

Monday 26th February 2024

Message from the Headteacher

We would like to pass a special thank you to our parish St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Society who tirelessly support our community, especially the elderly, sick and lonely. Our Mini Vinnie's are inspired by this example of faith in action and would like to thank our SVP for buying badges for their uniform. Our Mini Vinnies are proud to be Mission Advocates and supported by Miss Howard, work to demonstrate faith in action within our community. Some of the ways they achieve this is by leading lunchtime prayer groups, leading prayers in assemblies, leading recycling projects and writing cards and messages for pupils or the wider community. This year they are also working on painting crosses to display around school that reflect the difference liturgical seasons.

On Friday 23rd February a simple but powerful symbol of faith took place during the Friday Liturgy. It started with one child and grew to many. Each child received a badge announcing they were a Mini Vinnie and prepared to help everyone and anyone with ever the smallest task. A mission to see - think - do. Thanks to the Poole SVP conference who purchased the badges for us.

To find out more follow this link: <https://svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies>



The Mini Vinnies are also encouraging our community to make a 'Big' effort this Lent to do something extra and help others. Please do refer to last week's newsletter when we highlighted some of the activities that we are doing in school: collections for our local food bank, the 'Big Lent Walk' and 'Parent Lenten Prayers'. Thank you to Deacon Declan who joined us in school last Tuesday for the first of our Parent Lenten Prayers – please do try to join us this week if you can! Also, please look out for the 'Big Lent Walk' letters and sponsor forms being sent home this week!

Important Dates

Parent Consultations

Please make sure you have booked a meeting with your child's class teacher this week as it is vitally important to make the time to discuss your child's progress and next steps so that we can help them to reach their potential. If you haven't already booked or cannot make any of the meeting times offered, please let the office staff know and we will endeavour to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Year 5 Mass

Change of date – Year 5 mass has changed from Friday 1st March to Friday 8th March. All Year 5 parents and carers are welcome to join Year 5 in the hall at 9.00am for mass with Fr John.

Year 2 SATs Information

Mrs Hemsil and the Year 2 team will provide information to Year 2 parents after school on Monday 11th March in the Year 2H classroom. Although Year 2 SATs are no longer statutory assessments, Plymouth CAST schools continue to complete the assessments as they provide a useful tool for pupil progress.

Deanery 'Big Lent Walk'

Our parish is joining the Deanery walk for CAFOD, meeting at Upon Park on Saturday 9th March at 11.00am in the car park near the entrance. Families from St Mary's School would be welcome to join the walk which will follow the Castleman Trail towards Broadstone.

PTA AGM

Please put the date in your diary and come along to the PTFA AGM after school on Wednesday 6th March and show your support. This is a really exciting time for St Mary's School as we revive our previously vibrant PTA!

Announcements

New Website

Plymouth CAST school websites are all undergoing a revamp to provide consistency across our trust. Our new look website is launched today!

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges [#LaudatoSi](#)

We have been given a recycling box for small ink cartridge to help raise funds for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), for each ink cartridge recycled via the programme, CCSP will receive up to **£2** donation. Please send any old printer cartridges in to the school office.



Reminders

Uniform Reminder

We seek parental support to maintain our high expectations for uniform. All children should be wearing suitable school shoes – not **ankle boots** please. We have issued our school **PE uniform** policy on several occasions now and is also on the school website. We remind parents that tracksuit bottoms and tops worn in this colder weather must be plain navy blue. A few parents have asked if girls in KS2 can continue to wear **pinafiores** instead of skirts – this is absolutely fine and is a parental choice. Thank you.

Lenten Prayer Space

Please join us for 10 minutes of prayer each Tuesday during Lent in the school hall from 2.55pm to 3.10pm. This will be an opportunity to pause, reflect and pray for our school and each other.



Be Safe

Prime Energy Drinks

We have noticed that some children have been bringing in empty Prime bottles into school to use as water bottles. Please refrain from using these bottles for your child.

On Prime's official website it states: *"Prime Energy is not recommended for children under the age of 18."*



Be Here, be Ready

100 % Attendance week

100% Attendance Week is next week – from Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March. Last half term we impressed BCP and our Trust with an impressive 303/405 pupils in school every day that week. This half term we are aiming to get an even higher tally!



Spotlight

Year 5 Team

This week we would like to highlight our wonderful Year 5 team.

We asked the team about their favourite children's authors:



Mrs Mundy: I love **Michelle Paver**, teaching the first book in her series - 'The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness - Wolf Brother', has been a real highlight for me so far this year! The series has a historical link and is very well written, it also helps that my favourite animal is a wolf! I love the imagery and thought which is given to how Wolf would see and describe the world. Sharing these with the class has been a joy, and many of them are reading the next books in the series!



Mr Lakatos: One of my favourite authors is **Jackie French**. I love the whole series of 'Diary of a Wombat' books as they are not only about my favourite animal, but I like the way that she highlights the wombat's traits throughout the book - really funny and I never get bored of reading them and looking at the illustrations.

Mrs Haberfield: One of my favourites is **Helena Duggan** and her books, 'A Place Called Perfect', 'The Trouble With Perfect' and 'The Battle for Perfect'. A really unique and clever story with lots of jeopardy and twists. The story is easy to understand and follow but has terrific plot twists and some great shocks. There's lots of likeable characters and dastardly fiendish villains too!

Mission Moments

Matteo in Year 5 is a Mission Advocate as he recently gave up his time to talk to children across the school about visual impairment. Matteo organised the presentation himself and presented with dignity and courage. **#braveandintegrity**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth

