



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

14th February 2020

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Devon Road
Poole, BH15 3QQ

Important dates for your diary

25th February

Children return to school for
2nd half of Spring term

28th February

Year 3 and 4 Mass and coffee
morning

6th March

World Book Day dress up!

13th March

Year 1 Liturgy and coffee
morning

19th March

Class photos

20th March

Donations for PTA Easter Egg
Raffle

Year 5 Mass and coffee
morning

26th March

Pupil reports to be sent home
(years 1-6)

27th March

Foundation coffee morning

3rd April

Break up for Easter

20th April

Children return to school

24th April

Whole School Mass at Church

At the end of a busy first half of the Spring Term we wanted to say a special thank you and goodbye to Mr O'Connor who has been a Midday Supervisor for a number of years, he is leaving to follow his interests in the environment. We also said farewell to Miss Copley who has worked at St. Mary's in a number of roles but most recently as HLTA. She is moving onto a new role in business. Finally, I would like to share with you that Mrs Thain has agreed to undertake a secondment and is moving to one of our East Dorset Cluster Schools – St. Catherine's to take up the post of Year One teacher. This post is initially for two terms. We thank Mrs Thain for her hard work and support at St. Mary's.

We welcome three new 1-1 Teaching Assistants, Miss Dilke, Miss Petty and Mrs Izquierdo Martinez. After half term we also welcome Miss Mauri who will join us as an HLTA and Mrs Berry who will be taking up the post of Midday Supervisor. Welcome to our school community.

Helen Armstrong

Health & Safety

At the end of January we had our Health and Safety Audit and I am pleased to report that we scored 95%. We have a couple of actions which we will continue to work on.

I would like to thank Mr Aldworth for all his hard work in making sure our school conforms to all the necessary Health and Safety Checks.

School as a Catholic Community

Thank you once again for the support you gave us before, during and after our Canonical Inspection this week.

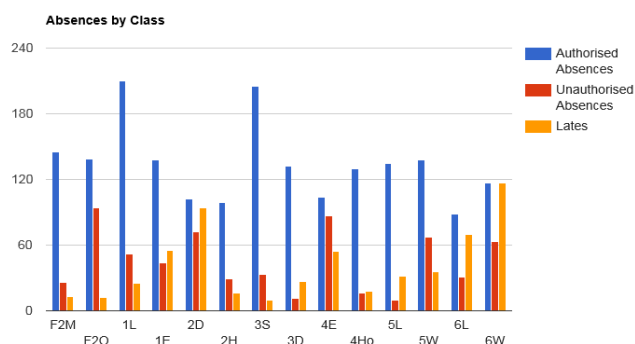
As soon as the report is published we will be sharing it with you all, which will be sometime after this half term.

Road Safety

We are still receiving notes and emails with regards to road safety on Hunt Road however, I can report that Devon Road appears to be much safer with fewer and fewer cars driving up and turning around. Many thanks for your support and thank you for being aware of the safety of our children. If we could now improve things on Hunt Road as well that would be superb.

Attendance

I am pleased to report that our attendance this term is higher than it was this time last year. We have always aimed to be over 96% and have finally achieved it. Maybe we can continue to work together to improve it even further. Can we get to 97%?



01202 676207

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



office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

PTA News

We have lots of events looking forward to next half term and beyond. Our disco dates are confirmed below, We are always grateful for any help and support parents can provide at our events.

We are pleased to have been able to support the school with pledging £6,000 towards the new reading programme, in addition to committing funds for KS1 projects in the spring term. Your continued support is always appreciated.

.We will be asking for donations to our Easter Egg raffle for March 20th, this is always well supported and we are usually able to help local charities as well as providing many egg prizes for our pupils. Thank you in anticipation of your donations.

Disco dates:

KS1 27th March	KS2 24th April
KS1 12th June	Leavers 10th July



Year 4 News

Our visitor from Sound Storm's Conductive Music, used a 'machine' called 'Makey Makey' which is available as free online software. We were lucky to have two sessions about electricity, music and IT and enjoyed it immensely.



Charity Cake Sale—13th February

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale on Thursday.



Thanks to your generous support we raised £137.08. Well done to the Mini Vinnies for organising this fundraiser.



