



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



21st December
2018

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"



Important dates for your diary

7 January 2019

Children return to school

18 January

F2 Parent/Carer Coffee
Morning

25 January

Year 2 Liturgy followed by
coffee morning

1 February

Year 6 Mass followed by
coffee morning

5 February

Open Book Event 3:30-4:30
pm

8 February

Year 3 & 4 Mass followed by
coffee morning

14 February

Charity Cake Sale after
school

15 February

Break up for half term
holiday 3:15pm

25 February

INSET DAY 3

26 February

Children return to school

5 April

Break up for Easter holidays
3:15 pm

23 April

Children return to school

19 July

Break up for summer holiday
- finish at 1:30pm

As we reach the end of a very long term I wanted to thank you all for your continued support throughout the autumn term. The staff, ably supported by the governors, and children have all worked so hard and are now well and truly settled into their new school year groups. We have been expecting a visit from Ofsted since the middle of October as it is two years since our last inspection; hopefully they will come early in the New Year, when we will welcome them in and show them all the progress your children are making.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Miss Lomas who has done an excellent job in Year 3. She is part of the St. Mary's family and we look forward to working with her again in the future. In the New Year, we welcome back Miss Shaw from her maternity leave. We also say a very big thank you, but not farewell, to Mrs Pat Rushton, our School Business Manager, who is changing her position after being at St. Mary's for 16 years. In the New Year, she will become a 'Cluster Business Manager' for Plymouth CAST. She will be working with four schools, ourselves, Christ the King, St. Joseph's, and St Catherine's. Fortunately, she will be keeping her office here at St. Mary's but will be fulfilling a different role.

Our Christmas celebrations in school this week involved the Christmas Parties. It was superb to once again see such fantastic team work in Key Stage Two as they planned and designed such super party tables! The children in Key Stage One also had a great day wearing their party clothes and having fun.

On Wednesday, the Key Stage One Choir went singing at Horizons. We received lovely comments about how well they sang and what super children they were. Also on Wednesday, a few of our Year 5 children went with Mrs Reyes and Mrs Wright to see Reyes in hospital. He is responding well and is hoping to return home soon. Please keep him in your prayers over Christmas. Also, an update on Grace in Year 1 is that she continues to build up her strength and will hopefully return to school in the New Year.

Today, we finish school at 1.30pm, with Carols around the Christmas tree. I am looking forward to joining you and Father John for a short time of joyful reflection before we return home to our families for Christmas.

May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful break and remind you to keep your eyes and heart open for unexpected ways that God will reveal to you the hope of Christmas.

May God's blessing be with you and your families this Christmas Season.

Helen Armstrong

INSET days 2018/19

**25th February , 22nd & 23rd
July 2019**



Thank you for your donations to the Poppy Appeal, we raised £42.85 for the Royal British Legion.



Healthy eating

Please do not give your child chocolate or sweets in their lunch box.



Birthday treats policy— treats should be something similar to small packets of Haribo. In KS2 sweets 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. Please do not send in any chocolate or cakes.

Thank you for your support in keeping all our children safe in school.

Twitter!

We now have 264 followers on Twitter!



The largest number of re-tweets we have had is 4 and 14 likes, let's increase this in 2019!

Please follow us using @stmaryspoole or see the Information tab on our school website, Quick Links, where you will be able to see the most recent tweets from St Mary's.

Early Birds Breakfast and Night Owls After School Clubs

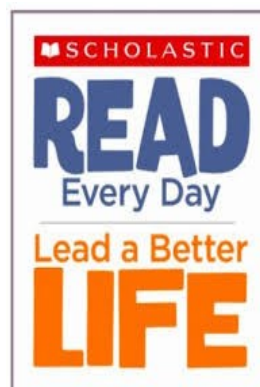


We are delighted with the success and take up of our extended care provision and hope that it is proving a help to those who need childcare before and after school.

