



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Executive Head: Mrs Clare Tickel

Head of School: Mr Simon Thomas

Diocese of Plymouth

6th May 2022

St Mary's School News

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have enjoyed the warmer spring weather this week and we are anticipating warmer weather again as we move further into this term. It is great to be slowly getting back to normal and we are very excited about welcoming parents into school later this half term for events and an opportunity for you to look at your children's work.

Covid cases are lower this term, which matches the seasonal patterns last year. We ask all parents to still report to school if your child has any of the Covid symptoms so that we can avoid outbreaks in school. This will be especially important as we move into the Autumn.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents who have responded to our survey. We had a few technical issues with the previous link so please access the survey via the new link below. Thank you in advance for the time taken. Your voice matters and will help us to work together towards a brighter future for our children.

New Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/F5YGqeY5zChtV4D58>

Covid Cases

This week there have been 0 new cases of COVID reported to school.

It is important that you communicate any test result of COVID 19 to the school email office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

Weather Wise

English weather is endlessly variable and as a result the English are renowned for talking about the weather! Many say that there is no such thing as the wrong weather – just the wrong clothing! With this in mind, please, ensure your child is prepared. We expect each child to bring a school jumper, rain coat and a sun hat to school every day. Please also ensure you apply sun screen to your child's face, arms and legs (unless in long trousers) to provide them with additional protection.

Uniform and Hair Styles

Please check our uniform guidelines on our website prior to purchasing school uniform. Black school shoes are to be worn throughout the summer term – no open-toed sandals or slip-on shoes please. Children should leave jewellery at home and hair must be tied back if long - no shaved hair styles (minimum grade 2 cut).

Staffing

We say farewell to Ms Johnson today and wish her well in her new job at Livingstone Academy.

Laudato Si

The children across school are always keen to show their love for our common home. Every lunch time, groups of children with litter pickers can be seen scouring the school site for rubbish that has blown in. Year 2 are about to bring home battery recycling boxes so that we can prevent the precious non-renewable resources in them ending up in landfill. Recently, work in KS1 has had a focus on the unique heath environments which we are so lucky to live near and on the diverse plant life found on our school grounds.



BSO concert

Are any parents from 3S, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 able to join us on the 18th of May to walk the children to the Lighthouse and stay with us for our forthcoming afternoon with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra? **We have been asked if we could be part of a livestream on the day; please, could all parents check on Scopay that they are happy with the photo, film and social media permissions for the children?**

Reading volunteers

If you have an hour or more that you could spare, we would love to welcome you as a reading volunteer in school. Please contact the office if you might be able to help. Volunteers will need to have a valid DBS which we will be happy to arrange.

Celebration of Learning

Louie from 1E did a great job collecting litter. Well done Louie!



End of Day Routines

We have been monitoring the end of day routines and will review this again this half term in light of low Covid cases. Many parents and staff are keen to revert back to our pre-covid practice of pupils being collected from their classroom doors. This would seem a sensible option and certainly one that would benefit all pupils, not just those in Foundation and KS1. Please continue with the current routine until we inform you otherwise. Watch this space!

Summer Term Reminders

- Summer uniform – but pupils may wear their winter uniform on cooler days
- Closed toe shoes only.
- Bring in a named sun cap and a lightweight coat – all labelled.
- Apply sunscreen before children come to school.
- Plenty of fluids for hot weather (water only – we can refill in school).

Assessment Information

Next week, our Year 6 children will sit their SATs papers in school. Over the weekend, please ensure that the children relax, sleep well, and know that everyone in school is already enormously proud of the way they have worked this year. Please ensure that they have a good breakfast on the morning.

SATs Breakfasts

Next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, breakfast will be provided free of charge to those year 6 pupils who wish to come in early. Breakfast will consist of toast and fruit juice. Children can come to school from 8.15 until 8.40 for the breakfast.

SATs Treats

As communicated to you previously, on Thursday there will be a pizza and film afternoon for Year 6 to say, “Well done,” to the children for their hard work. On Friday, they will be spending the afternoon at Poole Park.