Year 2 News

Year 2 exhibited their Great Fire of London work in the school hall today.

They made Pudding Lane biscuits and raised money for the Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund. Thank you, we raised £27.65.



E-safety

Internet Safety Day was on the 11th February. There are lots of free resources to help you talk to your child about online safety. The pack accessed from the link below includes activities, conversation starters and information to help parents and carers talk to their children about how to navigate the issue of online identity in a digital age in a safe, responsible and respectful way.

Please take time to access the page

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/i-am-parent-or-carer>



Safeguarding

We have received notification from Network rail asking us to share the dangers of the railways with our families. As part of their programme to electrify key rail routes across the mainline, there are sections of railway near our school which will be under construction for the installation of the Overhead Line Equipment and be electrified. The safety of people on and around the railway is our priority and education in rail safety is key, especially for young people.

Network Rail is electrifying routes to make journeys more reliable, greener and quieter for thousands of passengers. The electrification of one of Britain's busiest and oldest railways will improve connections between major towns and cities across England. Journeys will be smoother and more comfortable for passengers and quieter for people living near the railway.

The overhead lines will be energised at 25,000 volts AC, at 50Hz frequency. It is of course extremely dangerous for any person to come close to the overhead line equipment or any associated part of it, including the supporting masts, switch feeds and cables. There is no danger to any persons as long as they remain away from the railway boundary line and fencing.

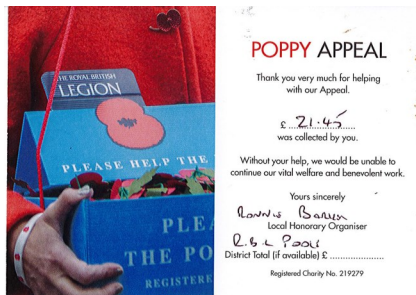
Here is a link for 7-11 year old children to help raise awareness

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk/>



Remembrance Day

Thank you for your donations toward the Poppy Appeal. We have recently received confirmation of the amount donated.



- HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE -

Half term fun

Test your knowledge of all things trees and get stuck into tree-themed crafts this half term at Highcliffe Castle.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED IN REGULAR ADMISSION: ADULT £7 | CHILDREN £3 | FAMILY £15

SUNDAY 16TH - THURSDAY 20TH
FEBRUARY 11AM-3PM

CHILDREN'S TRAIL | CRAFTS | EXHIBITION

WWW.HIGHCLIFFECastle.CO.UK
ENQUIRIES@HIGHCLIFFECastle.CO.UK | 01425 278807
HIGHCLIFFE CASTLE, ROTHESAY DRIVE, DORSET, BH23 4LE

February Half Term Family Event

JUNIOR SAFETY INSPECTOR

SafeWise Bournemouth
19 & 20 February 2020

Book your place online now:

WWW.SAFEWISE.ORG/EVENTS



Sporting Achievements

A great team of children took part in a multi-skills event at Parkstone Grammar School. They took part in lots of various sports including; tennis, football and volleyball. They all did a great job and represented the school brilliantly. Well done!



Congratulations!

To Amelia in Year 6 who gained an Honours Award in her recent disco Freestyle exam.

Well done Amelia!



School uniform— a gentle reminder

Thank you to the majority of parents who make sure that their children are in the correct school uniform. We are really proud of our uniform at St Mary's and expect all children to wear it. We have noticed increasing numbers of children who are not wearing correct school uniform—mainly this is families forgetting or not being aware of what is and isn't allowed. It is really important for all children to wear practical, sensible, clean and safe clothing at school. We also expect that children with long hair wear it neatly tied back from their face with hair bands in plain dark colours please.



Please examples of KS1 uniform (left) and KS2 (above).

Entrepreneurs

Well done to Fintan, Deon, Samuel H and Samuel J for organising a cake sale in Year 5 last week.

Between them they managed to raise nearly £50 for the Dorset Wildlife Trust.

They worked hard producing posters, letters and pricing the cakes—four excellent entrepreneurs!



Isabel Haigh, the Olympic gymnast, will be leading a **sponsored fitness circuit with all pupils**, and will follow-up with a talk and question and answer session.

