



St Mary's

News



Monday 11th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,



We held a Remembrance Liturgy in school this morning which focused on special people who help us, the importance of forgiveness and being a peacemaker. We remember not just those that fought in the First and Second World Wars but also in every conflict since. We especially pray for peace in our world today.

Today also marks the start of anti-bullying week children wore odd socks to school so that we stand in solidarity against bullying of any kind.

This year we are supporting a smaller number of charities: CAFOD, The Plymouth Diocese Catholic Children's Society, Julia's House and Routes To Roots Christian action on homelessness charity. We also fully support the fund raising of our PTA as our school is in much need of 'the extras' that this support brings. We are not doing any special events for Children in Need this year as we acknowledge that we cannot support everything, and many families are struggling financially. We also really appreciate contribution from parents for school trips. Affording to run school outings and trips is becoming ever more challenging and often now they are only viable if all families contribute with a voluntary contribution. As always, we thank you for your support.

Have a good week.

Important Dates

Monday 11th November	Wear Odd Socks for Anti Bullying awareness
Monday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 13th November	World Kindness Day - wear something Red, £1 to school council for Buddy Bench
Wednesday 13th November 14:30	Reading Workshop for parents of children in years 2-6
Friday 15th November 9:00	Year 4 Mass - parents invited to attend at school 9am
Friday 15th November - 13th December	Class 6L swimming lessons
Tuesday 19 th November	Rhyme Rocket CBeebies workshop £3.50 donation
Wednesday 20th November 9:15	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Thursday 21st November	School Photos (Individual)
Friday 22nd November	Mass at school (years 1-6)
Monday 25th November	Panto (all years) please contribute £2 via scopay
Tuesday 26th November 13:15	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents

Tuesday 10th December 9:00	Year 1 Nativity
Tuesday 10th December 14:00	Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas school lunch (please order on scopay min 1 week prior)
Thursday 12th December 14:00	Year R Nativity
Friday 13th December 15:00	Carols Around the Tree
Thursday 19th December 9:00	KS2 Carol Service
23rd December - 3rd January	Christmas Break
Friday 10th January 9:00	Whole School Mass Year 1-6 at Church
Friday 10th January - 7th February	Class 4La swimming lessons
Friday 17th January 09:00	Year 5 Mass - parents invited to attend at school 9am
Thursday 6th February - 14:30	Year 2 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)



Thursday 21st November the school photographers will be in to take individual photos, if children have PE lessons this day, please ensure they come into school wearing their smart uniform with PE shoes

Announcements

Job Vacancies

Midday Supervisors Urgently Needed – if you are interested in a Midday role in school (term time only) please contact Mrs Hazell.

Clerk to Governing Body – We are currently recruiting for a Clerk to work 2.75 hours per week. This could be combined with the same role at St Joseph's. Please contact Mrs Hazell for further information.

TA Appointment

We have appointed a new TA to join our support staff team – welcome to Mrs Collins.

BCP Library Event

Please see information attached about a BCP Library event taking place on Saturday 23rd November.

Reminders

World Kindness Day

Wednesday is world kindness day; pupils are invited to wear something red (either swap something of their uniform to be red or add something red). If you are able to donate £1 to the school council to help them purchase a Buddy Bench, this can be done via scopay products section.



Pedestrian Safety

We remind parents to ensure they park a distance from the school – it is never acceptable to drive up to the school gates to drop off or pick up. Turning your vehicle when children are approaching school or streaming out of the school gates is unsafe and puts pedestrians in danger. For the sake of a few extra minutes, please park further away and walk up Devon Road.



Thank you for your cooperation.

Be Safe

Organised Crime & County Lines

Below are two definitions of organised crime and county lines.

Organised Crime is “serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain.” Organised crime groups are “organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities.” (National Crime Agency: 2018).

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and adults (including those with care and support needs) to move, [locally supply] and store the drugs and money. They will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. (Home Office:2018:2)

Groups like this are active in the BCP area targeting young people. They are focusing on increasingly younger children and primary school children are definitely at risk of becoming involved in county lines operations. If you are unsure of what this means you might want to look at the resources that follow.

This is a documentary series that was produced by the BBC that explains how county lines groups operate and how they are policed. Only suitable for adults.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05lvqmd/episodes/guide>

An animated short story that would be useful for children aged 10+ to explain county lines issues. Parents might want to watch before watching with young people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXNVQ4VcBts>

Escapeline is a charity that works with children who have been exploited by county lines gangs. They produce a very good guide for parents which can be accessed online.

<https://www.escapeline.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Weekly Phonics Practice

Reception <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7mUJ8L1c/quYSOdbt> i-e

Fred's toybox <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IACa7M7p/tmzOKpHK>

Be Here, be Ready

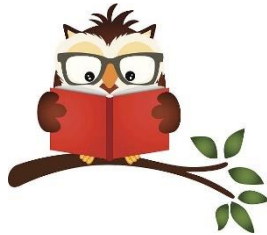
Thank you for raising our attendance last week to 96.5% - Well done to all those pupils who came in and on time!

Spotlight

Introducing our New Library

Teaching children to read is one of the most important things that we do in a primary school. Over the summer holiday we moved our main library to the old Hub so that it is more accessible for KS2 pupils. It is now a welcoming space and a cosy environment for the children to access. One of the challenges we are setting all children this term is to get to know a wider range of authors. Please do talk to your children about your favourite children's authors and help them to talk about theirs. How many children's authors can you name?





Final Word

“lest we forget”

*“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them”*



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.