We are hoping that you will take advantage of the new online booking service, the same account that is used for booking parents' evening appointments and paying for trips etc. If you do not yet have an account, please contact the school office who can generate a code to allow you to set up an account. Instructions for using ScoPay to order hot school meals and to book Early Birds or Night Owls can be found on our website at www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website/information/

The School Library

Thank you to everyone who ordered from our Scholastic Book Club. We are delighted to let you know that thanks to your support we **earned £22.45 to spend on books for the school**, every little helps.



Please look out for our next Book Club to order great books at great prices and earn lots of free books for our school while you do.

We will also be setting up a book donation. A box will be put in the reception foyer for anyone to donate any well cared for books to the library.

Unfortunately we cannot accept annuals or activity books but any good quality fiction and non fiction children's books will be gratefully received.

Parents can also donate new books and write a dedication that will be stuck inside the cover.

This will start from 17th December 2018.

Many thanks,

Mrs Eddy and Mrs Mundy



PTA News

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very big thank you to all the parents, staff and students for supporting the PTA in 2018.



The PTA always welcomes new volunteers and ideas. If you would like to get involved with PTA events in 2019, or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on PTA@st-marys.poole.sch.uk.

We wish everyone a wonderful festive Christmas and see you in 2019!

Year 5 News

It has been over a week since Year 5 came back from their residential at Leeson House but the excitement and valuable experiences that they gained from the trip remain fresh and relevant to their continued learning in school. Although it rained on the first day, their spirits were not dampened and the children still managed to have an enjoyable walk towards Dancing Ledge, visiting a local church on the way. As the weather deteriorated, it was decided that it was too dangerous to continue to Dancing Ledge but head back to the house and allow children to explore the house and settle into their rooms.

Later, after a very tasty meal, the children went out for a night walk where they heard a number of short myths as well as getting to see a bat!

The second day involved a walk up to Old Harry Rocks where the children were able to see examples of erosion that linked to their previous learning at school.



They then headed down to Knoll Beach, stopping off at a World war two bunker, where they made models of cliff erosion as well as having lots of fun rolling down the sand dunes-even some of the adults joined in!

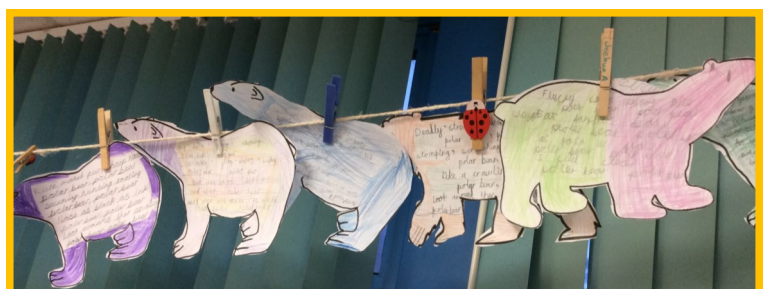
A delicious Christmas meal awaited them along with a visit from Mrs Armstrong. Afterwards the children continued their learning within the classrooms where they learnt more about the wildlife and geology within the area.

On the final day, the children learnt how to use a compass as well as working in teams to do some orienteering. Everyone had a fantastic time and all the adults agreed that it had been a positive experience for each and every child. Many thanks for preparing your child for the trip and all the support over this first and busy term in Year 5.

Year 2 News

This half term Year 2 have been learning about all things polar. We've been learning about the polar regions, polar animals and polar climates. This week we've been writing polar poetry based on polar bears. We thought carefully about the language we were using to describe polar bears (what they look like and how they move) as well as using similes.

When we had written our poems we shared them with Y6.



Art competition

Many thanks to all who entered my competition. I had an amazing 121 entries! Foundation were the champions with 33 entries. The standard was very high so our judge had a difficult decision choosing the winners, here are the results:

F2	Yr3	Yr6
1st May	1st Evie	1st Grace
2nd Ciara	2nd Katie	2nd Alexander
3rd Magdelana	3rd Elias	3rd Sienna
Yr 1	Yr4	Well done to all the entrants!
1st William	1st Kaitlyn	I hoped you all had fun creating your entries.
2nd Nela	2nd Anastazja	Mrs Reyes
3rd Samuel	3rd Ciara	
Yr2	Yr5	
1st William	1st Preston	
2nd Georgia	2nd Kaitlin	
3rd Amelia Kelly	3rd Ellie	

School Council and House Point News

It has been a very busy half term for the School Council. After the success of the Dance Circuit, we have been thinking about possible new projects. We had lots of different ideas but decided on improving our outside areas. We have started this project by investigating both playgrounds focusing on what we like about them and what we would like to improve. Next half term we will continue to look at this. Thank you to all the school council members who are doing a sterling job.

