



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Executive Head: Mrs Clare Tickel

Head of School: Mr Simon Thomas

Diocese of Plymouth

April 2023

St Mary's School News

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first couple of weeks of this term have flown by and already the Easter break feels a distant memory. We enjoyed welcoming the children back and hearing about their break. It is wonderful to walk around the school and see the children so engaged in their learning. The behaviour is focused and respectful in class and all children benefit so much from staff who are attentive and genuinely care for them. Teachers have had a lot of bad press; especially recently with many staff taking strike action, however, we are proud of the team at St Mary's and thank you for your support and partnership. Our children's future matters!

Governance Update

Welcome to Mr Adrian Nightingale who has been appointed Chair of Governors for the remainder of this school year. We are keen to recruit more **governors** this term ready for September 2023. Being a school governor is a privilege and a great opportunity to learn a new range of skills whilst contributing to the strategic life of our school. With this role comes training, a chance to improve transferable skills and it is great for your CV. It is also an opportunity to represent other parents in the school (as parent governor) or the parish and faith dimension of the school (foundation governor). Look out for upcoming governor vacancies next month.



Parent Survey Outcomes

Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the parent survey last term. Below are the outcomes from questions 1-5 in the survey:

1. My child is happy at this school (0 point)

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	51
Agree	54
Disagree	9
Strongly disagree	1
Don't know	0



Keeping children happy in school is our primary concern. Happy children learnt best. Try asking your child what they enjoyed or what they are grateful for when they get home – this helps to build a positive mind set. If your child is not happy for any reason please tell the class teacher in the first instance. If it is not sorted the phase leader should be contacted.

2. My child feels safe at this school. (0 point)

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	60
Agree	49
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	1



Keeping children safe is paramount. Our recent NSPCC assemblies have focused on enabling children to know what is safe and what is unsafe behaviour. Our PSHE leader has worked this year with the teachers to map out safeguarding themes across our curriculum. These include ESafety, stranger danger and knowing what good relationships are.

3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. (0 point)

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	30
Agree	67
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	4



Our 8 Bs (values) are at the heart of our behaviour policy – if you have not read our new behaviour policy please do download it from our website.

4. My child has been bullied and the school deals with the bullying quickly and effectively. (0 point)

[More Details](#)

Strongly agree	11
Agree	25
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	6
My child has not been bullied.	68



Bullying is repeated unkind behaviour targeted at a child, this can take many forms including verbal and non verbal actions or written messages, Monitoring your child's online access on mobile phones or other devices is a essential to avoid cyber bullying. Our anti bullying policy can be downloaded from our website for more information. If you believe that your child is being bullied, you must report it immediately to the class teacher.

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. (0 point)

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Strongly agree	24
Agree	69
Disagree	15
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	5



Look out for the half termly year group newsletters which are sent home on DoJo or Tapestry – these inform parents of the learning in each year group. If you want to know more then please check out the curriculum pages on our web.

This term we have report cards going home which will give parents a clear indication of how well your child is doing in their learning.

Holidays in Term Time

Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and we please ask that, in particular, no holidays are booked during May and June when all year groups are taking part in assessments.

Coronation Event

On Friday 5th May children are invited to come into school for the day wearing red, white and blue. In return, we would welcome donations of cakes or treats for the afternoon celebrations.



We will be having after school celebrations also, parents and carers are welcome to join 3:30-4:30pm after collecting their child/ren. (More details attached).

Summer Uniform

Please check our uniform guidelines.

We really pride ourselves on high standards at St Mary's School and we politely ask that pupils only wear school PE uniform on PE days. Navy track suit bottoms or shorts are acceptable please – not black or logo leggings.

Sun Safety

When the summer really starts to get going we advise all pupils to have a named sun hat or cap. Please ensure you apply sun cream to pupils before school. We are unable to apply sunscreen on your behalf so this is crucial. We would also ask you to encourage your child to drink plenty of water throughout the day, they can always ask an adult to refill their bottle!

Safeguarding

On 23rd May **Escapeline**, a charity that works to protect children and young people for criminal and sexual exploitation, will be visiting school to lead workshops for pupils in KS2, for staff and for parents. The parent workshop would be well worth attending. A letter will be sent out next week with full details.

NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe.

Thank you to the NSPCC and their volunteers for supporting our mission to empower children to speak out and stay safe! Please do talk to your children about the online assembly to reinforce the message that they should tell a grown up if they feel unsafe or worried about something.

In the online assembly, the **Speak out. Stay safe.** messages were delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec. Following-on from the assembly, the specially trained NSPCC volunteers delivered a workshop to our Year 5 children that builds on and deepens pupils' learning gained from the assembly.

Assessment Information

Key Stage 2 statutory assessments begin Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May, in English and Maths.

Key Stage 2 assessments in writing and Science assessments continue until the end of June.

Key Stage 1 statutory assessments begin 3rd May until the 19th May in reading and maths.

Key Stage 1 assessments in writing continue until the end of June.

Key stage 1 phonics assessment begin on 12th June.

Year 4 Times Table assessments begin on 5th June for two weeks.

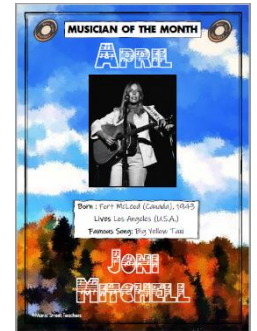
Foundation Stage profile continue until 30th June.

