




St Mary's

News



w/c 16th September 2024

Message from the Headteacher

I hope our pupils enjoyed their long weekend and were able to make the most of the extra day off. On Friday 13th September teaching staff welcomed the CEO of CARITAS, Raymond Friel, to St Mary's as he inspired staff to embed Catholic Social Teaching within our curriculum. We welcomed teachers from St Mary's School in Marnhull and Christ the King School in Bournemouth who worked alongside us.

Thank you to those who were able to make our 'Meet the Teacher' session last Thursday. As we are aware that it is tricky to be in two places at once when there is more than one child in the school, we reassure you that the teacher information slides will be sent home this week on Dojo / Tapestry. This will ensure you don't miss any important year group specific information.

Thank you to all families who are parking away from Deveon Road before and after school – this is really helping to keep our pupils safe as they arrive and leave school. Although we have fewer cars using the school entrance as a turning point, we are still frequently seeing cars parking up on the pavement which still puts pedestrians at risk. Please can we ask all pedestrians to stick to the pavements as they approach the school or exit the school gates as we have seen children recently run straight out into the road.

Value of the Week

Gospel Value: Courage

British Value: Individual Liberty

Catholic Social Teaching: Care for our Common Home (Creation)

Important Dates

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| Thursday 19 th September 2024 | Volunteers Briefing |
| Thursday 26 th September | Phonics Workshop |
| Friday 4 th October | Cafod Family Fast Day/Feast of St Francis of Assisi - Wear something yellow/CAFOD monetary donation |
| Monday 7 th October | Open Book – Grandparents Day |
| Wednesday 9 th October | Maths Workshop 14:30 |
| Friday 11 th October | Harvest Mass |
| Thursday 17 th October | Open Evening |
| 22 nd and 24 th October | Parent/Teacher Consultations |
| Wednesday 23 rd October – 9:00 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |
| Thursday 24 th October – 11:00 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |
| 25 th October - 1 st November | Half Term Break |
| Monday 4 th November | INSET Day |

Announcements

Volunteers Needed

As a school community, we are all determined that our children have the best experience of school that they can. We would like to ask if you could help us to achieve that by volunteering in school. If you think you have something to offer the school, please let us know.

We are currently looking for people willing to listen to readers, help in the library, practise times tables and garden. However, you might have a skill to offer that we haven't thought about. There are no set expectations for how much time you should give so you would be welcome to join us as much or little as is possible. Please feel free to **come to school on Thursday the 19th at 11:00** to find out more. If you are an existing volunteer, this would be an ideal time to come in to receive a safeguarding update. Mr S Thomas

Job Vacancies

We are looking for lunchtime support staff to join our happy team. Hours of work would be 12:00-13:00 or 12:15-13:15 daily (term time only). Please contact the school office if you would like to apply.

Secondary School Applications

The deadline for applications for secondary schools is 31st October 2024. Parents / carers can apply online via the BCP website. If you are applying for a faith school, then please contact that school for a copy of their admissions criteria and to collect a SIF (supplementary Information Form). Every year we have one or two families that miss the deadline for applications or forget to submit a SIF to a Faith School (e.g. St Edwards) and this sadly can result in the child not getting any of their preference schools. *St Edwards Open Evening flyer attached.*

Primary School Applications

The deadline for applications for primary schools is 15th January 2025. Parents / carers can apply online via the BCP website and should collect a SIF from our website or school office if applying on faith grounds. If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2025 then please do come along to our Open Evening or book onto one of our tours.

Open Evening

Thursday 17th October 2024 – 18:00

Open Tour of the School for prospective parents

Wednesday 23rd October – 9:00

Thursday 24th October – 11:00

Wednesday 6th November 14:00

Wednesday 20th November 9:15

Tuesday 26th November 13:15

Traveling Actively to School

Please find some information from bcp council in the attachment on the benefits of actively travelling to school and tips to keeping the air clearer around the school area. Find also Bikeability information and links.

Bikeability teaches children to cycle safely on the road enabling them to become more independent when travelling to school or to visit their friends. It is a vital life skill, like swimming lessons, and is a big step for many children and their parents as they may be cycling on the road for the first time.

To find out more about Bikeability, please contact us at bikeability@bcpcouncil.gov.uk.
<https://benkinsella.org.uk/resources-for-parents>



Reminders

Weather Wise

Please ensure your child brings a raincoat to school over the next few weeks. We are amazed at the amount of lost property collected over the last two weeks so please put your child's name in their coats / uniform, etc if you want them to be returned to you if mislaid.

School Drop off

Please can parents/carers of children in Years 1-6 drop children at the main school gate from tomorrow. Teachers are available at end of the school day for catch ups. It is difficult for teachers before school as this takes their eye off the children when they are supervising the pupils. Parent/Carers of children in Reception please start to encourage your child to become independent with the aim of saying goodbye to them at the school gate by half term. Staff do cheerfully man the route so they can't get lost or upset.

Asda Cashpot for St Mary's

All you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, choose St Mary's Catholic Primary School, shop and scan in store or shop online at [Asda.com](https://www.asda.com).

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.



The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage!

Be Safe

Studies show two or more hours of screen time in the evening can seriously disrupt the melatonin surge needed to fall asleep and how well children sleep. Consider turning off all electronic devices at least one hour before bed, at a minimum. Try reading a book, taking a bath or doing some other type of relaxing activity. It's best to keep phones and other digital devices out of bedrooms at night.

Be Here, be Ready

Top tips for a stress free start to the school day!

- Have a good night's sleep during the week and Sunday nights
- Get your child their own alarm clock (set it 5 minutes fast!)
- Get everything ready the night before - uniform, packed lunch reading book etc
- Don't allow TV or computer games before everyone is ready - if at all
- Remember school opens at 8:35 and all children should be **IN CLASS by 8:45** (arriving after this time will result in a late mark, arriving after 9:05 will result in an absent mark).
- **Be on time for quarter to nine!**
- Come even earlier and join us for Early Birds breakfast club (open 7:30 - 8:45 every week day)

Spotlight

Arts Week

Miss Emblin, our Art Subject Leader has organised Arts Week this half term and the theme is 'Make My Voice Heard' the children will learn about a range of artists and how their artwork, and our own can communicate important messages.

Mission Moments

Hugo in Y2 is our Mission hero. Hugo looked after a new Year R pupil in the playground and found him a friend to play with. [#compassionandcareforothers](#).



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.