

w/c 6th January 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Happy New Year to all of our families, pupils and staff. We hope that you all enjoyed time with your families, friends and loved ones this holiday and had a chance to relax.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas and Advent events during December. Well done to our KS2 pupils who led our Carol Service on Thursday 19th December and to Year 6 who led a special 'Tea and Chat' for the retired members of our community. The guests were treated to tea, cake, Christmas songs, poems, jokes and even a game of festive bingo! Giving our pupils the opportunity to serve our community and communicate with different generations is important and enriches their faith journey in so many ways. We all have so much to learn from our elderly!

This new year we ask God to bless each one of us with a faith that endures, hope that sustains us and love that motivates us to act. God bless you all and may 2025 be a year of peace, joy and happiness.

Important Dates

Spring Term Dates	Spring Term Events
Friday 10th January 9:00	Whole School Mass (Epiphany) Year 1-6 at Church
Friday 10th January - 7th February	Class 4La swimming lessons
Friday 17th January 09:00	Year 5 Mass - parents invited to attend at school 9am
Thursday 6th February - 14:30	Year 2 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)
17th to 21st February	Half Term Break
Monday 24th February	INSET Day
Wednesday 26th February 16:00	Books at Bedtime
Friday 28th February - 28th March	Class 4Lo swimming lessons
Week commencing 3rd March	Book Week
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Monday 10th March 15:30/18:00	Parent/Carer Information sessions -Times Table Checks 15:30/Y6 SATS 18:00
Week Commencing Tuesday 11th March	Book Fair in school
Thursday 13th March	CAFOD Family Fast Day
Monday 17th March 15:30	Parent/Carer Information session - Phonics Screening – Year 1
Thursday 20th March 2025 - 14:30	Year 1 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)
Friday 21st March 2025	World Down Syndrome Day - Fundraiser
Tuesday 25th March 15:30	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Thursday 27th March - 15:30	Parent/Teacher Consultations
7th to 21st April	Easter Break

Announcements

The Feast of the Epiphany

The feast of The Epiphany is the Christian celebration that commemorates the visit of the Magi (Three Wise Men) to the baby Jesus. It is also known as Theophany in Eastern Christian tradition. The feast falls on January 6th and marks the arrival of the visitors (the Magi) to the place where Jesus was born.

The Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God. It focuses primarily on this revelation to the Magi, however, the meaning of the feast goes deeper than just the bringing of presents or the end of Christmas, it symbolises Jesus's presentation to the world.

Pope Francis reminds us to be like the Magi. He encourages us, as Christians, to ask questions as we set off life's journey and learn to worship Jesus.

In some countries the Epiphany is called '**Three Kings Day**'! It is celebrated in many countries including Spain, Portugal and Venezuela with a vibrant fiesta including a special Roscon de Reyes cake.



Reminders

Whole School Mass – The Feast of The Epiphany

On Friday 10th December pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will attend whole school mass at St Mary's Church. Children can be dropped at the church hall from 8.30am onwards which will give parents time to return to school to drop any year R children off. Early Bird children will be escorted to church by school staff. Fingers crossed for good weather as the children will walk back to school after mass. Please ensure they have raincoats and are wrapped up warm. We would be grateful for any volunteer parents to walk back to school with us as usual.

Winter Uniform

All children must wear a **warm coat** to school this term. Please label with your child's name so that we can return it to you should it get mislaid. We also would like all children to have warm **hats and gloves** please.

Although children may wear winter boots to and from school they must change into **school shoes** once inside the building please.

With the surge in winter viruses this winter we continue to mitigate against these by ventilating the school classrooms and reminding children to wash their hands. Please ensure your child wear under layers such as a **warm vest** under their school shirts to keep them warm.

School Closure

We only make the decision to close the school in exceptional circumstances, and during the winter we should always be prepared for extreme weather situations, such as snow or high winds. Should the school need to close we would endeavour to give prior warning and alert parents via text message. We would also post a message on the school website and inform Heart FM radio station who announce school closures locally.

Sponsors Needed

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

Empty Tubs Please



Bring your empty chocolate/sweets/cracker tubs into school!

We have been asked if we can collect empty plastic tubs to help the Tub2Pub Greene King recycling scheme.

Tubs can be handed into the school office.

Money raised from the recycled plastic is donated to its partner Macmillan Cancer Support, helping the charity continue to support people living with cancer.

Be Safe

With lighter evenings approaching, children may soon be spending more time outside. Parents and carers may like to use the following resources with their children to discuss 'stranger danger.'

<https://clevernevergoes.org/parents-2/>

Weekly Phonics Practice

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Lv1oAq0u/rsTubPP3> word time fun

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/ZGNpbvDV/aAk24PS1> u-e

Be Here, be Ready



Check out all the designs online to ensure your children are in school every day!

- ✓ Tough outdoor signs
- ✓ Colourful and vibrant
- ✓ Fantastic value for money
- ✓ Check the website for the full range!

<https://www.snappyjack.co.uk/attendance>

Spotlight

Jubilee Year

Pope Francis has given the 2025 Jubilee Year the theme of Pilgrims of Hope.

What is a Jubilee Year? In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year? A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years.

A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.



What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025? The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish? The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Franciscus

Mission Moments

We are proud of Douglas and Ivy who enjoy sharing books together in the Year 1 book corner. Both children were kind and considerate towards each other.
[#kindandcompassionatereaders](#)



Final Word

A few New Year jokes to brighten up your day...

What do
snowmen like
to do on
New Year's Eve?

Chill out!

Why did the man stand on one leg at midnight on New Year's Eve?

He wanted to start the year on the right foot.

What's a cow's favourite holiday?

Moo Year's Eve.

Why did the man sprinkle sugar on his pillow on New Year's Eve?

He wanted to start the year with sweet dreams.

Why did the math book look sad on New Year's Eve?

It had too many problems from the past year.

With best wishes,

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth

