

St Mary's News



Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to all of our families. I hope that you all had a good summer break together. At St Mary's School, we are always excited about starting a new school year and can't wait to settle the children into their new routines and learning. We look forward to supporting you and your children in their learning journey this year and ensuring they continue to build happy memories of their time in our school.



If your children completed any summer home learning or completed the local library challenge in July / August, please do send their work into school so that we can celebrate this. Please also read our reminders below so that we start the year with a shared understanding of uniform expectations and arrival times.

Curriculum Information

Curriculum information about what your child will be learning this year will be sent home in the Year Group Newsletter each half term.

There are a few new things happening this term:

In Early Years and KS1 Mrs Eddy (Early English Leader) is introducing '**Book Talk Tuesday**' this term and '**Author Bags**'.

In KS2 pupils we will expect every pupil to have a personal '**Reading Journal**'. This can be an A4 or A5 booklet / notebook bought in from home. Children may decorate the cover of their Reading Journal and should bring into school every day. If families cannot afford a notebook then please let the class teacher know and one will be provided.

Congratulations to Leo McCrea, a past pupil of St Mary's School, who won a gold medal in the Paralympics this month in Paris in the 100m Breaststroke.



Value of the Week

British Value: **Mutual Respect**.

Gospel Value: **Integrity** – we are true to ourselves.

This week the pupils in KS2 are making their own cultural heritage jars in celebration of our diverse community and also as a way of recognising our own identity as an individual.

Pupils are also reminded of our School Rules this week – to always be **Ready, Respectful and Safe**. In light of events this summer it is ever more important to us at St Mary's School to celebrate our diversity and promote mutual respect and tolerance within our communities.

Important Dates

Please be reminded that we have Mass at St Mary's Church on Thursday 12th of September at 9am for children in Years 1 – 6. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us to celebrate the start of the new school year.

INSET 1 – 2nd September 2024

INSET 2 – 13th September 2024

INSET 3 - 4th November 2024

INSET 4 – 24th February 2025

INSET 5 - 2nd June 2025

Term dates:

Autumn Half term - Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024

End of Autumn Term – Friday 20 December 2024

Start of Spring Term - Monday 6 January 2025

Spring Half Term - Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025

Easter Holidays - Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April 2025

Start of Summer Term - Tuesday 22 April 2025

Summer Half Term - Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

End of Summer Term - Tuesday 22 July 2025

Parent/Teacher Consultations - 22nd and 24th October 2024

Announcements

Staffing

Welcome to Mrs Helena Atkinson who is joining our teaching team this term, working in Year 1AK with Mrs Kernick.

Congratulations to Miss Lomas who got married this summer. Miss Lomas will now be known as Mrs Remeika.

Vacancies

We have the following vacancies this term:

Lunch time supervisors (various roles, 1 hour per day minimum)

Before School Club Assistant (7:30-8:45 daily)

If you are interested please request an application from the office as soon as possible. We would love you to join our teams!.

Reminders

Allergies

We have a number of children in school with allergies, including (but not limited to) nuts, gluten and dairy,. Some children's reactions to coming in contact with an allergen can be life threatening. This can be airborne too. Although we have risk assessments and procedures in school, we sometimes also have to ask for school community help. We continue to ask that packed lunch items are nut free – please check packaging carefully prior to purchase and avoid items that contain nuts or have been made in a factory containing nuts. This includes spreads such as Nutella. We are grateful for your cooperation!

Walkers

Only pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are allowed to leave the school site unaccompanied and then only after written permission from their parent / carer. All other pupils must be collected at the end of the school day by their designated grown up (16 years+) Please email the school office with written permission for your child in UKS2 to walk home – we renew permissions each year. Thank you.

Mobile Phones

Only pupils who walk home should bring a mobile phone to school next year. They will need to abide by our mobile phone policy which we will distribute again in September. They should hand their phone into the school office each morning before registration.

Be Here, be Ready

Be Here

Please be reminded that school gates **open at 8:35 and close at 8:45**. Children must be ready to register. A late mark after the register has closed (9:05am) means your child will effectively have an unauthorised absence mark for the morning session. Please ensure your child is in school and punctual and ready to learn. Being late causes stress to your child, their peers and they either miss the input for the first lesson or their teacher must repeat it.

Please also don't forget that there are new protocols around term time holidays which came in to force on August 19th 2024 and will result in tougher penalties for absence.

Be Ready

Uniform - we pride ourselves on high standards of presentation. All pupils should wear the correct school uniform including a jumper or cardigan with the school logo.

Hair styles should be suitable for school – NO SHAVED cuts please. Shoes should be black - slip on shoes are NOT encouraged as they inhibit safe playtime play.

PE uniform expectations are equally important and school logo PE T-shirt is advised. Navy shorts, sweatshirt top and jogging bottoms should all be plain navy with no logos. Leggings are not permitted. Please continue come to school in PE uniform on PE days.

Book Bags and Rucksacks - Pupils in Year R and KS1 should bring their school book bag to school each day – NOT a rucksack as we do not have room for storing these.

Pupils in KS2 may bring in a small rucksack to school. Large bags are not needed please.

Spotlight

Mrs Atkinson

Mrs Atkinson is an experienced primary school teacher specialising in KS1. Mrs Atkinson taught at Christ the King School for many years and prior to that at Winton Primary School. Mrs Atkinson's favourite children's author is Julia Donaldson, and she enjoys spending time with her family and travelling when she is not working. We are thrilled that Mrs Atkinson has joined our St Mary's team.



Mission Moments



Season of Creation

Pope Francis established 1st September as the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' in 2015. The 1st September 2024 marked the start of this year's Season of Creation. It ends on 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. This year we will continue to look at ways that our pupils can respond to the pope's request for us to care for our planet throughout this year.

The Pope's Intentions for September: for the cry of the earth. Let us pray that each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis. Making a personal commitment to care for our common home. Especially think of those affected by the in Japan last week.

Eco Champion

As part of our commitment to our planet we are excited to work with our pupil Eco team led by Martha in Year 6. Watch this space! [#committedtolaudatosi](#)

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth



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