Teachers have already shared information with parents regarding these assessments and any further information will be communicated via class Dojo or Tapestry. It is imperative that

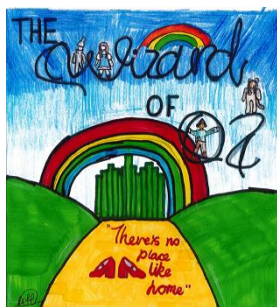
we maximise learning time for all of our pupils, so please avoid absences unless a child is unwell.

Music News

Our Musician of the Month for April has been Joni Mitchell. We have listened to 'Big Yellow Taxi' which was Joni Mitchell's call to action to make us think about the damage that we are doing to the environment. We also listened to 'Chelsea Morning' and found out that Bill Clinton named his daughter Chelsea after the song.



Year 2 pupils had an exciting woodwind showcase with our woodwind teacher, Mrs Abbott. They learnt about the flute, clarinet and saxophone. Some of our pupils then had a go at playing Toots and Doods which are miniature, affordable clarinets and flutes. We had great fun! If any of our pupils have been inspired to play one, Mrs Wilson is arranging a discount code with a local music retailer. Please get in touch for more details!



Wizard of Oz news! Our artwork winner was announced last week with Francesca in Year 6 drawing the winning design. This design will be used in the programme and on t-shirts. Huge congratulations to Francesca - what a fabulous piece of artwork! We had many brilliant entries and will be using lots of the designs in our promotional material. Well done and thank you to everyone who entered.

Help needed! In May, all of our Key Stage 2 classes (Years 3 to 6) will be going to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in concert. There is no cost for this trip. To make the trip run smoothly, we need some parent helpers to walk and sit with us at the concert, please. Years 3 and 5 will be going on Tuesday 16th May and Years 4 and 6 on Wednesday 17th May. If you are able to help, please contact the School Office. You can find out more about the concert here: <https://bsolive.com/projects/explore-the-orchestra-dance/>



Sports News

Summer (sort of) has arrived at St Mary's. First though, a quick recap of what we missed last term.

The Cross Country team had their last race back in March, which was held at Moors Valley country park and despite it being the wettest day of the year, the team did fantastic and ran with great determination against over a dozen other schools.

Our Girls football team finished their football season and we ended up travelling over to Emmanuel Middle to play their very experienced team. We didn't come away with the win, however, the girls added more experience to their debut season together.

We had the last of our Fencing clubs too and the 7 children who attended throughout last term did amazing, learning new skills, using sword play, fancy fencing equipment, battled each other on 'the Piste' and learned the etiquette of their duels.

The special guest we had in February, Kelly Simm, offered an enriched experience of elite gymnastics and she showcased her hardwork and talent in front of our KS2 children with a gymnastics display. She also motivated them whilst the children participated in their very own HIIT workout. I am very thankful to all those who raised money to help continue to raise the profile of P.E, we raised over £700 for the children of St Mary's. We are looking to invest the money in a 'Get Active Programme', more information to follow.

Despite the weather we have made the most of this exciting new term. Lots of new clubs have arrived ready for the season and we have made a start on our next PE topics.

Bat and ball skills is the topic for KS1 PE. There are lots of ways we can build our skills with bats and balls and using various activities and games that link really nicely for when they reach KS2. We are also using their PE to prepare for sports day. This will reintroduce what activities and events to look forward to come June 8th.

KS2 have begun their Athletics topic and are working towards sports day 2023 too. We hope it isn't as hot as last year and as a result, we will have a refreshment station for those attending. Once again, KS1 will have the morning slot and KS2 the afternoon. There are three disciplines in athletics, which include, running, throwing and jumping.

Summer clubs are back in action with Basketball lead by coach Harries, Tennis with coach Tom, Multi sports, Rounders with Mrs Cassidy and Mrs Martin. Some of the football clubs continue, Tri-Golf, and we have our Sailors working towards their RYA stage 1 and 2 at Poole Park.

Diary Dates

Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 3rd May	Day of Industrial Action – school closed to all pupils bar those in 1K and 3L
Friday 19th May	Year 4 Mass to parents/carers in school * Please note new date *
Friday 26th May	Year 2 Liturgy to parents in school
Monday 5th June	Inset day No. 5 School closed to pupils
Thursday 8th June am	Sports Day for KS1 families are welcome to watch
Thursday 8th June pm	Sports Day for KS2 families are welcome to watch
Friday 9th June	Year 5 Mass to parents/carers in school

Wednesday 21st June	New Intake Evening – for those who have a child starting in F2 September 2023
Friday 23rd June	Foundation Stage Liturgy to parents/carers in school
Friday 7th July	Year 3 Mass to parents/carers in school
Friday 14th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass to parents/carers in Church
Friday 21st July	Whole School End of Year Mass in Church – families are welcome to join us!

Staff Training Days for 2023-2024 - school closed to pupils

1. Friday 1st September 2023
2. Friday 20th October 2023
3. Tuesday 2nd January 2024
4. Monday 19th February 2024
5. Monday 3rd June 2024

Let Us Pray

We give thanks:

- For Year 5 pupils and staff who have enjoyed a fun filled residential at Leeson House in the Purbecks.
- The hard work of staff who are preparing our Coronation events.
- The safe return of staff and pupils who travelled over the Easter break.
- Our clergy who worked so hard over the Easter season -may they rest well now.

We pray for:

- A safe and happy summer term for all of our families.
- For those in our community who are suffering from anxiety and worry.
- For those who are missing a loved one that they are comforted.

And finally, we wish all of our families a very happy and restful Easter break.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel
Executive Headteacher

Mr Thomas
Head of School



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

