



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19th July 2019

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Devon Road  
Poole, BH15 3QQ

## Important dates for your diary

**3rd September**

Children return to school

**INSET days:**

**2nd September 2019**

**29th October 2019**

**25th February 2020**

**22nd July 2020**

**23rd July 2020**

**Please see school  
calendar**

**(published subject to  
change)**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at the end of another school year. There have been so many celebrations along the way. Our greatest success was at the end of January when we were graded as a 'GOOD' school by Ofsted. I want to thank all the staff both past and present who helped us to achieve this. We have not stopped since January and the children have had great challenges and experiences as the year continued. Throughout the year we have participated in many sporting events and this resulted in us being awarded the 'Silver School Games Award'. Alongside this we have experienced many musical events which have enabled us to show off the talents of the children and we ended with the most amazing production of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Over the year we have experienced a couple of changes in staff but have been very fortunate to replace them with staff who have quickly settled into their new roles at St. Marys. Yesterday we had our farewell liturgy for Mrs Betts who had worked at St. Mary's for 24 years and on Wednesday we had our farewell Mass for our Year 6 children. Most of the children have been with us since they began school and all the children will take with them lots of memories of their years here. All our children and the staff that have moved on to new experiences will remember the friendships formed, the lessons learned, the laughter, the tears, the struggles, the triumphs, and the knowledge gained whilst at our school. We also remember 'Reyes' who was a valued member of school community. We have so many happy memories of him - may he rest in peace.

As we break up for the summer I wish you all a very happy and restful holiday and I thank you all children, staff, families and governors for your contributions to our school. Without you our school would not be as great as it is. Each little thing that you have done has added up to making our school an amazing place.

I look forward to seeing you all in September when we return to begin new school year.

Yours faithfully ,

*Helen Armstrong*

### Attendance

Please be reminded that Headteachers are not allowed to authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please therefore ensure your child's regular attendance by taking family holidays within the 13 weeks of school holidays.

Thank you for your support.



01202 676207

*"Inspiring each other to learn, in the light of Christ"*



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



## PTA News

Thank you everyone for your support this year. We have had a fantastic year! We have been subsidising school trips, assisting with funding for KS2 Christmas school meals, purchased fish for the Hub, coat hooks and equipment and toys for the Breakfast and After school clubs, class visualisers in every room which helps with learning, ducks for KS1, support with costume and set costs for the production of 'Alice in Wonderland' and finally school membership for every child in school to the Poole Museum. The PTA have been very busy!

Despite the heat, the Summer Fayre was a great success, thank you for your donations you were all very generous. We were fortunate to again have Papa Johns' and our friendly ice-cream man volunteer their services. Well done to Mrs Wilson and our children involved in 'Alice in Wonderland' production for their amazing performance along with KS1 dance club who provided the entertainment.

We would like to wish our Year 6 children the best of luck in their new ventures and thank you to everyone for a successful year of fundraising for our children.

We are always looking for new members so if you feel you want to join the committee please email us on [pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk](mailto:pta@st-marys.poole.sch.uk) and if you're on Facebook, we also have a Facebook page called St Mary's Catholic Primary Poole PTA, so please like and join this page and you will also get details of forthcoming events via that forum.

Your PTA

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

## Volunteers

I would like to say thank you to our Parent Reader Team for all their continued help and support again this year. If you would like to join the Team next year please contact the school office. An enhanced DBS check will be carried out by the school.

Thank you once again.

Mrs

Cassidy



## School Library

The library has been a hive of activity recently. We have been lucky enough to win £300 worth of brand new books. We were also lucky enough to be donated £500 by an organisation called Friends 500. They heard about our campaign to revamp our library on Twitter and wanted to help. The money has been used to purchase many more current fiction books, we were so pleased to be able to support a local bookshop, Westbourne Book Shop as a result who were kind enough to send us lots of goodies as well.