Summer Term Dates

Year 6 SATs tests 9th-12th May

Year 1 Mass in school - parents welcome 20th May

Year 2 Mass in school- parents welcome 17th June

Year 6 residential at PGL 24th-27th June

Transition Day for all BCP schools 1st July

Year 6 trip to Bovington Tank Museum 6th July

School sports day (KS 1/EYFS a.m. KS 2 p.m.) 13th July

School sports reserve day 19th July

Whole school Mass at church 20th July

Catholic Life

In the Catholic Church, the month of May is Mary’s month. It is the month we honour Blessed Mary as the Mother of Jesus and our Heavenly Mother. If you attended Catholic school, you probably remember taking part in the “May crowning” in the beginning of May—where a wreath of flowers was placed on the head of the statue of Mary as prayers were said. As an older student you understood that this ritual was a way to show our love for Mary.

When you were in pre-school or kindergarten, you probably only remember it as a day you got to be outside! As an adult, have you ever stopped and wondered why May is Mary’s month? Why not April or June? With the arrival of May, we thought this is the perfect time to learn how this practice all began and to answer the question: “Why May?”



Why May?

Historians are not exactly sure why May was chosen to honour Mary, but many believe that May being the month when spring is in full bloom has a lot to do with it. May is the height of spring—gardens everywhere are alive with blooming flowers and trees are filling their branches with leaves. This new beginning and new birth in nature reminds us of the life Mary gave to Jesus. Without Mary giving birth to Jesus, all the events that followed: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection would not have happened. So, it is believed that May (when nature is showing signs of life) is the ideal month to honour the woman who gave life to our Savior.

Ancient Connection

Another belief as to why May was chosen to honour Mary dates to the ancient Greeks and Romans. In the ancient Greek world, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fertility and life. Roman culture linked the month of May to Flora, the goddess of bloom and blossoms. The Romans celebrated ludi florales (floral games) as a preparation for entering the month of May and to celebrate the beginning of spring. (The month of May was the official beginning of spring in the Roman culture). Over time, the ancient tradition of celebrating life and fertility in the May led Christians to adopt May as the month to honour the Mother of Jesus.

When Did the Tradition of Honouring Mary in May Begin?

The custom of dedicating the month of May to Mary dates to the 13th century. But it might come as a surprise to know that it was not until the 18th century when this practice became popular. The practice became common among the members of the Jesuit Order in Rome. Because of the far reach of the order's schools, the devotion took hold, and by the 1700's it began to spread worldwide.



Catholic Social Teaching

The diagram below details the 8 principles of *Catholic Social Teaching*, the principles that we thread throughout our life as a Catholic school. Each week we will focus on a different principle so that parents and carers have an insight into the importance of these and how we can all strive to reflect these in our daily lives.

Solidarity is an awareness of shared interests, shared standards, and beliefs. As a community we 'stand together;' as a Christian community we stand together with the poor and the marginalised. We are inclusive and stronger together.



Let Us Pray

Hail Mary
Full of Grace
The Lord is with thee
Blessed are you amongst all women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb
Holy Mary
Mother of God
Pray for us sinners now
And at the hour of our death
Amen

We give thanks for:

- The bluebells and spring flowers that adorn our outdoor spaces.
- Our midday supervisors who care and support the children at lunchtime.
- The learning that has taken place in school this week.
- The wonderful attitude of our Year 6 pupils and the example they set to younger children.

We pray for:

- The gift of 'Courage' to stand together in solidarity and peace, especially with our brothers and sisters of Ukraine.
- Our Year 6 pupils and all those taking assessments this month.
- The souls of all we have lost and gone before us. May they rest in peace.
- Fr John and all our priests and local clergy.

We wish all of our Year 6 pupils a restful weekend and good luck in their assessments next week! We are so proud of how hard they have worked and thank both parents and staff for supporting them so well.

And finally, I wish you and your family a wonderful long weekend. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel
Executive Headteacher

Simon Thomas
Head of School

