

# *St Mary's Catholic Primary School*

*Executive Head: Mrs Clare Tickel*

*Head of School: Mr Simon Thomas*

*Diocese of Plymouth*

5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## **St Mary's School News**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that all of our pupils and families have managed to enjoy the summer break. We have been so lucky with the weather this year and everyone is feeling healthier as a result. I hope that you have all managed to spend time outdoors and enjoy the great locality that we live in.

### **Thank You**

The teachers, TAs and office staff would like to thank parents and pupils for the generous gifts last term. A smile and a quiet word of thanks is enough to encourage us all in our vocation to serve our community. Thank you.

### **School Communication 2022-2023**

This year we will send out a **monthly newsletter** to parents. Class teachers will also send out a **year group newsletter** at the start of each half term along with regular updates about the class on ClassDojo (see below). Information about your child's learning this year will be shared in the class newsletter and also posted on the year group pages on the school website.

During September class teachers will hold a **Meet and Greet** session with parents so that you can meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and familiarise yourself with the new routines and expectations for home learning, etc. Dates for these meetings will be sent out later this week.

**Parent consultation meetings** will take place twice a year and parents will receive one written report. Parent consultation meetings this term are planned to be online as we have had extremely positive feedback from parents and carers showing this to be the preferred, most convenient option. These will be held week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October).

Class teachers will be available on the door at the end of the day and may also be messaged on Tapestry or ClassDojo. Please email the school office for all other queries.

### **ClassDojo**

ClassDojo connects teachers with pupils and parents to build an amazing community where are all connected and informed. Foundation will continue to use Tapestry, however, Year 1 to Year 6 will use ClassDojo from September 2022 instead of MarvellousMe. Google

Classroom accounts will also be set up as it continues to be our remote learning platform this school year.

Users can access ClassDojo on any device; it's simple and free. Download the app onto either Android or iOS, or access from your computer at [classdojo.com](https://classdojo.com). Class teachers will set up their classes and send out invitation letters so that you can join your child's class group.

Teachers can use ClassDojo to encourage positive learning skills and communicate with one another, much in the same way the 'MarvellousMe' did. Teachers can message parents instantly and share updates, events and photos from the class. It's simple, secure and gives you a window into the school day!

Although you will now have the option to contact teachers via Class Dojo we would still ask you to continue to direct any important communications via the school office to ensure they are seen in a timely manner. As you can imagine the teaching staff are working with your children from 8:40-15:15 and therefore may not have time to check ClassDojo during the school day.

### **Start and Finish Times**

Please ensure you familiarise yourself with our start and end of day procedures again this year.

At the end of the school day parents of pupils in Early Years to Year 4 are encouraged to collect their child from the classroom door. This ensures we hand over children safely at the end of each day and there is also an opportunity for teachers to catch parents should they need a quick hello. Parents of pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 have the option of collecting their child from the allocated door / area, As per yesterday's email please email the school office if you wish to give permission for your child to walk on / off site independently. Teachers keep a log of all walkers and this is checked regularly.

Please ensure you inform the class teacher, by email to the school office, of any persons who will regularly collect your child from school. We will not send a child home with any adults that we have not been notified of. In the event that there is a change in pick up please use our safe word system.

### **Safe Word System**

If you need to change the person picking your child up at the last minute please contact the school main office (NOT the class teacher) to give the following details:

1. Name of person collecting
2. The safe word.

The person collecting will give the safe word to the class teacher in order for your child to be released. Please note that we never save 'safe words' as they should be changed on each occasion.

### **Uniform**

**Uniform matters** - we pride ourselves on high standards of presentation. All pupils should wear the correct school uniform including a jumper or cardigan with the school logo.

**Hair styles** should be suitable for school – NO SHAVED or other extreme cuts please, in line with our uniform policy. Shoes should be black - slip on shoes for girls are NOT encouraged as they inhibit safe playtime play.

**PE uniform** expectations are equally important and a school logo PE T-shirt is advised.

Shorts, sweatshirt top and jogging bottoms should all be plain navy with no logos. Leggings are not permitted. Please continue come to school in PE uniform on PE days. PE days will be communicated to parents and carers tomorrow by email.

### **Packed Lunches**

Please remember that we are a **NUT FREE** school. Please ensure you check the ingredients of all items in packed lunches. Today we had a few children in school with Nutella sandwiches, this is dangerous as we have a number of children and staff in school with life threatening allergies if they are exposed to nuts and nut products.

### **COVID-19 Guidance for Autumn 2022 from Public Health Dorset**

We continue to follow the DfE COVID-19 advice for schools and will maintain our hygiene and ventilation control measures.

If your child or a family member tests positive for COVID 19 please continue to inform the school so that we can monitor the incidence of COVID 19 within our school community.

Although you are not obliged to self-isolate any longer, we do ask that unwell children are kept at home and would only return once they feel well and they no longer have a high temperature. Parents who still test positive should wear a face covering when in busy areas.

If your child has a fever, a new continuous cough or a change/ loss of taste or smell then you should visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#Children>

### **Summer Home Learning**

I hope that all pupils have managed to spend some time practising their basic skills in reading and maths. Teachers can monitor access to IXL and note the progress made over the summer. For some children this will mean that they start the term with confidence. Our English Leader, is looking forward to finding out which pupils took part in the reading challenge this summer. Thank you and well done to all pupils who have tried to do a little home learning this summer!

### **Season of Creation**

Pope Francis established 1<sup>st</sup> September as the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' in 2015. The 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 marked the start of this year's Season of Creation. It ends on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The theme for this year is ***"Listen to the voice of creation."*** The burning bush is the symbol for the season of creation 2022. It is a reminder of the fire that called to Moses as he tended his flock – the flame of the Spirit of God. This fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we followed in faith.

In this season of creation, the symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation, the cry of the Earth and awaken to the urgent need to heal our earth.

Pope Francis tweeted recently 'This season of creation is an opportunity to cultivate our 'ecological conversion', a conversion encouraged by Saint John Paul II as a response to the 'ecological catastrophe' predicted by Saint Paul VI back in 1970.

Pope Francis calls us to respond with prayer and action. The children will start this new school year by revisiting 'Laudato Si' and what it means to care for our common home – to consider what we can do locally to help heal our planet.

[Season of Creation 2022 - short version](#)



[Season of Creation Song - Bing video](#)

### **Let Us Pray**

#### **We give thanks for:**

- The summer break and the chance to relax and unwind with family and friends.
- The safe return home of all of our pupils and staff following their travels this summer.

#### **We pray for:**

- A happy and safe academic year 2022-2023 with many smiles and many achievements to celebrate.
- Pupils and staff who left our school in July, that they all enjoy their new adventures and schools.
- New pupils and staff joining us this term, that they settle into our community.
- Our planet – that all Christians continue to pray and 'act' to save our world.

**And finally,** I look forward to supporting you and your children in their learning journey this year and ensuring they build happy memories of their time in our school.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel  
Executive Headteacher