The shelves are now well stocked and the majority of children who have returned their fingerprint permission letters have now been entered onto the system. If you haven't yet returned your slip, you can get a replacement letter from the office. We are hopeful that it will be "all systems go" when we return in September. We can't wait to see the enjoyment the children get from reading the new books.



## Home/School Communication

We strongly value the excellent relationships we have with parents, carers and the wider community. The majority of parents and carers adhere to our procedures for contacting members of staff through the appropriate channels and in a respectful and courteous way.

We will endeavour to reply to any communication within 24 hours, we do ask that if you have an issue you raise it first with your child's class teacher. If the issue cannot be resolved at this level it can be escalated to the Phase Leader and ultimately a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The exception to this are serious safeguarding concerns which can be taken directly to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Armstrong or any of her Deputies; Mr Lakatos, Mrs Hazell or Mrs Wright.

We, of course, want the very best for all the children in our care and endeavour to provide a vast range of opportunities and experiences that will help develop your children into well rounded, happy individuals who will look back fondly of their time at primary school. This is only possible when we can work in partnership with you: your child's parent and carer, hence the home school agreement which you sign when your child's starts their journey at St Mary's.

We want the children to develop traits such as resilience; at secondary school they will be expected to be responsible for their choices and to be independent so we need to prepare for this with your help.

Emails to the office account may be a fast and convenient way for parents to send messages, but this is not always the case for teachers. Teachers cannot always read their emails on the day that they are sent and they may only be read them before or after school. Teachers may prefer to use the phone to speak directly to parents or to email via the generic school account. Your child's teacher will determine how best to contact you: by email, phone, or by appointment.

Please see below the procedures that should be followed when communicating with our staff, especially through email:

- Parents should not opt out of our email communication option without prior explanation. This is a valuable tool by which to communicate urgent and important information to you, such as emergency school closures.
- Please send only non-vital messages by this medium as a teacher may not have time to read your message in a timely fashion.
- *Email can be used to communicate briefly about matters previously discussed with the teacher or for brief queries, clarification or updates. More significant issues or 'new' concerns are best dealt with on the telephone or in person.*
- Grievances against members of staff should not be raised via an email.
- Please avoid contacting teachers with queries that can be handled by the school office team or by consulting the school website. The office staff will always make an appointment for you to meet with your child's teacher if you give them an indication of the issue.
- Please ensure that any email communication is courteous and polite in tone; confrontational or aggressive emails will not warrant a response.
- Please be reasonable and courteous in the volume of emails that you are sending.
- The school reserves the right to withdraw this form of communication from a parent who is using it in an inappropriate manner or in a manner which causes distress to school staff.

Parents should be aware that emails are regarded as a written form of communication and will be kept as a record of communication.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## Revised Policy - 'Pupil Premium' Funding Resources & Activities :

**All Year Groups:** School uniform – 1 school jumper and 1 school logo t-shirt (KS1) a year, 1 book bag (KS1) and PE t-shirt per key stage.

- 25% off 'Before school' and 'After school' costs
- Access to one paid club a year eg French, Maths, Science, Sport Clubs
- Day Trips: up to 50% discount on the parental contribution requested

**Key Stage 2** - Peripatetic music lessons will be paid for after parents have paid for the first term and if the child shows commitment and dedication to the subject. Residential Trips: **up to 75% discount.**

### Safety Message

We have been requested by the local neighbourhood Policing Team and Council to notify all Parents and Carers that concerns have been raised of young people accessing a derelict site. The site formally known as PARRS in Alder Road has been deemed unsafe and dangerous and also has asbestos present.

All young people should stay away from the site.

Safe Schools and Communities Team

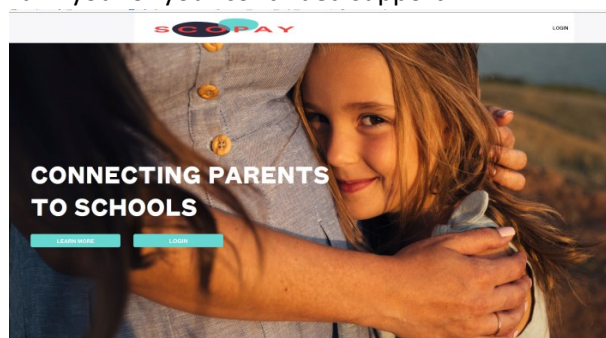


### St Mary's is going cashless!

Please be reminded that a letter was sent to all parents and carers yesterday regarding the move to a cashless school.