The aim of the event is to **inspire the pupils** to take up sport generally.

Sponsorship forms will be sent home shortly.



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

St Mary's will now celebrate World Book Day on **Friday 6th March 2020**

This change of date is due to the fact that the school has been offered the fantastic opportunity to receive a visit from Sports 4 Schools for an athletic event on Thursday 5th March.

Now our children can enjoy two exciting days in one week!

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 all 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!



Art Club

Our new Art Club started with a history lesson and we discovered the very first known marks and drawings were found in caves by Stone Age man. We learned how they used burnt wood (charcoal) to make marks on stone. They often painted around their hands to show the negative space, almost like a 'signature', pre-writing!

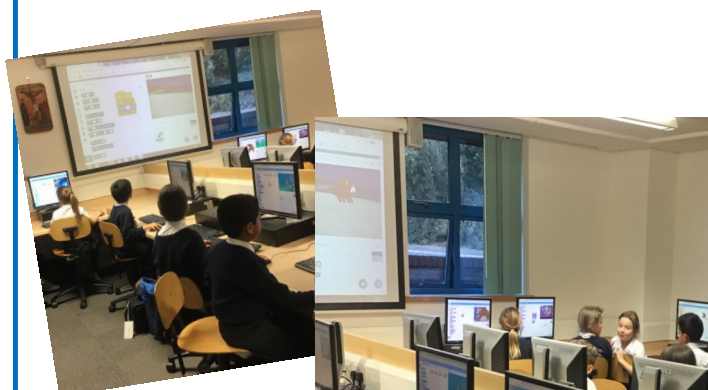
The children enjoyed experimenting with the charcoal and making marks with their fingers, knuckles and fists.



Lottie, one of the students from Bournemouth University who is helping us, then led a session on portraiture.

Coding Club

Our thanks go to Barclay Digital Eagles Team who help run our Coding Club. Coding is the language that we use to talk to computers and tell them what to do. The children have found it really interesting and it is giving them great insight into the world of IT in the 21st Century.



Bikeability

We still have 5 places left for this year's Bikeability course which runs from 29th of June to the 2nd of July. This is a valuable course which will equip your Year 6 child with the skills needed to ride safely and be particularly useful when moving to secondary school.

Please contact the school office if your child would like a place.



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

First Day Contact

First day contact will be made with parents/carers if a child is absent and the reason has not been communicated to school. This should in no way be considered to be intrusive or a nuisance, it is purely to ensure the safety and well-being of all our children.



Please ensure that you call the school absence line on 01202 676207 option 1 or email the school office at:

office@st-marys.poole.sch.uk

by 9:00.am please.

Extended Day Provision

Our Early Birds and Night Owls Clubs are continuing to grow in popularity.

This makes it even more important to ensure that places are booked and paid for online at least a week in advance.

If you need to make an emergency booking please call the school office to ascertain if there are places before dropping your child off at the club as we need to ensure that we have the correct ratio of staff.

Thank you for your continued support.



Designated Safeguarding Leads

DSL—Mrs Armstrong

Deputies: Mrs Wright, Mr Lakatos and Mrs Hazell

Please do not hesitate to contact any of these staff if you have any concerns.

Please be aware that we will ask you to turn off your phone whilst in school.



Coughs & sneezes, vomiting bugs etc!

Please may we remind parents and carers of the 48 hour rule— if your child has suffered a tummy upset please do not send him/her to school until 48 hours after the last symptom. If you are aware that sickness has been caused by something other than a bug, (for example too much party food!) please ensure you inform the class teacher as in such instances the 48 hour rule does not apply.



If your child is suffering from a cough, cold or any illness that allows them to be in school medicated we are happy to administer **prescribed** medicine in school but will ask that you complete a form with detailed instructions beforehand. Please regularly check your child's hair for nits and treat accordingly, children do not need to stay off school for this.

The school nursing team run drop in sessions at school so please feel free to take advantage of these if you are experiencing any particular issues. They are held (discretely if necessary) in the school meeting room. The next date is March 12th at 9:00am.



We are also lucky to have a wonderful Family Outreach Worker, Olivia Prince who holds sessions at school, dates to be confirmed. Please contact the school office if you would like to meet with Olivia.