




St Mary's

News



W/C 13th January 2025

Message from the Headteacher

The children in Year 1 – 6 celebrated the feast of the Epiphany at St Mary's Church on Friday 10th January and we were fortunate the weather held out for us during our walk back to school. We are very grateful to so many members of our parish community who assist in our church liturgies, from decorating the church, providing IT support and Eucharistic ministers. We really appreciate this support. It was a very uplifting liturgy with wonderful music, a thought-provoking homily from Fr John and a reflection led by Year 6 pupils after communion. What a great start to the new year!

We are hopeful that we all have a healthy term ahead and ask parents to remind children how to cough or sneeze into a tissue and bin it to avoid the spread of coughs and cold viruses. Handwashing continues to be a priority as does good ventilation to mitigate these risks.

Best wishes to you all for a good week ahead.

Important Dates

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)
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
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

Please see latest news post about events coming up in January from SENDiass (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Services)
<https://sendiass4bcp.org/2024/12/27/whats-on-in-january-2/>

Announcements

Staffing Update

This term we welcome back both Miss Shaw and Mrs Cassidy who were unwell last term. Thank you to Miss James who covered Miss Shaw and thank you to Mrs Reyes and Mrs Churchill who covered Mrs Cassidy.

Reminders

Online Home Learning

We have several school subscriptions to platforms that support pupil learning in maths and reading. Please do build these into your weekly home learning routine:

- TT Rockstars – times table practice.
- Active Learn – games and activities linked to our Power maths Scheme.
- Hit the Button – game to practice number bonds and times tables facts.
- Oxford Owls – books to support early reading.
- RWI Online – Phonics videos to support learning (please ask your child's teacher for a link to this)
- Purple Mash – Games and activities covering the full range of the curriculum.

Hair Styles

Please ensure that hair is tied back if your child has long hair. Please only use small navy bows. We have seen an increase in large bows in a variety of colours – please replace with small navy bows or leave plain. Short hair styles should be grade 2 minimum – no shaved styles, tramlines or shaved patterns please.

School Gate Timings

We expect children to be in class at 8.45am to take part in their start the day activities. We are finding that there is a rush of pupils arriving at 8.45-8.55am. Please remember that the main gates will be closing at 8.45am and classroom doors at 8.50am. Children arriving after this time will enter the school via the main office entrance.

SCOPAY

Please do log onto scopay this month and check that you are up to date with payments for events, trips and visits from last term. It is year 4's turn to have swimming lessons for their PE, please pay a contribution via scopay in the products section.

Be Safe

Many children are drawn to dogs. However, as adults we should take time to teach our children how to be safe around other people's dogs. The link below has some useful information.

<https://petbc.org.uk/what-children-should-not-do-to-an-unfamiliar-dog/#:~:text=DO%20NOT%20Approach%20Without%20Permission,you%20must%20ask%20for%20consent.>

Be Here, be Ready

Here are our attendance figures for last week – there are lots of coughs and sore throats at the moment which have significantly impacted our attendance data. Please teach your child to cough and sneeze into their elbow if they don't have tissues as we learnt during the pandemic. This may slow the spread of these virus and infections. Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance %

Reception 87.0 Year 1 98.0 Year 2 93.0 Year 3 93.9 Year 4 95.2 Year 5 92.2 Year 6 98.8
Totals 94.2

Spotlight



Siena is a member of 1st Lilliput Brownie Unit and has recently been awarded the Brownie Gold Award. This award is the highest that can be awarded to a Brownie and is a very special achievement – it took nearly three years to complete. The award was presented to her by Racheal Tattum, the South West Region Deputy Chief Commissioner. Siena completed many badges from Painting to Baking, Mindfulness to Aviation, all of them to an extremely high standard. For her Gold challenge Siena led a quiz all about bees which is a passion of hers and her family. This is an award that Siena should be very proud of and for which she has worked very hard, well done Siena!



1st Lilliput Brownies Leadership Team



Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community.

Mission Moments



Oscar C from Year 3 has been nominated to be our Mission Hero for always being ready to help and support, offering even before being asked.
#gospelvalues



Final Word

How do you comfort a grammar teacher? Say... "They're, there, their."

What is a pirate's favourite subject? Arrrrrrrt!

Have a good week!

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth

