



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Executive Head: Mrs Clare Tickel

Head of School: Mr Simon Thomas

Diocese of Plymouth

May 2023

St Mary's School News

Dear Parents and Carers,

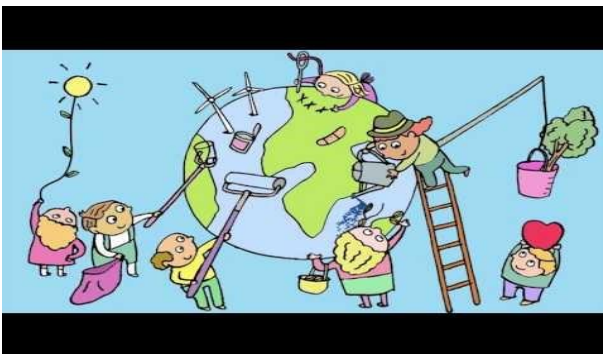
This half term has been another busy one and so much has happened in school, including the announcement that from September 2023 I shall take up the substantive headship at St Mary's School. I look forward to working full time at St Mary's, getting to know your children, leading the staff team and serving our community.

KS2 pupils were all so lucky to visit 'The Lighthouse Theatre' to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra last week – most schools are only able to take one year group along due to transport costs! Year 5 pupils from Christ the King School joined our Year 5 for a morning of multi sports activities and a chance to collaborate and make new friends. We also had a visit from Devon Health and Safety team for our routine Health and Safety audit – I am pleased to say that they validated our systems for maintaining a safe premises, checked our risk assessments and procedures for fire safety.

This week ***Escapeline***, a charity that works to protect children and young people from criminal and sexual exploitation visited school to lead workshops for pupils in KS2, for staff and for parents. I do hope as many of you as possible managed to attend the event as it was very informative and an essential for all parents to be aware of. We hope to organise this event again next school year for those that couldn't make it.

Thank you to all those that joined us this week for our 'Laudato Si' Open Book Look. The following link will give you a succinct overview of 'Laudato Si' - please talk through and watch the video with your children at home. What more could we do as a community to help our planet? One Year 4 child commented that there is a lot of talking about helping our planet, but not a lot of doing! Let's encourage our children to be advocates for looking after our common home.

[Laudato Si': Animated clip for kids https://youtu.be/KIVuISZGdug](https://youtu.be/KIVuISZGdug)



Laudato Si Open Book

Art based on the song I am the Earth.



Governance Update

St Mary's is looking for new governors – could this be you?

What do governors do? We help to ensure that the senior leadership team are guiding the school in a strong, considered manner and ultimately ensuring an excellent education for our children. We scrutinise the senior leadership team - questioning them about their plans and actions and offering suggestions where appropriate.



Who are we looking for? You don't need to be a teacher or have education experience to do this – governors come from a range of different professional backgrounds (e.g. business, law, engineering, the charity sector, civil service and so on). We are particularly keen that the governing board represents all the diverse school community, so we encourage applications from all backgrounds.

How much time commitment does it take? In each term governors attend two board meetings (two hours each, held in the evening) plus one or two other visits into school to meet with teachers and other school staff (the exact purpose of these visits will depend on which special area the governor has responsibility for).

What you get from it? It is a chance to learn more about the school and education in general but, most of all, it is an opportunity to give back to the community by providing a very necessary service.

If you are interested or want to talk more about it, please either contact Adrian Nightingale a.nightingale@st-marys.poole.ch.uk (chair) or Rebekah Webb, r.webb@st-marys.poole.sch.uk (vice chair), or any of the other school governors or staff.

Parent Teacher and Friends Association



We are looking to launch a new PTFA in the new school year. If you are interested in helping out and raising valuable funds for our school, please do let the office know.

