February to listen to a story in their pajamas. Parents can grab a coffee and browse the Usborne Book Sale for new books. We will also have a selection of free books available for children to take home to supplement their books at home. The aim of this event is to encourage a love of reading and stories. Please do support this event.



The following week is **Book Week** and **World Book Day** (Thursday 6th March). Children can dress up on Thursday 6th March. Our theme for the week will be about the different places and countries you can visit through books. Children can dress up as any book character they would like or dress as a character from another country or a favorite place in a book. We look forward to seeing the children's wonderful outfits.

Reminders

School Car Park

The school car park is for the use of staff, visitors and disabled badge holders. If you require the use of the school car park, please apply for a school car park pass via the main school office. We endeavour to keep traffic in the car park to a minimum, especially at busy morning and end of day times, this is to keep all pupils and pedestrians as safe as possible.

Safety on School Access Roads

BCP Council have received complaints regarding inconsiderate motorists who are constantly parking in the Pound Lane coach parking bays on at pick up time from St Marys School. Please refrain from doing this as it is dangerous for the children on loading and the coach company then must block the road causing delays.

Lost property

Please check lost property if your child is missing any items. We have lots of unnamed items including school shoes and glasses. It is located outside Night Owls every Friday.

Be Safe

Button Battery Dangers

No light up rings in school please. The battery compartment of the products are not secured by a screw, allowing easy access to the compartment and button cell batteries. The batteries may be placed in the mouth and swallowed presenting a choking hazard for young children, as well as causing damage or internal burns to the gastrointestinal tract.



BUTTON BATTERY DANGERS

Button batteries are in products such as:

- KEYLESS ENTRY REMOTES
- WIRELESS GAME CONTROLS
- REMOTE CONTROLS
- TOYS
- DIGITAL SCALES
- DIGITAL THERMOMETERS
- WATCHES
- MUSICAL GREETING CARDS
- CALCULATORS
- FLASHING JEWELRY AND SHOES

A CHILD CAN SWALLOW A BUTTON BATTERY AND SUFFER DANGEROUS CHEMICAL BURNS IN AS LITTLE AS TWO HOURS. DO NOT LEAVE PRODUCTS WITH ACCESSIBLE BUTTON BATTERIES WITHIN REACH OF CHILDREN.

WWW.CPSC.GOV



Weekly Phonics Practice

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/iGnZ4raN/Ees1eoRD> are
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uS1a2R8R/t39NWZbJ> sh

Vapes – A warning and a plea for information.

Dorset Police and local schools are becoming increasingly aware of a rise in children being in possession of vapes and vape products, such as vape liquids.

The legal age to supply or use a vape in the UK is 18, yet some retailers have failed to uphold this rule and are putting our children at risk.

Additionally, there have been reported incidents of children becoming unwell after using vape products. With a rise in counterfeit vapes and illicit vapes containing banned substances such as THC (the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis) or other dangerous synthetic substances, we all need to be aware of the risk of harm these pose to children and work together to remove them from the streets.

In order for Police and Trading Standards to take positive action and keep our children safe, we need you to tell us where children might be sourcing vapes and vape products, and who may be supplying them. This may be a particular shop, individual, or other illegitimate vendor. You can provide this information either by contacting [Dorset Police](#), [Trading Standards](#) or anonymously via [Crimestoppers](#).

Should your child become unwell after using a vape, please seek urgent medical attention. Although such cases are rare, adverse reactions seen in recent incidents include dizziness, heart palpitations and even falling unconscious.

Be Here, be Ready

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically.
- With the focus and development on the curriculum that has taken place at school then children who are absent will find gaps in their sequential knowledge.
- For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their phonics groups after the register has been taken.



Spotlight

Happy St Valentine's Day

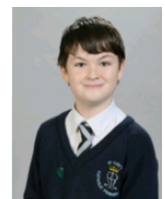


February 14th is celebrated as Saint Valentine's Day in many countries around the world. St Valentines Day celebrates love but St Valentine was also known as a Saint of good health and healing and the Patron Saint of beekeepers!



Mission Moments

Well done to Ben in Year 6 who enjoys being a prefect and tries his hardest to be kind, helpful and a peacemaker. [#missionheroandpeacemaker](#)



Final Word

And some jokes to share with your children...

Q: What do you call a rabbit that tells jokes?

A: A funny bunny!

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A: A gummy bear!

Q: What do you call a sheep that is always quiet?

A: A shhhheep!

Q: What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?

A: A maybe!



Wishing you and your families and happy and restful half term break!

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF TRUSTED CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Plymouth CAST operates Catholic schools within the Local Authorities of Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon, Torbay, Dorset, Poole & Bournemouth.