

# St Mary's News



Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Message from the Headteacher

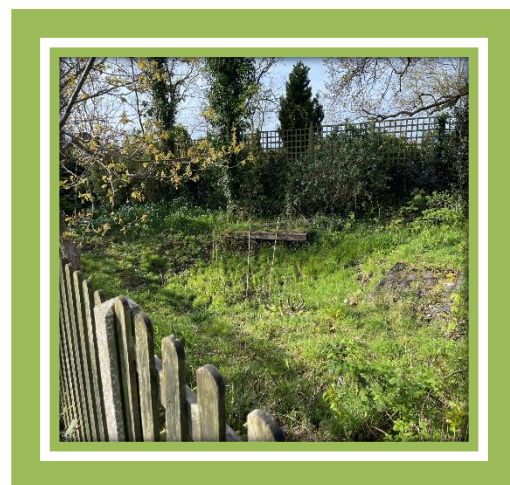
Although we have had some very mixed weather recently, we are hoping now that things will warm up – especially for the Year 5 Leeson trip and for the bank holiday weekend. Our next newsletter will go out next Tuesday to account for the bank holiday. We are excited that our sailing club has started up again this term – Mr Vince takes a group of keen KS2 buddy sailors each Friday after school. We are hoping for a few entries to local school regattas this term!



We hold Year 5 in our thoughts and prayers this week as they venture to Leeson House Field Studies Centre near Swanage for their residential trip. It is an exciting time for the pupils as they explore learning within a new environment and stay overnight with their teachers and friends

Transformation of the old pond area into a **Prayer and Sensory Garden**: during the Easter break, work started on revamping our old pond area. 7 tonnes of topsoil was delivered courtesy of MB Wilkes, a local company specialising in aggregate and landscaping products.

Our thanks to the team! We will keep you informed of developments!



## Important Dates

### Diary Dates Updates

Please note the date for **Matilda** has moved to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of July to accommodate all the cast.

The **Year 6 Leaver's disco** is now booked for 17<sup>th</sup> July and our **Father's Day event has now been extended to include the wider family**. We encourage a family member per child to join us on the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> June; ideally someone who rarely gets the chance to come into school

and share books with your child: a special aunty or uncle, grandparent, working mum or working dad.

<b>SUMMER TERM 1st half</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Sensory Breaks workshop for parents run by Mrs Watts SENCO	All Parents invited
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Mass in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 4
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs (please don't book holidays in this time)	Year 6
All month	KS1 SATs (please don't book holidays in this time)	Year 2
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Seals and Turtles Liturgy in School – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year F2
21 <sup>st</sup> May	KS1 Sports Morning	Parents invited to watch
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Yr 5 & 6 BSO Concert at Poole Lighthouse pm (parent helpers needed)	Year 5 & 6 children
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Yr 3 & 4 BSO Concert at Poole Lighthouse pm (parent helpers needed)	Year 3 & 4 children
24 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 Sports Morning	Parents invited to watch
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term holiday 15:15	All Years
27 <sup>th</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>HALF TERM BREAK – 15:15 close</b>	

### **SUMMER TERM 2<sup>nd</sup> half**

<b>3rd June</b>	<b>INSET DAY 5</b>	<b>All Years</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Children return to school	All Years
w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Checks	Year 4
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Reserve KS2 Sports Day	Years 3 - 6
w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics	Year 1
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Reserve KS1 Sports Morning	KS1 Parents/Carers
13 <sup>th</sup> June	New Intake Information Evening – 18:00	Prospective new F2 Parents/Carers
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Liturgy in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 2
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Father and Father figures Open Book – 14:30	All Year Groups
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Catholic Children's Society – non-uniform day	All Year Groups

21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 5 Mass in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 5
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Diocesan Mass for Year 6 Leavers at Church	Year 6
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	SEND Parent/Carer meetings in school 15:30 -18:00	SEND Parents/Carers
5 <sup>th</sup> July	School summer fair (after school)	All invited
11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School Production – “Matilda” 18:30 in the school hall	Parents/Carers
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports will be sent home	All Year Groups
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Graduation – 16:00 at school	Year 6 and their Parent/Carers
19 <sup>th</sup> July	End of Year Mass at Church 9:00	All Year Groups
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break up for summer holiday - finish at 15:15	All years
	<b>Summer Holiday Break – 15:15 close</b>	

### **INSET 2024/25 (published subject to change)**

INSET 1 - Monday 2nd September 2024

INSET 2 - Friday 25th October 2024

INSET 3 - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

INSET 4 - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

INSET 5 - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

### **Announcements**

#### **The Umbrella Group**

Umbrella group is a parent led support group for parents of children and young adults with ASD. If you wish to attend one of the meetings or coffee mornings or would like more information, please contact them directly.

Email: Debbie Muldoon-Hall [debbiewestbourne@gmail.com](mailto:debbiewestbourne@gmail.com)

Mobile: Clare Lockyer on 07450 210911

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/312179982770667?ref=share>

### **Reminders**

#### **Sunny days!**

When the weather does pick up please ensure your child has a named sunhat and has sunscreen applied before they come to school.