We would also like to take the opportunity to ensure that all parents are opted in to our e-communications as they often contain crucial information regarding your child's education and school life.

Thank you for your continued support.



### Pond Area

We were so pleased to have so many volunteers to help clear the pond area the other week. The area is now all clear and ready to develop.



We have just applied for a grant to help us to buy a new pond liner. If there are any parents with any knowledge of ponds we would be very grateful of any advice.

We are also hoping to clear the raised beds up on the bank and tidy up the greenhouse ready for the children to get stuck in with some planting.

As a result of our plans for the pond and bank area we have earned a Level 1 RHS Schools gardening award.

### School Council

The School Council have had such a busy year!

Every half term we have been busy counting up the house points and organising rewards for the winning house.

Over the year we have helped organise a fundraising dance for the NSPCC, raised awareness of the benefits of walking to school and investigated our school environment.



This half term we have been thinking about how we can help improve spelling and handwriting across the school.

We have come up with lots of exciting ideas which we will pass onto the School Council who take over from us next year.

### RNLI Visit

Year 3 and Year 6 have been really lucky to have had workshops from our RNLI visitor, Adrian Boyd this Summer Term.

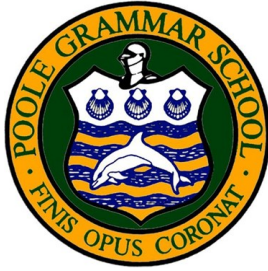


They learnt about the role of the RNLI, the lifeboats and the RNLI training facility in Poole. They also learnt about water safety, including the dangers of rip tides and tomb stoning, beach flags, and the 'float to live' water survival project.

One of our Year 3 children, Liam, was so enthusiastic with his questions and answers that Adrian invited him to be on the hospital radio - well done Liam!

A big thank you to Adrian for these really engaging and enjoyable workshops! We look forward to inviting Adrian back next year.





### Congratulations St. Mary's Eco Warriors!

Well done to all the fantastic Eco Warriors this year, who have all worked so hard with our school environment. This year, we have had the greatest number of Eco Warrior so far and they have been so enthusiastic! We are aiming to achieve the Poole School's Environment Award again this year. The activities that the Eco Warriors have been involved in, have included: litter picking, digging out the pond, recycling, litter and recycling bin surveys, 'Walk to School Week', writing letters to companies about reducing plastic waste, making 'Switch off lights' signs, and visiting Poole Grammar School to help them plant seeds for their Year 9 project. Well done!



### Super Swimmers

This year, we had three fantastic swimming teams who competed against over 12 Poole primary schools. Well done to our Year 4 team: Joel T, Theo N -Y, Christopher G, Samuel H, Romeo G, Ciara H, Beatrice Mc, Isabella S, Brogan G and Grace E.



Year 5 team: Oliver A-W, Alex H, James H, Ollie Mc, Mareena W, Elysia H-K, Lily B and Lola M.

Year 6 team: Oscar B, Benny S, Harrison H, Byron T-S, Nicole M, Sienna B, Sophie W and Rianna T.

All the children swam really well and showed excellent sporting abilities and behaviour on the poolside and in the pool. We are very proud of you. Well done!

### Super Scientist Awards

Well done to all the children who have been awarded the Super Scientist Awards this year.

These awards recognise the most enthusiastic and hard working scientists in our school! These certificates will be presented this week. Well done to all!

### Year 4 Tri-golf

The children represented the school brilliantly coming third and qualifying for the Dorset school Games.

Well done!



### Year 4 Athletics

We had a lovely afternoon in the sunshine. The children took part in a variety of sports activities and finished by winning the relay!



