



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

20th December 2019

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ



Important dates

for your diary

20th December

School closes at 1:30pm

6th January 2020

Inset—school closed to pupils

7th January

School Spring Term starts for pupils

24th January

Year 2 Liturgy & coffee morning

29th January

KS2 SATS information evening

31st January

Year 6 Mass & coffee morning

4th February

Open Book

6th February

Foundation coffee morning

7th February

Year 3 & 4 Mass & coffee morning

13th February

Charity cake sale after school

14th February

School closes for half term
3:15pm

25th February

Children return to school for
2nd half of Spring term

INSET days:

24th February 2020

1st June 2020

20th July 2020

Please see school calendar
(published subject to change)

Christmas Message 2019

It has been a very busy, successful term for our staff and children. In the midst of our teaching and learning, preparation for all our festivities, matches, concerts, musical celebrations and community activities, we are mindful of the need to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

People all over the world will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and sharing in the joy that this brings. The Good News of Jesus gives us reason to be joyful at all times of year, but especially during Advent, when we look forward to Jesus' coming at Christmas and at the end of time. John the Baptist's words preparing his followers for Jesus' ministry are as true for us today: 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.' (Matthew 3)

Our Advent liturgies have shown the children how to prepare their hearts for Christmas by:

- Loving and caring for others
- Thinking of others before themselves
- Saying sorry to others and to God
- Remembering Jesus' love for them and that when they say sorry, He forgives them.

You might like to discuss these with your child and come up with creative ways to actively prepare for Christmas.

As a result throughout Advent we have been sharing our own gratitude for a good and secure life with those who are not so fortunate. As ever our pupils and families have given generously to support our annual Operation Christmas Child Charity with many shoeboxes filled with toys, sweets and prayers, for less fortunate children. Our carol singing raised much-appreciated funds for our the Elf appeal at Poole Hospital, and older members of our local community have enjoyed either listening to the choir sing or our Mini Vinnies supporting their Tea and Chat.

The children have brought the message of the Good News of Jesus to their families through their nativities and through the Christmas Concert, ending with Carols around the tree when we finished school this afternoon.

I would like to thank you all, parents, children, staff, Governors and friends of St. Mary's, for your continued support and to wish you and your loved ones a restful Christmas and a New Year of health and happiness.

Helen Armstrong

Mrs Armstrong

Headteacher



01202 676207

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



office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk



We thought you might like to see some photos from the Key Stage 1 Nativities. We always welcome parents, carers, friends and family to come along and watch these events—the more the merrier!





Martha and Fay both from Year 1 and Maks from Year 4 came to show their achievements in swimming.

Well done!

Magdelana and Ciara both from Year 1 received awards for gymnastics, well done.



Well done to Candy in Year 5 who passed her piano Grade 2 with merit.

Well done Candy!



Rocco from Year 5 has completed a Young Artists course at Arts University Bournemouth and received a certificate of achievement.

We are very proud of you Rocco, well done!



Sports News

It has been a very exciting half term for sports at St Mary's. There have been lots of football matches for our Y5/6 team and some rather muddy cross country races. Our Y5 multi-skills team came first in a competition held at Parkstone Grammar school. Well done!

We have also been lucky enough to welcome Community Badminton to school to offer taster sessions to many of our children, BH Live held an assembly with Y5 about keeping healthy (they will be back soon to do the same with Y6) and we had an amazing health fitness and well-being day where AFC Bournemouth and Fit4Schools held workshops to teach children about the importance of nutrition and exercise. On the same day we also took part in a school Race for Life. Thank you to all who donated. Look out at the start of the Spring term for the total raised.

Coming up in the Spring term we have many more exciting events. The first will be the launch of Phizifit! An online database where children can complete challenges both at school and at home linked to health, fitness and well-being. Look out for more information at the start of the term.

Some of our Y1/2 children will be invited to a multi-skills event held at Parkstone Grammar school, there will be a dance workshop held at Poole High for some of our Y4/5 children and we will be attending an indoor athletics competition!

Poole Family Ambassador

Alicia from Y5 attended 'Victorian Christmas' at Scaplen's Court. She reviewed the event for the Museum staff too sharing her positive experience. She would like to recommend events organised by Poole Museum to everyone at school.



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Please see below our Inset dates for next academic year, please note that our diary dates are published subject to change. Thank you for your support.