This week we heard that Lulworth won the most house points this half term so we will work with them to decide a treat for their reward!

Football

Our year 5 and 6 girls football team took part in a football tournament recently. There were some brilliant football skills on display from all the girls. Thank you for all our supporters on a cold Thursday afternoon! We look forward to some more matches in the



Netball

Year 3/4 Netball Team got dressed up Christmas style and played a friendly game before having our traditional Netball party in the HUB. Thank you to our squad of players and look forward to seeing you all in 2019 for further practise. Leandra, Olivia, Alicia, Amber, Amelia, Annabelle, Sienna, Millie, Grace & Oliver.



It was that time of year again for our year 5 & 6

Netball players, who played in their Christmas outfits before having end of term celebration in the HUB. Rhianna, Chloe, Taylah, Sienna, Angela, Suhani, Kiera, Bella, Ovie, Elysia, Julia W and Julia M.

See you all in the New Year when we will keep our skills in good shape for our Netball Tournaments next year!

Online Safety

Having worked with the Safer Schools Community Team this term, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that during the Christmas holiday, with children possibly receiving new electronic devices and mobile phones, you review your child's safety when they are online and make sure you know what they are doing. It is essential that the access that your child has is appropriate for their age and developmental stage. For younger children, you as parents need to set up devices and apps so that children are protected as far as possible from content that would upset or harm them, and are not able to be contacted by people they don't know. Most games, apps and websites will have an age rating indicating age suitability, but parents should also do their own checks using sites like NSPCC NetAware or CommonSenseMedia.

If your child is wanting to use something that you think will put them at risk, find an alternative: for example, YouTube Kids is aimed at younger children and lets parents control more closely what videos children can access. If you don't know how to set up the parental controls on a device, get advice from Internet Matters.

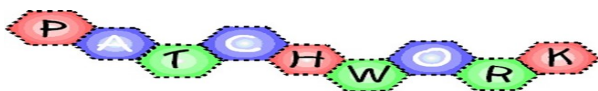
You also need to talk to your child about what is safe and what isn't and what they should do if they see or hear something that makes them worried or upset.

As your child gets older, he or she may be unaware about what the etiquette is on online gaming or social media leading to them falling out with their online friends; you can assist your child in learning what appropriate online behaviours are. You need to set clear expectations for your child about their behaviour online in terms of what they are allowed to access, where they may use devices and for how long. Please monitor the use of all devices, including phones and games consoles and support, educate and sanction children appropriately where they are not making good choices.

As a school, we have found that online apps can escalate issues that otherwise would have sorted themselves out, because the behaviour from school can continue into the evenings, weekends and holidays. While we can and will assist you with managing your child's behaviour online, ultimately it is up to the child and parents to take responsibility for this. It is important that parents work together with us to educate and protect your children. We have programmes covering aspects of staying safe online helping children to understand how their online lives will affect their friendships and how they feel about themselves. Many children will talk to their parents if they are having problems online and so your support is invaluable in getting these messages across to all of our children.








If you are concerned that your child seems unhappy make sure you let us know about it at school as we may be able to help you.

Mrs Betts (Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Parenting through the Primary Years

Are you interested in discussing with a small group of parents the joys and difficulties of being a Dad, Mum or Carer? If so, why not come along for a cuppa and a chat. The sessions take place at St. Mary's in our friendly HUB. First sessions starts on **Tuesday 8th January, 1.30-3:00pm**. For further information please contact Bernie Wright, Pastoral Care Worker via the school office.