Transition Information

Thursday 22 nd June 6:00pm	New Intake Evening for F2 2023-2024
30 th June	Year 6 Transition Day in new secondary schools
30 th June	Year 1- Year 5 Transition Day in school
Monday 4 th September and Tuesday 5 th September	Home Visits for F2 2023-2024

We will mix year groups after F2, Year 2 and Year 4 again this year.

Sports Update

At St Mary's we are an inclusive school and expect all children to participate in PE and games. This is good for their wellbeing as well as their physical health. All children will be expected to join in PE unless there is a note to excuse them on a specific occasion.

Sports Day: We very much look forward to our sports events on Thursday 8th June. Parents or carers are advised to bring a bottle of water or a flask as refreshments will not be available.



- * Children to come to school wearing their PE kit for the whole day
- * Parents are invited to watch and support

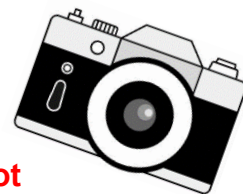
Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. All parents will need to sign in – year group signing in sheets will be on tables near the Year 4 classrooms – after which you will be directed to the parent zones. All parents must stay in the parent zones during the events.

We are happy for parents/carers & family to take photographs and video at this event on the strict understanding that these **images are not distributed or shared publicly online** as they will most likely contain images of other children, adults & staff without their consent.

This will help to protect all members of our community.

By signing in to school as a visitor for this performance you are agreeing not to share any images taken.

Thank you for your support.



Parent Survey Outcomes

Thank you to all those (115 responses out of a possible 410) who took the time to complete the parent survey last term. Below are the outcomes from questions 6-10 in the survey:

Question 6

When I have raised a concern with the school, they have dealt with it properly.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I have not raised a concern
23%	36%	12%	4%	24%

If you have a concern, please raise it with your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you are not satisfied, please then contact the phase leader or SLT.

Question 7

Does your child have Special Educational Needs?

Yes	No
16%	84%

Question 8

If yes, do you agree with this statement: My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
18%	14%	8%	2%	57%

Mrs Watts, our SENDCo is an experienced senior teacher. If you have any concerns regarding your child's provision please do get in touch for a review.

Question 9

The school has high expectations for my child.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	My child has not been bullied.
17%	50%	12%	3%	17%

We aspire for all of our pupils to 'dream big,' to grow in confidence and independence. This year Plymouth CAST launched an Oracy project which aims to encourage more 'talk' in the classrooms. Next year we are rolling this out across the whole school.

Question 10

My child does well at this school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
23%	63%	8%	0%	7%

Annual reports will be going home after half term which will detail how your child is achieving in a range of subjects including English, Maths and RE. Our recent Laudato Si Book event will have given you an insight into some of our learning in school. We aim for the pupils to know more and remember more!

Question 11

The school lets me know how my child is doing.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
23%	57%	15%	3%	3%

Before the end of the school year there will be another opportunity to meet with the teachers. You will be able to discuss your child's annual report, review their progress, effort and attendance.

Question 12

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
23%	63%	6%	1%	6%

On our website (Year group pages) you can download a curriculum overview of the subjects and topics learned by each year group. Each year group sends home a newsletter at the beginning of each half term, this newsletter will inform you of learning specific to individual year groups.

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.

Summer Fair

We are gratefully receiving donations for the summer fair - unwanted toys, games and books, uniform items, donations of bottles of wine or soft drink, bath and shower products, non-perishable foods and raffle prizes. Please contact the school office if you would like to book to have a stall or help at the event.



Coronation Event

Please find photos of our coronation celebrations attached. A video of the day can be found here: https://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/website/our_coronation_celebrations

Assessment Information

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

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.

BCP Inclusion Logo – art competition winners



St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Poole has celebrated the fantastic achievement of two children being awarded prizes for the BCP council's logo competition. Francesca (6L) was awarded first prize and Anna (6W) runner up. Both of their designs have been incorporated by graphic designers to create the finished logo, which is now in circulation within BCP Council. This logo will be used for their Inclusion Quality Mark and the children were congratulated on how they have created

a powerful image to represent and celebrate differences.

