

# St Mary's News



## Message from the Headteacher



We are all very excited that the week of the Christmas nativities is finally here. The children have enjoyed practising over the past two weeks and look forward to performing in front of an audience. Please remember that although we can allow photos this year, parents and carers should NEVER post photos on social media. Photos should only be shared privately with family and friends.

Please do check the diary dates below and support some of our other festive events: we especially hope you'll join us for our **Carols Around the Tree** this Friday as we hope to raise lots of money from the Tombola to support our school playground fund.



**RAFFLE**  
Prizes include £100 cash, gift vouchers for a range of places and four hampers as pictured

Thank you to all those that have volunteered in school this term. We have a few more generous volunteers poised to start after Christmas which will really help us – thank you! We are always on the lookout for more volunteers so please do let the office team know if you would like to join our team of volunteers next term. ☺

## Important Dates

Tuesday 10th December 9:00	<b>Year 1 Nativity</b>
Tuesday 10th December 14:00	<b>Year 2 Nativity</b>
Wednesday 11th December	<b>Christmas school lunch</b> (please order on scopay min 1 week prior)
Thursday 12th December 14:00	<b>Year R Nativity</b>
Friday 13th December 15:20	<b>Carols Around the Tree</b> (including PTA tombola)
Wednesday 18th December 9:15	<b>Open Tour of the School for prospective parents</b>
Wednesday 18th December 1:50-2:50	<b>Christmas tea and chat</b> - older members of the church community, invite only
Monday 16th December 14:30	<b>Christmas around the world</b> - please contact the office if you can share Christmas traditions with your child's class
Thursday 19th December 9:00	<b>KS2 Carol Service</b> Children in years 3-6 to start the school day at Church

23rd December - 3rd January	<b>Christmas Break</b>
Monday 6th January 11:15	<b>Open Tour of the School for prospective parents</b>
Friday 10th January 9:00	<b>Whole School Mass (Epiphany) Year 1-6 at Church</b>
Friday 10th January - 7th February	<b>Class 4La swimming lessons</b>
Friday 17th January 09:00	<b>Year 5 Mass - parents invited to attend at school 9am</b>
Thursday 6th February - 14:30	<b>Year 2 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)</b>
17th to 21st February	<b>Half Term Break</b>
Monday 24th February	<b>INSET Day</b>
Wednesday 26th February 16:00	<b>Books at Bedtime</b>
Friday 28th February-28th March	<b>Class 4Lo swimming lessons</b>
Week commencing 3rd March	<b>Book Week</b>
Thursday 6th March	<b>World Book Day</b>
Monday 10th March 15:30/18:00	<b>Parent/Carer Information sessions -Times Table Checks 15:30/Y6 SATS 18:00</b>
Week Commencing Tuesday 11th March	<b>Book Fair in school</b>
Thursday 13th March	<b>CAFOD Family Fast Day</b>
Monday 17th March 15:30	<b>Parent/Carer Information session - Phonics Screening – Year 1</b>
Thursday 20th March 2025 - 14:30	<b>Year 1 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)</b>
Friday 21st March 2025	<b>World Down Syndrome Day - Fundraiser</b>
Tuesday 25th March 15:30	<b>Parent/Teacher Consultations</b>
Thursday 27th March - 15:30	<b>Parent/Teacher Consultations</b>
7th to 21st April	<b>Easter Break</b>
Tuesday 22nd April	<b>School Photos (Class)</b>
Friday 25th April - 9:00	<b>Whole School Mass – All Year Groups at Church</b>
Friday 25th April - 23rd May	<b>Class 5M swimming lessons</b>
Monday 28th April	<b>St George's Day – Wear something red</b>
Monday 5th May	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Thursday 8th May - 14:30	<b>Year R Liturgy (parents invited to attend)</b>
Monday 12th May	<b>KS2 SATS Year 6 - all week, please DO NOT book holidays this week and the lead up to this period</b>
Friday May 16th 14:00	<b>Mary Liturgy and May procession</b>
Thursday 22nd May	<b>KS1 and Reception Sports morning</b>
Friday 23rd May	<b>KS2 Sports morning</b>
26th to 30th May	<b>Half Term Break</b>
Monday 2nd June	<b>INSET Day</b>
W/C June 2nd	<b>Year 4 Times Table Checks - all week, please DO NOT book holidays this week and next</b>
Monday June 9th	<b>Whole school Pentecost Mass at Church (all years)</b>
Friday 13th June - 11th July	<b>Class 5WT swimming lessons</b>
Friday 13th June 14:00	<b>Open Event – Fathers</b>

Thursday 19th June 18:00	<b>September 2025 Intake Information Evening</b>
Friday 27th June 14:00	<b>International Story Telling</b>
Wednesday 16th July 2025 18:00	<b>Year 6 Graduation</b>
Friday 18th July 2025 9:00	<b>Leaver's Mass – (all years)</b>
Tuesday 22nd July	<b>Last day of the school year</b>

These dates are subject to change. We advise Parents/Carers to regularly check the newsletters and website. Thank you.

## Announcements

### Middy Supervisors

We still have a vacancy for an additional midday supervisor. If you are keen to work with children and contribute to ensuring a safe and happy lunchtime environment for our pupils, then please consider applying. Application forms are available from the office. More details can be found on the school website here <https://www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk/web/vacancies/57575>

### Mermaid Tail

On Friday the children painted our Mermaid Tail – we are very proud of their efforts as the Tail will be displayed in Bournemouth in April.