Social Media App	Age Restriction
 WhatsApp	16yrs
 Snapchat	13yrs
 Instagram	13yrs
 Facebook	13yrs
 Messenger	13yrs
 YouTube	13yrs
 Twitter	13yrs

First Day Contact



First day contact will be made with parents/ carers 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 email the school office at: office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk **by 9:00.am please.**

Attendance

At St Mary's we have an attendance target of a minimum of 96% attendance for all children, apart from those with chronic health issues.

We try to create an ethos in which good attendance and punctuality are recognised as the norm, we can only achieve this with your support. We would ask you to help by not taking holidays in term time, not only does your child's attendance become affected but it is a disruption to their routines and learning.

We know that you, as your child's parent/carer, want your child to get on well in life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school every day, on time.

1L Sharks	94.2%
1M Blue Whales	94.3%
2D Penguins	97.7%
2H Polar Bears	95.8%
3S Wolverines	97.0%
3M Poison Dart Frogs	96.6%
4HoMarine Iguanas	96.7 %
4E Galapagos Penguins	95.1%
5W Swift Foxes	97.6%
5L Spider Monkeys	96.5%
6L Fin Whales	95.8%
6W White Rhinos	94.3%

ARRIVING
15 MINUTES LATE
EVERY DAY
ADDS UP TO OVER
10 DAYS LOST
EACH YEAR

School Bus Service

Part of Lake Road in Hamworthy will be closed from January 14th to February 11th. As the bus travels along Coles Avenue from Blandford Road and then along Lake Road back to Blandford Road in a loop the bus will not be able to travel in either direction on either road.

Therefore in **BOTH** directions the pick up and drop off point will be the Red Lion stop & the Co-Op Hamworthy stop, the timetable will otherwise remain the same.

Coughs & sneezes, vomiting bugs etc!

Whilst we continue to improve attendance we have to acknowledge that we are now in to the season of germs! Please may we 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, (for example too much party food!) 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, cold or any illness that allows them to be in school medicated we are happy to administer **prescribed** medicine in school but will ask

that you complete a form with detailed instructions beforehand.

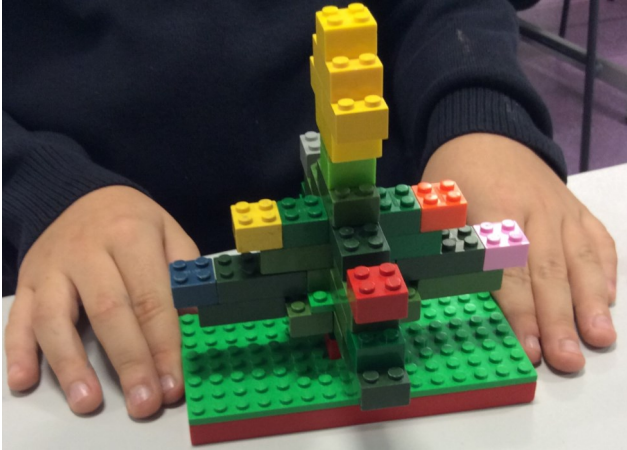


The school nursing team run drop in sessions at school so please feel free to take advantage of these if you are experiencing any particular issues.