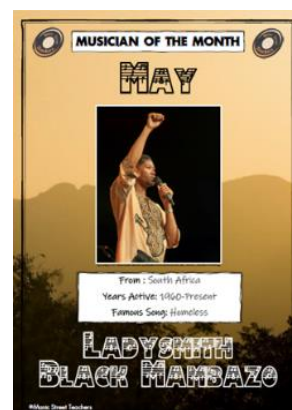
Members of BCP council came to school to present these awards and to reveal the finished logo. We are extremely proud of Francesca and Anna's achievements.



Overall winning design which the main logo image has been based on was created by Francesca 6L. For their bright and eye-catching design and their inspiration to include a rainbow theme to the logo, first runner up prize went to Anna 6W.

Music News

May's Musician of the Month has been the choral group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. We have found out the meaning behind the group's name: Ladysmith was the name of the farming village Joseph Shabalala came from. The word black was used because of the black oxen in the village, known as the strongest animal. The word 'Mambazo' means 'axe' and was used to show how they 'cut down' all other musical competition. They often entered singing competitions in the early days but were banned because they kept winning them all. We have enjoyed listening to lots of their performances including 'Homeless' from 1986 which was recorded with Paul Simon.



Children in Key Stage 2 had the amazing opportunity to attend and participate in a concert with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in May. This year's theme was Dance, Dance, Dance and we enjoyed singing, Makaton signing and dancing along to the orchestra. All the sections of the orchestra had a highlighted spot and we were able to learn about the different instruments. We even saw a celeste being played in the piece 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.' Huge thanks to the parents and grandparents who were able to accompany us on the trip.



Diary Dates

Monday 5th June	Inset day No. 5 School closed to pupils
Thursday 8th June 9:30-11:15am	Sports Day for KS1 families are welcome to watch
Thursday 8th June 1:00-3:00pm	Sports Day for KS2 families are welcome to watch
Friday 9th June	Year 5 Mass to parents/carers in school
Monday 19 th June 3:40-6:00pm	Parents evening for year 1 only
Tuesday 20 th June 3:40-6:00pm	Parents evening for year Groups 1-6
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 7th July	Summer Fair 3:15 - 5pm
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!

Autumn Term 2023

First Day of School (Year 1-6): Monday 4th September

First Day of school for F2: Wednesday 6th September (each child will receive a time for their visit)

F2 starts full time: Monday 11th September

(More information about F2 transition and start dates will be available for parents and carers at our Intake Evening on 22nd June.)

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

Celebrating Pentecost

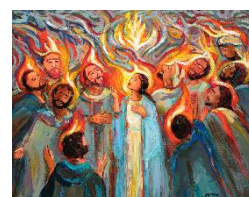
The season of Easter is coming to a close this weekend. Last week we celebrated the feast of the Ascension, when we commemorate our belief in the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven



On Sunday 28th May we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, also called Whitsunday. This feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost concludes the Easter season and celebrates

the beginning of the Church. The name of the day itself is derived from the Greek word 'pentecoste' meaning 50th. Pentecost always occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus and ten days after his ascension into heaven.



Let Us Pray

We give thanks:

- For this half term and all the wonderful learning opportunities we have had both in school and at home.
- For our Church, our faith and the hope this brings to our lives.
- For the Holy Spirit for guiding us and illuminating our lives.
- All new babies – especially the arrival of Mrs Eddy's new son 🍼

We pray for:

- All those that feel despondent and sad, may the Holy Spirit give them hope and direction.
- That all pupils, their families and our staff have a restful and happy half term break.
- All new babies within our community, may they be blessed with love and good health.

And finally, we wish you all a happy and restful half term break. We look forward to seeing the children return on Tuesday 6th June.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel
Executive Headteacher

Mr Thomas
Head of School

faith
hope
love



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

