

Monday 3rd June 2024

Message from the Headteacher

We hope that you all enjoyed the break and had a chance to enjoy some family time during half term. It is especially hard for parents who work to do this, especially if your holiday entitlement is limited. We are fortunate to have **SC Holiday Club** on site during the holidays so if you missed out this half term book early for the summer break.

Thank you to all families who supported World Bee Day before half term and also to those who sent in flowers for our Mary liturgies in May. Each class was able to celebrate our Mother Mary in Heaven and ask her to pray for us. We raised a small amount for World Bee Day and this money will go directly to planting flowers in our sensory garden.



Well done to all the children who participated in our sports days - we hope that you all enjoyed watching your children. We were very proud of the pupils and how inclusive the events were. A big thank you to Mr Vince who organised our events again this year. We would also like to give Mr Vince a shout out for his sailing club – they are racing in their first regatta this week - good luck to our St Mary's sailing squad!

Good luck to all of our Year 4 pupils taking the Year 4 National MTC (times table checks) this week and next. Please can pupils log onto TT Rockstars and practise 10 minutes each day. Pupils who have been logging on daily to practise will have the best chance of succeeding in the checks. Next week we also commence the KS1 Phonics Screening checks. Children practise their phonics daily in school and teachers will continue to post practice videos or games for pupils to use at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and efforts to get your children to school before our gates close at 8.45am each morning – this is really helping us to make a prompt start to learning for all pupils. **#everymomentmatters!** We look forward to welcoming all children back to school tomorrow. Have a good week!

Values of the Week

In school we focus on a different Gospel Value and British Value each week. This week our Gospel Value (one of our 8 Bees) is '**Courage**' and our British Value is '**Democracy**' Please do find opportunities to ask your children about these values and how they have lived them out this week.

Important Dates

SUMMER TERM 2nd half		
3rd June	INSET DAY 5	All Years
4th June	Children return to school	All Years
w/c 4th – 14th June	Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Checks	Year 4
w/c 10th – 21st June	Year 1 Phonics	Year 1
13th June	New Intake Information Evening – 18:00	Prospective new F2 Parents/Carers
14th June	Year 2 Liturgy in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Yr 2
17th June	Family Celebration and Open Book – 14:30	All Year Groups
21st June	Catholic Children's Society – non-uniform day	All Year Groups
21 st June	Year 5 Mass in school – 9.00	Parents / Carers of children in Yr 5
1 st July	Diocesan Mass for Year 6 Leavers at Church	Year 6
2 nd July	SEND Parent/Carer meetings in school 15:30 -18:00	SEND Parents/Carers
5 th July	Year F2 Liturgy in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in EYFS
5 th July	Summer Fair 3:30-5:30	All children welcome with accompanied adult
11 th and 12 th July	Whole School Production – “Matilda” 18:30 in the school hall	Parents/Carers
15 th July	Reports will be sent home	All Year Groups
16 th July	Year 6 Graduation 4:30 at school	Year 6 and Year 6 Parents/Carers
17 th July	Year 6 Leavers Disco 6:00-8:30pm	Year 6 pupils
19 th July	End of Year Mass at Church 9:00	All Year Groups
23rd July	Break up for summer holiday - finish at 15:15	All years
	Summer Holiday Break – 15:15 close	

Announcements

Plymouth CAST is celebrating ten years as a Multi Academy Trust

This summer Plymouth CAST is excited to celebrate ten years since its formation as a Multi Academy Trust (MAT). To recognise this milestone our trust has planned some events which will run trust wide (from Bournemouth to Penzance).

The first event, on 5th July, is a commemorative tree planting. The trees have been sourced from the Woodland Trust. We will share further events as and when we are informed.

First Holy Communicants

This weekend we celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi - a time to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist in our lives. We are excited that so many of our pupils in KS2 will be making their First Holy Communion this month; celebrating this sacrament is a special moment in the faith journey of each child and is an opportunity for the whole family to celebrate with the community.

Family Celebration

This is an afternoon to recognise and celebrate important figures in our lives; both fathers and other family members too. This event follows on after Father's Day on Sunday 16th June and we would love to welcome mums, dads, grandparents, foster carers and any other important family members in to school from 2.20pm on Monday 17th June. We can accommodate a maximum of two persons per family and adults must sign in and out of their youngest child's classroom. Please do not expect a 'performance' - this is an opportunity to join your child's class in an activity to be 'alongside' your child.

International Storytelling Afternoon

At St Mary's we are proud of our multilingual community of over 30 languages! We are happy to welcome parents to an 'International Storytelling Afternoon' late in June (date tbc) where parents and carers are invited into school to read stories to the children in any language. Reading to children is very valuable and multilingual storytelling develops all children's literacy skills and understanding of language. We hope that you will join us for an afternoon of stories to celebrate our rich and diverse community. If you can contribute, please contact the school office. We look forward to hearing from you!



