

Tuesday 9th July 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Well done to fifteen of our talented orchestra members who performed in the SoundStorm Showcase concert on the evening of the 4th July. They were joined by other instrumentalists from across BCP to perform a specially written piece called 'A Children's Symphony' written by local music teacher Kate Wright. It was a wonderful evening full of the celebration of music. Well done to all the children involved - you made us very proud! A special thank you to Mrs Wilson, our Music Leader for coaching our St Mary's orchestra so well this year.



Like many state schools this year we have felt the pressure of inadequate government funding which has had an impact on our teaching staff numbers for next year. Sadly, Mr Vince will be leaving us this term and will take up a post at Milton Abbey School. Mr Vince has worked at St Mary's for four years and has been a valued member of our team. We will miss Mr Vince and wish him well at his new school. We will have a part time sports coach delivering PE alongside the class teachers next year.

A huge thank you to our Friends of St Mary's Association (FSM) who planned, set up and ran our Summer Fair last Friday. Despite the weather it was a great success and has helped to raise much needed money for our school. Our fundraising priorities next year will continue to focus on raising money to develop our outdoor areas; in addition, we will be raising funds to refurbish our school library. Donations via Scopy are welcomed.

Please keep our Year 6 pupils in your prayers this week as they enjoy their residential trip to PGL in Osmington Bay, Weymouth. Let's hope the weather remains clement for them.

Have a good week!

Value of the Week

British Value of the week: Democracy – this week we have our Eco Champion Election in Y5.

Gospel Value of the week: Integrity – we try our best to serve our school community.

Important Dates

11 th and 12 th July	Whole School Production – “Matilda” 18:30 in the school hall	Parents/Carers
12 th July	Reports will be sent home	All Year Groups
16 th July	Year 6 Graduation 16:00	Year 6 and Year 6 Parents/Carers
18 th July	International Dress Day	All Year Groups
18 th July	Final Stay and Play	Pupils starting Year R in September 2024
19 th July	Leavers Mass at Church 9:00	All Year Groups
23 rd July	Break up for summer holiday - finish at 15:15pm	All years
	Summer Holiday Break – 15:15 close	

Announcements

International Celebration Day! We value our ‘Pupil Voice’ at St Mary’s School, so when we asked for feedback on our International Story Telling Afternoon, and they asked if they could have a day to dress up in their national costume, we agreed.

We are, therefore, excited to let you know that Thursday 18th July will be International Celebration Day in school. Children are invited to come to school, if they wish, wearing traditional dress or clothes that celebrate their heritage (or any country that they choose). Please avoid football kits if possible.

Throughout the day children will all have the opportunity to talk about their culture with their friends and to share stories, games, songs or artefacts from their cultures. We are a school of many cultures and languages and we are happy to celebrate our wonderful diversity. Thank you for your support.



Staffing

The end of a school year always brings change and that is often bittersweet as we prepare to say goodbye to loved colleagues. This summer we say farewell to Mr Vince, Miss James, Miss Timbrell-Smith and Mrs Ann Smith. All have served our school well with dedication and love. We will miss them all and wish them well for their future endeavours.



Miss Smith has worked in our servery for 8 years and has been a great help during busy lunchtimes, ensuring children have their meals and clear away each day. We wish Miss Smith a happy and healthy retirement.



Miss James joined us last summer to cover Mrs Eddy’s maternity leave then taught Year 3S this year. Miss James has loved her class and has gone over and above to forge secure relationships and support the children in their learning. They have made great progress as a result! Safe travels Miss James.



Mrs Timbrell-Smith has worked as a one-to-one teaching assistant since 2022. Alongside this Mrs Timbrell-Smith also works in our servery and in Breakfast Club. Although, ceasing her TA role, Mrs Timbrell-Smith will continue in her other roles.



Mr Vince has worked at St Mary’s School for four years. In September he will be moving to Milton Abbey School. Mr Vince has been instrumental in raising the profile of PE and sports at St Mary’s; he has run multi sports clubs, fencing and sailing clubs and this year led our Forest Schools Club. We will miss him greatly.

Reminders



Year 6 Graduation

We can't believe that we are so close to the end of the school year and for our Year 6 pupils, the end of their primary school journey. Next Tuesday, 16th July, we are looking forward to our Year 6 Graduation Event in the school hall at 4:00pm. It is an opportunity for the Year 6 pupils to wear their 'best' clothes and feel incredibly special and valued. Space in the hall will be tight so we limit attendance to immediate family members only – mum / dad (or their representative) and siblings.

Lost Property – please claim any unnamed lost property from outside Night Owl, all unclaimed lost property will be given to charity at the end of the year.

Be Safe

Play Equipment - Please do not use school play equipment before or after school. No members of school staff are on duty to oversee the use of the large apparatus or to ensure that it is safe to be used.

School Grounds - Please vacate the school site promptly at the end of the day. After school clubs run most days and the site needs to be secured for safeguarding reasons. In addition, you will be supporting the school with alleviating parking issues. We still regularly receive complaints from our neighbours about parents parking. There is also still an issue with parents or carers driving in to Devon Road and doing three (or more) point turns – please do not do this as it is extremely dangerous when there are so many children in the road.

Dogs - Please do not bring dogs onto the school grounds when dropping off or picking up children.

Be Here, be Ready

Term Time Holidays

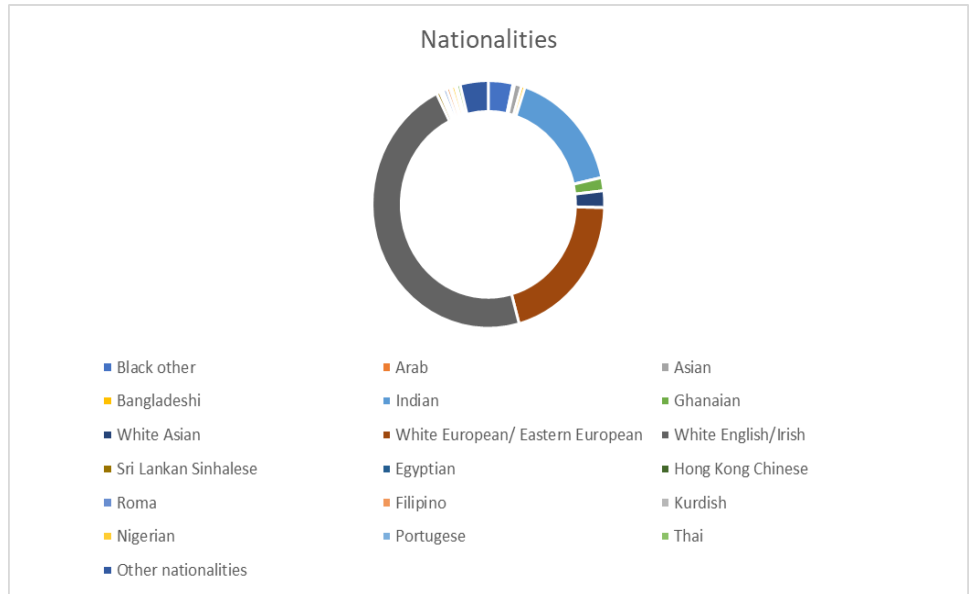
This year we have seen a marked increase in pupils who have a term-time holiday. We appreciate the honesty from those who apply and use the correct process of notifying us and accepting that this may lead to a fixed penalty notice. As you know the school gets no benefit from the fine and we try and do all we can to ensure fairness and equality in the process. As a school we monitor attendance closely and discuss any concerns directly with you, so if we are concerned about the impact of an absence, we will discuss that with you.

As you will have seen in previous newsletters, there will be a change to the process going forwards that are worth highlighting again as you may be planning for next year. The government are increasing the cost of a penalty notice from £60 (per parent, per child, if paid promptly) to £80. The change also proposes a three-year period where any further holiday would lead to a fine of £160 per parent, per child. A third holiday is more likely to lead to a parenting order or prosecution. It is important to make you aware of the proposed changes so that you can consider them when planning for the future.

Spotlight

Our Diverse Community

We are fortunate at St Mary's School to have a richly diverse community (see chart/table adjacent). Our International Storytelling Afternoon was a great success and opened the door to more parental involvement. We are keen to have more parent volunteers next year, both in school, listening to pupils read and within our Friends of St Mary's Association. Please do be brave and offer your help by letting our friendly office staff know. Also, if you have any other ideas of how we can foster 'respect', collaboration and celebrate our diversity, please do let us know.



Mission Moments

Annabelle from 2H is our mission hero this week. She always displays the values of kindness and compassion daily in the classroom. She is always there to support those who need a friend.

#compassion#kindness



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel
Diocese of Plymouth



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Plymouth CAST operates Catholic schools within the Local Authorities of Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon, Torbay, Dorset, Poole & Bournemouth.