#### **Drinks**

Please don't forget that only water is allowed in school. Please encourage your child to refill their water bottle and take regular drinks throughout the day.

## Lunches

We have noticed that some children are having unhealthy snacks for lunch/break. eg chocolate bars or cakes/donuts. As a school we promote healthy eating, either a nutritious cereal bar or fruit is more healthy, please see the link below for ideas:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks>

### Be Safe

## Smart Watches

Smartwatches/fitness trackers should not be worn in school.

Many children now have smart watches and as a result we wanted to highlight the importance of parental controls on these devices. Not all brands enable this, so it is worth checking out before you buy! Some smartwatches allow you to take photos. It is important to talk to your child about appropriate behaviour when taking and sharing photos. Once a photo is shared, they lose control of it. Some smartwatches have internet access with the ability to download apps. You need to be aware of the potential of in app purchases and viewing upsetting content.

More information about Apple Watch parental controls can be found here:

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/watch/apd54d0a51fb/watchos>

As always, ensure your child knows to talk to you or another trusted adult should they see anything inappropriate or that something that worries them whilst using their device.

Further information at:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-family-basics-smart-watches-fitness-trackers>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/smart-toys-and-wearable-gadgets/#smart>

### Be Here, be Ready

## 100% Attendance Week

This week is **100% attendance week**. If a child has an unavoidable medical appointment this week we will ensure it does not impact on their class tally for attendance.

## Meet and Greet

One of the hardest things for any parent to deal with is a child that refuses to go to school. This can be very stressful and put pressure on relationships. Part of our relational approach to behaviour at St Mary's includes a recognition that all children should feel valued and welcomed. Every child receives a personal welcome from their class teacher as they enter the classroom – This strategy is an important part of encouraging children into school and bonding with their teacher and peers.

## Catching Up with Lost Learning

Children can find it daunting when they return to school after an absence as they have missed chunks of learning. We have revamped our classroom displays this term to help children to review prior learning (new vocabulary and knowledge facts); each class has a learning champion who talks through the vocabulary and facts on the boards for the missed period of learning. If your child is off school for any reasons longer than 48 hours please message their teacher on Tapestry / DoJo to discuss support you can give your children at home to prepare their return back into school.

## Spotlight

Thank you to our **Year 4 team** who have been reflecting upon their favourite children's authors. Here are their favourites and why?

**Miss Howard:** My favourite children's author when I first started reading was Enid Blyton, especially the 'Secret Seven' stories and the 'Island of Adventure'. When I started teaching in Foundation, I really enjoyed reading 'Hairy Mclary' by Lynley Dodd and all the 'Elmer' Books by David McKee. 'Artemis Fowl', a series of books by Eoin Colfer made me laugh and then the 'Harry Potter' Books by J.K. Rowling exploded onto the reading scene. I had to wait a whole year for each new book and then I would demolish them in two days. The detail and adventure with the right about of danger and humour made the stories gripping. The children's book that has touched my heart the most is 'I am David' by Anne Holm, the integrity of the boy David throughout his experiences is so powerful.

**Mrs Lovell:** My favourite is Charles Dickens, in particular a book about David Copperfield as the recount of his life reflects how resilient he was in overcoming challenges and learning from any mistakes that he made. This allowed him to grow as a person. I try and learn from his resilience.

**Mrs Roe:** My favourite children's author would be Chris Riddell. He is an illustrator and author and my favourite book that he has written is 'Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse'. It is full of adventure and the humour is wonderful. During the story the main character, Ada Goth, together with her ghostly mouse friend, unravels a mystery and a devastating plot by the butler Maltravers. Chris Riddell wrote a series of 'Goth Girl' books all of which are a joy to read.

**Mrs Hives:** My favourite children's author is Simon Seabag Montefiore and his wife Santa Montefiore. He has written the 'Royal Rabbits of London', a series of four books that are wonderfully illustrated which describe the adventures of Shylo and his rabbit friends. 'Escape from the Tower', 'The Great Diamond Chase' and 'The Hunt for the Golden Carrot' are the other books in the series. Great for children to imagine the rabbits and what antics they get up to in London.

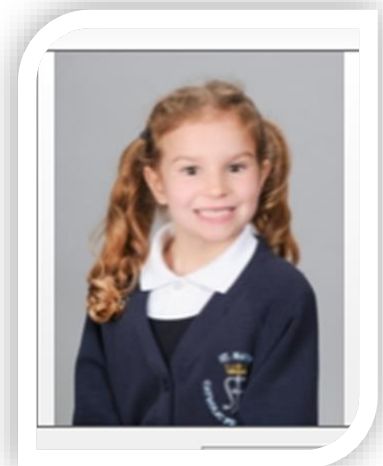
Please do let us know if your children have tried out any of our teacher recommendations!

## Mission Moments

Meet Lara from Year 3!

Lara is always polite and friendly, she interacts with her peers positively and cooperatively, accepting and appreciating the differences between us all.

Well done Lara!



# 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.