### Donations

Foundation would be very grateful to receive any outgrown underpants and socks—please send in any donations via the school office.

Many thanks in anticipation.

### School uniform

We share your frustration of items going missing so please remember to name your child's uniform when they return in September, it helps enormously when trying to reunite lost property with its' owner.

If you do not need to purchase items please double check that the label/marker is still visible!

Our website has the complete uniform list for KS1 (years Foundation, 1 and 2) and KS2 (years 3,4,5 and 6). **Please remember that children in KS1 must not bring in a bag other than the logo book and PE bags.**

If in doubt please always check to save any costly mistakes. If you have any outgrown uniform please consider donating it to the school. *We have a stock for any families experiencing financial hardship, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Wright in confidence.*

We are very proud of the smart appearance of the pupils, a smart uniform signals a parent's, child's and school's pride and reinforces the school's standards. Thank you.



#### 4H wrote poems inspired by the poet Valerie Bloom and her poem, 'I asked the river'

We hope you enjoy them!



"Why do you giggle?" I asked the ocean  
"So much I can't compare.  
"I giggle," said the ocean because the sand plays with my hair!"  
"Why do your waves jump?" I asked the ocean.  
"I jump," said the ocean, "so I can reach the sky.  
"Why do you store creatures?" I asked the ocean, "So colourful and bright."  
"I store," said the ocean, "because I don't want to be lonely."  
Then the ocean sighed.  
All the laughter and giggles just died away.  
It whispered, "All my friends might die."  
"Why?" I asked.  
"Because of those bags that have dropped out of your hands."

By Aoife and Milly

#### Troubles of the Earth

"Why do you feel satisfied?" I curiously asked the Earth.  
"Because I was millions of floating pieces in space but now I am one." The Earth answered.  
"Why do you laugh?" I questioned the Earth.  
"Because all of the animals give me so much company,"  
"Why do you sigh?" I tested the Earth.  
"Cause I work 24 hours a day."  
"Why do you cough?" I asked the Earth.  
"All the plastic has clogged my lungs."  
"Why are you boiling?" I asked the Earth.  
"Because you have created greenhouse gasses."  
By Romeo

"Why do you weep?" I said to the ocean deep, "so much I don't dare to stare."  
"Because the fishermen take my fish so much I cannot bear."  
"Why do you sigh?" I said to the ocean's big blue eye.  
"Because there's so much pollution and no solutions.  
"Why are you scared?" I asked the ocean, "Am I causing a commotion?"  
"No, it is the rubbish that fills me inside. Stop it now or I will die."

By Isobel

I asked the Earth

"Why do you cry?" I asked the Earth's sky.

"I cry and I weep because of all the pollution, there's no solution to stop it."  
"Why do you stand there all day?" I asked the grass.  
"We stand here all day and whistle with the wind because you're not putting your rubbish in the bin – you leave it on us instead."

#### I asked the world

"Why do you laugh?" I say.  
"I laugh because my friend Uranus has a funny name."  
"Why do you move?" I say  
"I move because we are always playing around the sun."  
Do you smile?" I say.  
"No, for I am dying."  
"Why are you dying?" I say.  
"My land is melting, my blood explodes out and destroys everything and my air is black and brown."  
"How does that happen?" I say  
"You."  
By Joel

#### I asked Gianlucca the Dragon

"Why do you breathe fire?" I asked Gianlucca.  
"I do it so I can roast marshmallows over a camp fire." He replied.  
"Why are you colourful?" I asked Gianlucca.  
"Because I fly with rainbows." He replied.  
"Why are you so big?" I asked Gianlucca.  
"So I can put your house on my back." He replied.  
"Why do you have spiky toes?" I asked Gianlucca.  
"I wish I didn't." He replied.  
"Why do you have wings?" I asked Gianlucca.  
"So I can fly to Uranus!" He replied.  
So off he flew.  
By Rocco



Sienna competed in a ISTD dance competition in Swindon and came 3rd place in her disco set line dance and qualified for the national championships in October.