INSET 1 – 11th September 2020

INSET 2 – 9th October 2020

INSET 3 – 2nd November 2020

INSET 4 – 22nd February 2021

INSET 5 – 7th June 2021

Year 3 News

We had amazing responses from our home learning tasks. Here are Isabella and Piotr's Mayan temples.



We went to the Lighthouse on the 13th of December. We really enjoyed singing along to lots of Christmas and contemporary classics played on ukuleles.



We really enjoyed an Art and a DT day where we made Mayan inspired woven pieces, Matisse style cut out collages and observational drawings focusing on our shading tech-



Coding Club

Thank you to the staff from Barclays Bank Int'l who have volunteered to run a coding club at St Mary's alongside Miss Shaw.

We look forward to next year's club!



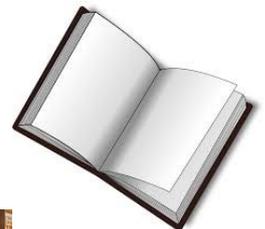
THANK YOU

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
for raising a fantastic
£436.43



Here we are enjoying a lovely story at the end of each day.

Reading for pleasure is very important!



Little Ducklings Stay and Play at St Mary's School

Little Ducklings is our stay and play group for babies and pre-schoolers. Our helpers are enhanced DBS checked.

We meet every **Thursday from 1:30-2:45pm** and get involved in messy play, painting, songs and games.

There are always tasty cakes , biscuits and drinks available and healthy snacks and drinks for the children!

Everyone is welcome, **the group is not just for siblings of children already at school.** We welcome parents/carers, grandparents, and anyone from our local community and area.

Why not come along after half term and join in the fun!



PTA NEWS



We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very big thank you to all the parents, staff and pupils for supporting the PTA in 2019.

The PTA always welcomes new volunteers and ideas. If you would like to get involved with PTA events in 2020, 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 2020!

Emotional Wellbeing

Years 3 and 4 have been revisiting the true meaning of Christmas in their Jigsaw lessons. They decided one of the key issues for Poole this year is the number of people spending Christmas alone.

As a result of their discussions they wrote letters to Sir Robert Syms, MP highlighting this issue and offered suggestions of community activities which could be organised free of charge.

In addition they each made a Christmas card and these were delivered, by the choir, to Poole Hospital to be passed to patients without families this year.

Thank you to both year groups for being so empathetic and understanding that not everyone is as lucky as we are.

Parent Readers

Thank you to our parent readers for a great start to the new school year and for your continued support .

We are lucky to have so many supportive parents and grandparents to help that we now have a full timetable. Thank you.

School Council

The School Council has had another busy half term.

We organised a non-uniform day in order to raise money for Children in Need which was a great success.

We also discussed the extra-curricular activities we currently have and thought about what clubs we would like to be available across the year groups

Netball

Year 5/6 after school netball club, dressed up Christmas style and afterwards, we enjoyed a party in the Hub. Thank you to our committed players who regularly attend each Monday after school.



Happy Christmas to Kally, Mia, Anastasia, Leah Grace, Ruben, Amber Alicia, Oliver, Elysia, Keira and Ovie!

We look forward to another round of Netball Club in the New Year.

God our Father,

Bless this library and this school.

Help our teachers to act with integrity and to have the humility to see the privilege of their calling.

Help the children to act with kindness and courage and grow so that they work for justice in your name.

May our library help us, as Pope Francis asks, to be open to others.

Amen



Library News

Choristers, librarians and Mini Vinnies from Years 5 and 6 were delighted to welcome Mr. Raymond Friel, CEO of Plymouth CAST, to re-open our school library following an extensive reorganization and re-stock of books.

Mr. Friel was delighted with the performance of the choir who sang, 'A New Boy Born'.

Kaitlyn welcomed him on behalf of the staff and pupils and then Aaron and Joshin from Year 6 offered up a beautiful prayer they had written for the occasion.

Mr. Friel gave a wonderful, short address on the importance of, and his passion for, books. As the children entered the library there were gasps of amazement over the range of new books available for loan. Excited conversations about wish lists of books to read buzzed around the room and it was a pleasure to see so many children enthusing about reading. The library will be open to classes next term and there will be regular after school sessions for parents to browse the shelves with their children.

Please ensure that you return the library agreement form by 7th January to enable your child to utilise this brilliant facility.

If You Look for Me at Christmas...

Author Unknown

If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