Lego Club

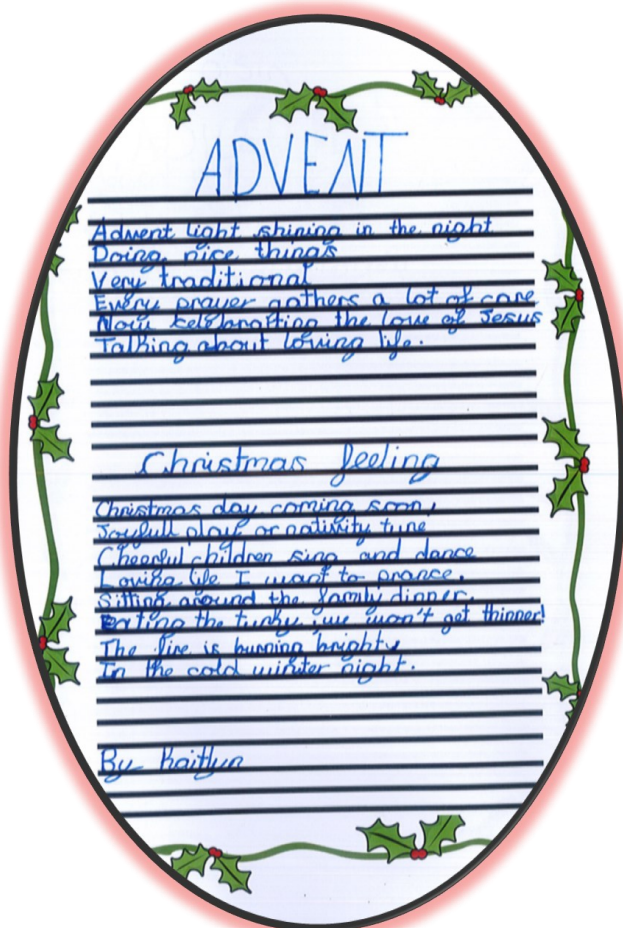
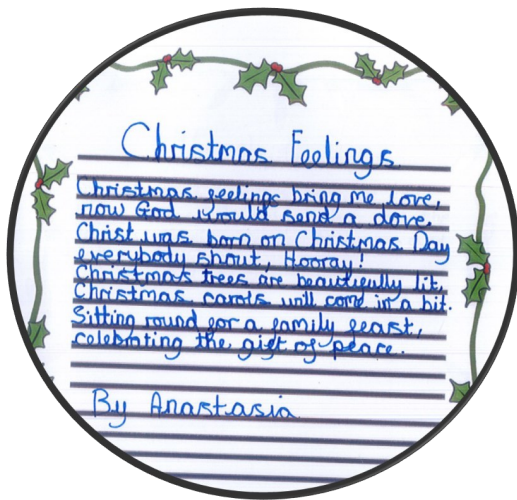
James from Year 5 recently set up a Lego Club on a Thursday lunchtime. The children are set challenges by James, for example last week he asked all the children to make a Christmas tree and the following week the winner is announced!. We are really enjoying the challenges, thank you James!

The club is open to any children in KS2 and we would be very grateful for any donations of Lego bricks so that more children can join in.




Alex (5L)

Year 4 would like to share their feelings about Advent and Christmas in poem



JUST HELPING
Registered charity number 116004

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION in aid of

 **Lewis-Manning Hospice**

and other local charities

LEAVE THE EFFORT OF GETTING RID OF YOUR TREE TO US!

We would welcome a donation for the collection of your Christmas tree.

We are collecting trees from POSTCODES BH11, BH12, BH13 and BH14 on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th January

Registrations closing date is Sunday, 6th January at 11.00 p.m.

To arrange a collection please book in at:
www.charityxmastreecollection.com

After costs, 90% of the money raised will go to Lewis-Manning Hospice and the remaining 10% donated to other local charities.



This week we had two children in the Foundation Stage who brought in their certificates from home. Paige had a trophy for Cheerleading and Sophia a certificate and badge for swimming.

Well done both girls.



Well done also to all the children who have, and will be, taking part in local productions such as pantomimes and concerts over the Christmas season, we are very proud of you all.

Reflection

The Christmas Season begins with the vigil of the Nativity in the evening of Christmas eve and finishes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday 13th January.

In the readings for Midnight Mass and the Dawn Mass on Christmas day we encounter the shepherds who are the first people to meet the infant Jesus in Luke's Gospel, showing us that Christ came not just for the rich and powerful but for the weak and poor - the people society often rejects.

On the Feast of the Epiphany St Matthew showing the Magi (foreigners) being the first to meet the infant King, showing us that Christ came for people of all nations.

During the Christmas octave we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. They, like us, had problems, difficulties and suffered in many ways. They lived as refugees in a foreign land and Mary watched her Son die on the cross. On January 1st the church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.

These feasts and the Christmas Season as a whole remind us of the humanity of Christ and his family. Let us then ask their blessing on us and our families as we celebrate the birthday of the greatest person who ever lived.

Fr John