Well done Sienna!



Amelia from Year 4 competed in a street competition and came 2nd place in her solo dance in under 10's category.

Well done Amelia!



Alicia has been invited to be a Poole Museum Ambassador and is now helping the museum to review their displays and provide feedback about their activities.

Lena from Year 3 took a part in Summer Bliss show and after all she was awarded a medal for good confidence in dancing, singing and drama

Lena also attends the Shine Academy doing dancing, singing and acting. Last month she had her first test and she was awarded with bronze medal in speech.



Alicia from Year 4 was star of the week at trampolining recently, doing level 2 routines entirely unaided.

Well done Alicia!







Gabriella in our FS2 achieved her Level 2 swimming certificate.

Well done Gabriella!



Oliver from Year 4 achieved his Level 2 Water Skills swimming award.

Well done Oliver!

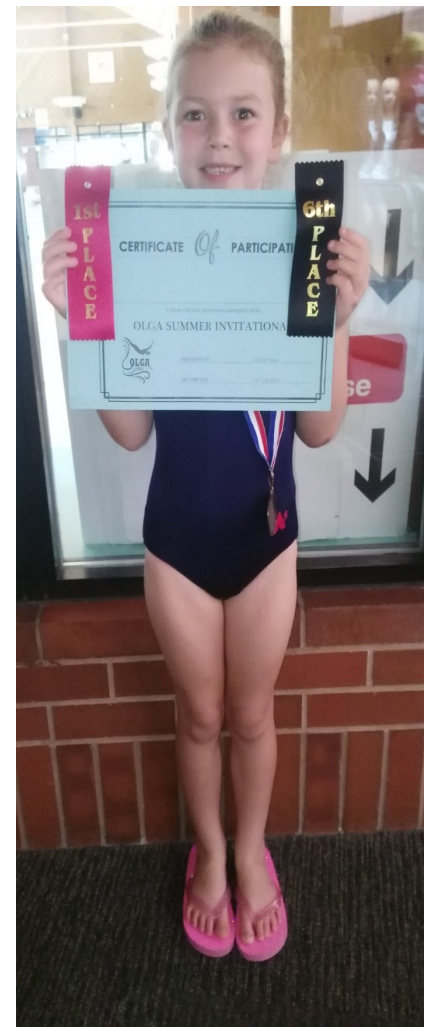


Sophie in Year 1 was awarded 2nd place and 6th place in recent gym competitions.

Well done Sophie!

Evie-Rose also in Year 1 was amazing in her gym class, she came 1st on vault 6th on floor and 3rd over all.

Well done Evie-Rose!





Year 3 had a wonderful Science trip to Kimmeridge last week—here are some photos!



### Summertime

A time of year that brings a smile to the face of almost everyone. It is a time of year when children are freed from the responsibilities of school work, families and friends gather together for picnics and share a moment of love and friendship, and a time when the sun still lights up the soft, warm summer evening skies. As summer begins, we should all take a few moments to reflect upon the meaning of this special God-given season and thank Him for it.



Summer often acts like a Sabbath for the year. God created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh. Likewise, students and people in the work force work diligently through the year, and summertime provides a period of rest and refreshment. Although work continues through the summer, many of us use this season to take a much-needed break with family and friends.

School is out for our pupils, but they still continue to learn every day. As parents, who are the primary educators of their children, what lessons have you planned for your children this summer? Perhaps the lesson of sharing? Perhaps taking care of the less fortunate through involvement in a local charity? Perhaps helping your children to delve deeper into their faith?

And what about those of us who are not children? We can find many ways to continue to grow in this less stressful and restful time of year. We can grow in our appreciation of God's beauty through visiting new places or favourite places which we may have visited as children ourselves and hold special memories in our hearts.

Summer is a wonderful time of year, and as we embark on this season of picnics, family gatherings and rest, we pray that God will bless each and every one of us with a summer of fun and joy. May we emerge from this season more rested and ready to start again in September!