Our sculpture was inspired by our love of sea creatures and care for our common home.

The school took part in a design competition under the theme, 'Save Our Seas.' The winning design displayed sea creatures swimming amongst plastic. Having been inspired by Pope Francis' message, the children at St Mary's are passionate about protecting the ocean.

This tail, not only gives a powerful message about saving our oceans, it also is a sign of HOPE – we have pledged to raise £750 for Julia's House Hospice – see below for how you can support!

### Presents for Teachers

Rather than giving presents to teachers this year please consider either giving to our Mermaid Tail Fund <https://www.scopay.com/product/2139151> or giving a CAFOD world gift by logging onto [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](https://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts). All money donated to the Mermaid Tail fund will go directly to Julia's House Children's Hospice in Poole. This way we can help the vulnerable this Advent to have a bit of hope in their difficulties.

### Sponsors Needed

If you know of anyone who would like to sponsor either our **Whale Tail** or some new **Outdoor Play Equipment**, **PLEASE** let us know.

### CAFOD's Online Advent Calendar 2024

Sign up to Cafod's online Advent Calendar and join us as we journey through Advent with our global family. The calendar invites us all to pause, reflect, pray and do something positive as we prepare for Christmas.

Sign up by going to: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

## Reminders

### Hot Christmas Lunch

It's our annual Christmas Lunch this Wednesday! For those that have not ordered the Christmas lunch why don't you put an extra treat into your child's lunchbox that day. The children could also decorate their lunchboxes with a bit of tinsel, etc to make them look Christmassy. Due to Christmas lunch being served on Wednesday, the following day will be Lamb Meatballs (M) or Mac n Cheese (V) rather than having two roast meals in the same week.

### January Hot Lunches

Please remember to order meals for the new school term **by 12 noon on 20<sup>th</sup> December** for the Christmas break. Orders made after this date will not be added to the caterers list for dinners delivered on the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January.



### School Admissions for September 2025

Please note that if you have younger children, or your friends and family do, the deadline for September 2025 places in primary schools is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Additional school tours are available to book so please come along and see our lovely school in action!

Dates: **Wednesday 18th December 9:15** and **Wednesday 8th January 11:15**

### Christmas Around the World

Our 'Christmas Around the World' session in school will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> December. All classes will be learning about how the special event of Christmas is celebrated in different countries and cultures. We invite all children to share information about their Christmas celebrations and would be grateful to any parents who would like to join their children's class to talk, or share pictures, stories, songs and artefacts to explain how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. Please let your child's class teacher or the office know if you are able to join us.



### Carols Around the Tree

Do join us after school to sing carols around our Christmas Tree in the hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Our Friends of St Mary's will be selling raffle tickets for the Christmas Raffle and, there will also be a Tombola along with refreshments for sale from the coffee van in the back playground. Please enter the hall from the playground entrance.

## Be Here, be Ready

### Lead by Example:

Demonstrate your own commitment to education and punctuality by prioritising your own responsibilities and attendance at work or other commitments. Being a positive role model shows your child the importance of regular attendance and responsibility.

Remember, consistent and good attendance is a shared responsibility between parents, carers, and schools. By creating a supportive environment, fostering positive relationships, addressing challenges promptly, and emphasising the value of education, you can encourage and reinforce good school attendance habits for your child

Thank you for keeping us just above the Government's target.

Last week's attendance was:

Year Group	Present
Reception	95.3
Year 1	97.0
Year 2	95.5
Year 3	97.0
Year 4	96.6
Year 5	96.3
Year 6	96.7
Total whole school	96.4

## Spotlight

### Saint Nicholas



The Feast of St Nicholas is 6<sup>th</sup> December. St Nicholas was the 4<sup>th</sup> century Bishop of Myra and we remember him each year on December 6<sup>th</sup> on the anniversary of his death. In parts of Europe, St. Nicholas Day has remained a time when children are given special cookies, candies, and gifts. In many places, children leave letters for St. Nicholas and carrots or grass for his donkey or horse. In the morning, they find small presents under their pillows or in the shoes, stockings, or plates they have set out for him. Oranges and chocolate coins are common treats that represent St. Nicholas's legendary rescue of three impoverished girls by paying their marriage dowries with gold. Candy canes, which have the shape of a bishop's crosier, are also given.

To all of our families who celebrate this wonderful tradition: "Happy St Nicholas Day!"

## Mission Moments

Our Mission hero this week is Frances in Year 6 for her gentle and generous support to her peers. She never complains and freely gives up her time to help her friends in need.

*#kindnessandabigheart*



## Final Word

And some more seasonal fun...

Why does everyone love Frosty the Snowman?  
*He's cool.*



What did one Christmas tree say to another?  
*Lighten up!*

Why did Santa Claus get a parking ticket on Christmas Eve?  
*He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.*

Have a good week!

# 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.

# Carols

## Around The Tree

3:20PM



13<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER

ALL ARE INVITED TO  
JOIN US FOR FESTIVE  
SONGS AROUND THE  
CHRISTMAS TREE

PLEASE COLLECT CHILDREN  
FROM CLASS AS USUAL AND  
THEN JOIN US IN  
THE SCHOOL HALL.

THERE WILL BE A PTA TOMBOLA AT THIS  
EVENT AND THE PTA RAFFLE WILL BE  
DRAWN AT THIS EVENT ALSO.



Refreshments  
on sale