Additionally, we would like to make you all aware of St Mary's Catholic Church's 'International Family Day' to be held at the church on Saturday 15th June. The day will begin with Mass at 12 noon, followed by: 1pm lunch, 2:30 - 4:30 entertainment, 4:30 - 5pm tea and cake with a live band. If you can help by providing food and entertainment from your country or if you can help in any way, the church asks you to please contact Sue Fernley via the church office.

Reminders

Parent Survey

Please could one parent from each family take the time to complete the survey following the link below. Your views are important to us and enable us to review our provision and make it even better. Please complete ideally by Friday 7th June.

<https://forms.office.com/e/DrQjBph3pM>

Be Sun Wise

Please ensure all children bring in a sunhat which is named and a clear water bottle during this warm weather. Putting sunscreen on your child's exposed limbs before school will help if we get hot sunny weather this half term.

Photos Needed of your Child Reading

Enjoying a good book and snuggling up to read is something that many children choose not to do – it was fashionable in the 1990s but less so now. Many children, sadly, would prefer to play a game on an electronic device than read for pleasure. Please help us to instil a passion for reading into our children. Read to them and model reading in front of them! Take time out together each day to read for pleasure.

We are encouraging pupils to read **'everywhere'** and ask you to send in photos of your child reading in different or unusual places. Please send a photo to their class teacher via Dojo or Tapestry. Since we received so few pictures following our request last in last week's newsletter we have extended the deadline until 7th June. Children may earn 5 dojo points for sending in a photo. 😊

Be Safe

Gaming Age-Restrictions

Video game age restrictions can help show what content is suitable for your child's age. You can also use them to set limits on what is available for your child to play.

There are five age categories and eight content categories, set by the PEGI.

What the numbers mean:

Age restrictions act as a guideline for who should use a game, based on the content included.

The age categories are '3', '7', '12', '16' and '18'. The number means that the content is suitable for that age and above.

There is also a **'Parental Guidance Recommended'** category for some apps.

The age restriction doesn't tell you anything about how difficult the game is. A game rated 3 might be too difficult for a three-year-old, but the content would be appropriate.

What the symbols mean:

The symbols on a game represent different types of content. This includes:

Violence. Games with a rating of 3 won't include violence. For a 7 rating, the violence will be non-realistic or non-detailed. Games rated 12 can include violence in a fantasy or non-realistic violence. The 16 and 18 ratings can have more realistic-looking violence.

Bad language. There is no swearing in games rated 3 or 7. Games rated 12 can include mild swearing. Games rated 16 and 18 may include expletives.

Fear. The symbol can be on games rated 7 where pictures or sounds may upset young children. It might be on games rated 12 if there are horror effects or sounds but no violence.

Gambling. This highlights games that may teach or encourage gambling. Gambling is only allowed in games with 12, 16 or 18 ratings.

Sex. On games rated 12 or above. The higher the age restriction, the more explicit the game can be.

Drugs. Where a game refers to or depicts the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco. This is only allowed in games with 16 and 18 ratings.

Discrimination. This symbol can only apply to games rated 18. It means the game contains stereotypes of religious, ethnic, or national groups. These could encourage hatred.

Parents can download the **PEGI** App for free - this app helps parents and carers identify age-appropriate games for children.



Be Here, be Ready

Well done to class 1K who had the highest attendance in the week prior to half term!

St Mary's whole school attendance is 95.1, the target figure is 96% and the government are pushing for 100% for every child. As the Headteacher, I can only grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. A holiday or travelling abroad is not exceptional. There are 38 weeks in the year when school is open and 14 weeks (175 DAYS) when families can visit family overseas; go on holiday; travel or attend non urgent medical appointments. So, before you ask for leave of absence, please consider... is your request for leave of absence exceptional?

Spotlight

School Volunteers

We are so grateful to our school reading mentor volunteers who give up their time to support us in school. Our wonderful team of volunteers come into school to listen to children read. Thank you to the following –



Miss Bailey: "I enjoy volunteering because I can see how much the children improve on a weekly basis. It's very rewarding to know that I am making a positive impact on a child's education and see how much they enjoy to read and learn."

Mrs Bowman: "I can see the improvement of one-to-one reading with each child I mentor with, even after a short time. I hope the children feel special about themselves and I'm glad I can give back to the school in a small way."

If you can spare an afternoon and would like to come into school to listen to children read, then please contact the school office who can talk you through the application process. We need your help now more than ever!

Mission Moments

Well done to our Mission Hero this week: Daniel!

On World Earth Day Daniel, from Year 2, put spare paper sheets in our 'wet play draw' instead of throwing them away, what an excellent role model. [#integrityandlaudatosichampion](#)



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth

faith
hope
love



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS
OF TRUSTED CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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