St Mary's News

25th March 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support over the last three months. The children have achieved so much this term and enjoyed so many new learning experiences. Next term many children will complete statutory assessments – summative end of year reports will go home for each child in July. Alongside this we look forward to our sports day events in May and many school trips. The summer term is also a time for transition and preparations will be made for pre-school transition to St Marys and for our Year 6 pupils who will be moving on to secondary schools in September.

Lenten Activities

Our children have worked hard this Lent to do extra to help others, to pray for them, to do a little act of kindness or something extra. Year 2 spent a quite moment recording the prayers they had said for people, the acts of kindness they had done and the things they had given up during Lent. The children were very reflective and loved seeing the tube full of prayers filled to the top.

Well done to our Mini Vinnies in Year 5 who prepared and led KS2 through the Stations of the Cross on Friday 22nd March. Thank you to those parents and parishioners who joined us for this reflective and poignant service. Yesterday was Palm Sunday and marks the start of **Holy Week.** This week holds the key to our Christian faith, it makes sense of our story. Do try to join in the liturgies at church for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday or Easter Sunday. If you are unable to attend a church service, then please do find the time to be still and reflect upon the journey that Jesus undertook for each one of us – me and you!

A special well done this week goes out to all of our St Mary's musicians who played or sang in our **Spring Concert** on Thursday 21st March. We could not do this without our wonderful music teacher, Mrs Wilson, who works so hard to ensure music is the heartbeat of our school.

Important Dates

25th March	Phonics Info session for parents/carers	Year 1 parents/carers
25th March	Phonics Screening Parent Information Session 15.30 Year 1 classroom	Year 1 and Year 2 parents / carers
27th March	Leeson House Parent Information Session 15.20 Year 5 classroom	Year 5 parents / carers
27th March	PTA Easter Fayre 15.30-16.45	All Years
28th March	Maundy Thursday Liturgy – 9:00 at SCHOOL	Year 1 – 6 Pupils only
28th March	Break up for Easter holidays 15:15 Night Owls open	All Years
1st April – 12th April	**EASTER BREAK – school closed**	

	SUMMER TERM 1st half	
15th April	Children return to school	All Years
19th Apr	Whole School Easter Mass at Church - 8:50	All Years + Parents/Carers
23rd April	Sensory Breaks workshop for patents with Mrs Watts	All Parents
23rd April	Class Photos	All children
10th May	Year 4 Mass in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 4
w/c 13th 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
17th May	Seals and Turtles Liturgy in School – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year F2
21st May	KS1 Sports Morning	Parents invited to watch
24th May	KS2 Sports Morning	Parents invited to watch
24th May	Break up for half term holiday 15:15	All Years
27th May – 31st May	**HALF TERM BREAK – 15:15 close**	

Announcements

Author Maz Evans who came into school last week is holding a

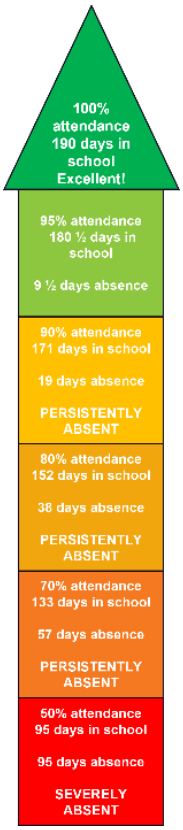
book signing at Waterstones 13th April, 11am
https://www.waterstones.com/events/meet-the-author-maz-evans/bournemouth-castlepoint

Reminders

As we will be starting the summer term on our return from the Easter break, this is a reminder of optional summer uniform that children can wear.
Shorts: Dark grey, must be tailored.
Dress: Blue checked dress.

Be Safe

During the Easter holidays many children will be looking forward to some extra screen time. For most children this will be harmless and a fun way for them to spend some time. Some children may not have as positive a time due to accessing unsuitable content online. We would strongly recommend physically checking what your children are looking at on screen and the use of a parental control filter such as Qustodio, Net Nanny or Norton Family. It would also be a good idea to talk to your child about your expectations of their screen time and what they should do if they see something that upsets them or seems wrong.



Be Here, be Ready

Holidays in Term Time
We understand how important it is to have time together as a family. We also understand that holidays during term time are more affordable. Despite this we are still not allowed to authorise any holidays and please ask that parents / carers do not take children out of school during our assessment season (April, May, June). We want our children to have the very best chance of doing their best and we need them in school learning every day for this to happen. Thank you for your support.

Spotlight

Early Birds - Our vision for Birds at St Mary's is for it to be a welcoming, safe and nurturing environment where the children can start their school day feeling loved and cared for.

Mrs Cassidy tells us how she tries to make this happen. I always say, 'Good morning how are you today!' to each. A chance to speak to the children outside the classroom set up! Giving them a good breakfast to start the day! Reassuring first time users and making them feel welcome.

Mrs Timbrell-Smith says good morning to each child by name. Making sure they have a good breakfast and making them feel welcome.

Mrs Reyes likes to provide a home from home atmosphere and make sure that the children all have a good breakfast.

Mission Moments

We have so many Mission Moments to choose from this week: We are especially grateful to those older pupils who help out with our youngest children at playtimes: Alicja, Nadia, Grace in Year 6; Archie, Matthew, Harry and Andrew in Year 5. We also are proud of Noura, who is always kind and thoughtful, especially with new children. Well done to Steve for always showing courage – for example extending his learning in class by continuing with an Explore and Learn challenge at home! Well done to you all - we are super proud of you.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth