

w/c 21st October 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus this half term has been '*stewardship*' and the children have learned how important it is for each of us to take care of each other and our planet. The children have linked this to our Gospel Values of compassion, kindness, humility and justice alongside the British Values of mutual respect, tolerance and rule of law. It is our hope that our children continue to voice their concern for our planet and act in ways to make a positive difference.

This wonderful picture by Rosie in Year 6 remind us how important it is to collect litter from our beaches to prevent them harming our sea creatures. *#seejudgeact*

Year 6 enjoyed working with our visiting artist earlier this month on their graffiti project. We ask any Year 6 parents/carers who have not yet contributed to the cost of this enhanced activity to do so please before half term.



Thank you all for your support this half term, especially for encouraging your children to read at home and complete home learning. Please have an enjoyable half term break with your families and remember to make reading a family pastime.

Kind regards
C. Tickel

Important Dates

22nd and 24th October	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Wednesday 23rd October – 9:00	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Thursday 24th October – 11:00	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Thursday 24th October – 3:15	CAST celebration cake sale
Friday 25 th October	CAST celebration non-uniform £1 donation
25th October - 1st November	Half Term Break
Monday 4th November	INSET Day
Wednesday 6th November 14:00	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Friday 15th November - 13th December	Class 6L swimming lessons
Wednesday 20th November 9:15	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Tuesday 26th November 13:15	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents

Wednesday 13th November 14:30	Reading Workshop
Tuesday 10th December 9:00	Year 1 Nativity
Tuesday 10th December 14:00	Year 2 Nativity
Thursday 12th December 14:00	Year R Nativity
Friday 13th December 15:00	Carols Around the Tree and PTA event
Thursday 19th December 9:00	KS2 Carol Service
23rd December - 3rd January	Christmas Break

Announcements

CAST 10 Year Anniversary Fundraising Day

On 24th October we will hold a cake sale and on the 25th October we will be holding a non uniform day in support of The Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth). Please see the attachments to this newsletter for further information.



Staffing Update

All staff vacancies are advertised on our school website as well as in local BCP, and sometimes Dorset Council, Bulletins. We currently have one vacant TA post and two MSA vacancies.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Reay to our midday team. If you believe you could contribute to our wonderful midday team and help to ensure lunchtimes are a safe and happy time for our pupils, then please do speak with Mrs Hazell in the office about applying.

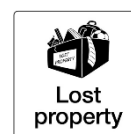
Mermaid Tail Competition

We are very excited to be taking part in Great Tail Trail which will exhibited around BCP next summer. If you would like your child’s design to feature on our ceramic tail, please support them and enter our art competition. It only costs £1 to enter. See our Spotlight feature below for more information about the Great Tail Trail.



Lost Property

We have a number of lost property items, please check the lost property table which is put out most afternoons near the astro pitch.



Reception Outdoor Area Appeal

Donations of any of the items below will be gratefully received at the school office or at the Reception Class doors.

OUTDOOR AREA APPEAL

We are developing our Outdoor Area in EYFS If you have any of the following that you would be happy to donate please bring to the EYFS area. Thank you.

- Lengths of decking in good quality
- Crates - plastic and wood
- bungee cords
- pegs - wooden
- Large nuts and bolts
- Old sheets/blankets for den making
- Cork items - cork mats, noticeboards, .
- Wooden baskets
- Stones/pebbles/cobbles
- tough buckets
- tubing/hoses/pipes
- Steering wheels toy or real
- kitchen utensils - sieves/ mashers/ muffin trays/ copper/metal kettle/jugs

Reminders

Parent Teacher Consultations

Parent Teacher consultation meetings take place twice a year, during the autumn and spring terms – there are also optional meetings following the annual school report in the summer term. These meetings provide a really important opportunity for you to discuss how your child is getting on in school and ways we can improve their learning outcomes. Please make sure you have booked your meetings this week on Tuesday 22nd October and Thursday 24th October - the letter was emailed out to parents on 7th October.

School Meals

The school meal menu when we return from the half term will be 'Menu Week 1', please order for this week before we break up as the school office will be closed during half term.

Parking on Devon Road

We are very concerned about the number of vehicles still driving up Devon Road to drop off children (especially those running late) and also vehicles pulling up on the pavement to park. This is causing a risk to pedestrians especially small children who drivers may not see running along the pavements or crossing the road.

Many children need reminding that they need to stick to the pavements outside the school rather than running across the road to the school gate – let's work together to keep our children safe.

