

Monday 15th July 2024

Message from the Headteacher

The last few weeks of a school year are an incredibly busy time for everyone within a school community – it is a time of great celebration, but also of sadness as we say farewell to much loved pupils and staff. Mrs Reyes and Mrs Churchill both attended St Mary's School as pupils and are both looking forward to a long and happy retirement. They will both be leaving us this summer after 32 years and 16 years working at St Mary's respectively. Thank you both for your dedication to our school community and for all of your hard work over the years. We wish you both a very happy retirement.

Congratulations to all pupils who performed in our musical performance of Matilda last week. The show was a fantastic success and represented months of hard work by both the pupils in the cast and many staff. A special thank you to Mrs Wilson and Mr Lakatos for directing and coaching the children so well.

On Friday 5th July pupils from Year 6 and Year 1 helped to plant the Hazel tree which has been donated by our Trust to mark the 10th anniversary of Plymouth CAST. This tree will be cared for over the summer holidays by Mrs Mundy to ensure it survives the break. It is hoped that it will flourish and grow giving additional shade to our grounds. The CEO of Plymouth CAST, Mrs Batten, shared the following prayer for us all to say together:



Dear God,
Thank you for giving us our beautiful world.
You make all things new, causing seeds to grow,
buds to blossom, fruit to ripen.
Help us to be stewards of creation,
to care for our school, parish, Trust, diocesan and global family.
Bless this tree that we plant here today,
as a sign of our commitment
to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
and for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Amen.



Thank you all for your support over the past year – I am thankful to you all for welcoming me into your community as your headteacher and am very proud of how the children have succeeded in their learning this year. Our outcomes have been above the national average in most assessments this year and we could not have achieved this without your help! Thank you.

Value of the Week

British Value of the week: Individual Liberty – allowing everyone to have a voice.
Gospel Value of the week: Integrity – we are true to ourselves.

Important Dates

16 th July	Year 6 Graduation 16:00	Year 6 and Year 6 Parents/Carers
17 th July	Year 6 Leavers disco party 6-8pm	Year 6 pupils
18 th July	International Celebration Day (dress in colours of a country flag or outfit that represents a country)	All Year Groups
18 th July	Final Stay and Play	Pupils starting Year R in September 2024
19 th July	Leavers Mass at Church 9:00	All Year Groups
23 rd July	Break up for summer holiday - finish at 15:15pm	All years
	Summer Holiday Break – 15:15 close	

Announcements

Congratulations

Congratulations to Miss Brian who was recently married to Mr Ferreira. Please join us in wishing Mr and Mrs Ferreira a long and happy marriage.



Retirement

Although we are sad that Mrs Reyes and Mrs Churchill are retiring this summer, we wish them both a long, happy and healthy retirement.



Summer Holiday Reading

Reading with and to your child gives your child the very best chance at future success. Please do read to them and encourage them to read for pleasure over the summer holiday. A wonderful way to encourage reading is to take your child to your local library this summer and sign up to the Marvellous Makers Summer Reading Challenge. Please see more info at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Reminders

Lost Property

Please do take time to visit our lost property stand outside Night Owls this week. We will get rid and clear our supply at the end of term.

International Celebration Day - Thursday 18th July

Children are welcome to come to school if they wish, wearing traditional dress or clothes that celebrate their heritage (or any country that they choose), or colours of a country flag. Please avoid football kits if possible.

Last Day of Term

The end of term is 3:15pm Tuesday 23rd July – please ensure children are in school on Monday and Tuesday next week.



Dojo - Contacting Teachers

Teachers are available to respond to dojo messages Monday to Friday between 8am to 6pm. Parents and carers should not expect a response from staff late evenings or at the weekends when they are off duty and spending time with their own families.

No Dogs on Site

Dogs are not allowed on site – our staff do not expect rudeness from parents when trying to reinforce our site policy. Guide dogs may be approved following submission of a request to the headteacher.



Be Here, be Ready

Attendance Overview

Thank you all for your support with attendance this year. Communication has been overwhelmingly good, and the majority of families adhere to our policy and procedure. ST Mary's School attendance is just above the national average and we have you, our parents and carers, to thank for that.

New Term – New Start

Starting a new school year with a new class teacher is a really important time. The class establish their class code of conduct and routines for the year ahead within the first week and therefore it is essential that all children are present. Late returns from the summer holidays are very disruptive to the new school year and often children are anxious when they arrive late as they miss out on vital class information. Please ensure your child starts the new year on time and has the strong start that they deserve. Please work with us to set high expectations for their attendance from day 1 of the new year.

Spotlight

Matilda Jnr the Musical

Our amazing children delivered two sell out performances of Matilda the musical! Look out for pictures in next week's newsletter. Money raised from the performances will go towards providing arts opportunities to all children. Well done to all involved.



Mission Moments



This week our Mission Hero is Harrison from Year 6 for kindness on the way back from the Year 6 residential. **#compassion#kindness**