Reception

After half term we will be encouraging the children in Reception classes to join the older pupils to walk through the main school gates in the morning and say goodbye to their adult there. Please trust us as we know this can be daunting for both adults and children, however children often relish this next opportunity to continue their independence!

Weekly Phonics Practice

Chatty friends a-e <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/15LHDXZI/iAm5dSoU>

Reception - Fred games - body parts 2 <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DrfD25oW/R6pEojzK>

Be Safe

Over the coming weeks many families will be having celebrations which may include the use of fire in the form of candles, sparklers, bonfires or fireworks.

Please help keep everyone safe by:

- Keeping matches and lighters out of reach of children
- Keeping children away from candles, especially if wearing fancy dress which may not have the same fire safety standards
- Follow the fireworks code

Be Here, be Ready

We understand that when children are very unwell they should be kept at home as this is the best place for them to recuperate. Our usual gauge of being too ill for school is a high temperature or stomach upset.

Common sense needs to be used when deciding whether or not a child is too ill to attend school. Parents need to ask themselves the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day? If not, keep your child at home.
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff? If so, keep your child at home.
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition? If so, keep your child at home.

So not every illness will require a child to stay away from school, if your child requires prescribed medication 4 times a day we are able to administer this if the prescription label is attached to the medicine and you complete our Administering Medicine Form. While we have a dedicated team of first aiders at the

school, there are no qualified medical personnel, and facilities for looking after sick children are very limited.

If your child has had a stomach upset or sickness, it is important that you allow a period of at least 48 hours after the sickness or diarrhoea has finished, before sending them back to school. Such action will help to prevent the infection spreading unnecessarily to others in the school. This is in accordance with NHS and BCP guidance.

In all cases of your child being unwell and unable to come to school, telephoning the office and leaving a message on the dedicated absence line before 8.45am each and every day your child is absent will mean their absence is accounted for. The office staff will chase parents who have not phoned in confirming reasons for absence. Please do not see this as intrusive, we have a duty of care to ensure all pupils are accounted for which is required by the Government's safeguarding regulations. Please call the school office which has a dedicated absence line to report sickness absence daily.

Please leave the following information in your message:

- Your child's name
- His/her class
- Reason for absence
- Your relationship to the child

Our school telephone number is 01202 676207 Option 1

If we do not receive an explanation, or if the explanation is unsatisfactory, we will not be able to authorise the absence, and this will be shown on your child's attendance record. If you state that they are under the weather or unwell, we will call you to clarify.

If your child presents as unwell whilst in school their class teacher will send them to have their temperature taken by a first aider. If they have a temperature or are clearly unwell a decision will be made by Mrs Tickel or Mr Thomas as to whether parents/carers should be called to collect. In some circumstances you may be asked to pop in with some pain relief for your child. We will try our utmost to look after your child until you are able to get to school.

Please be reminded to keep us updated should your child's medical conditions change.

Spotlight

Mermaid Tail

What is the Great Tail Trail? More than 40 colourful giant mermaid tail sculptures will be creating a wave of excitement across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) in the spring of 2025 and raising vital funds for the Dorset children's hospice charity, Julia's House. We are joining in the fun by adopting and designing our own Tiny Tail sculpture, which will form part of the main art trail.

When is The Great Tail Trail? The Great Tail Trail will run for 9 weeks from 5 April to 1 June 2025, creating a free family-friendly walking trail through popular locations across BCP. You'll find mermaid tail sculptures along the coast and in the towns and parks around BCP.

Why are Adopt a Tail? As Dorset's local children's hospice charity, Julia's House cares for the most seriously ill children in the county, many of whom need 24-hour care for their complex and often rare medical conditions. By adopting a tail, we are committing to raising funds for Julia's House and helping the children and families who are cared for there. You can find out more about Julia's House at www.juliashouse.org and Wild in Art at www.wildinart.co.uk





Please see the Mermaid Art Competition details above and encourage your child to enter. They may want to include messages of hope, compassion or love based on our Gospel Values, local heroes or landmarks on Poole, or even some ideas linked to our recent Stewardship theme and Laudato Si. Let their imagination run wild!

Mission Moments

Our Mini Vinnies helped to lead our Open Evening on Thursday 17th October. They welcomed our visitors, shared what they love about our school and led tours for prospective parents. They shone as future leaders and were fantastic ambassadors for our school. [#proudadvocatesofstmarys](#)



Final Word

What is a tree's favourite subject in school?

Chemistry, because they love to turn carbon dioxide into oxygen!



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF TRUSTED CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Plymouth CAST operates Catholic schools within the Local Authorities of Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon, Torbay, Dorset, Poole & Bournemouth.