

St Mary's News



w/c 2nd December 2024

Message from the Headteacher

The whole school enjoyed a visit from Treehouse Theatre this week as we took part and watched their winter pantomime of 'Treasure Island'. We laughed, sang and danced along with the adventure and excitement of searching for lost treasure. This is such a wonderful experience for our children and your donations make this possible. Please log onto Scopay if you have yet to contribute. Thank you.



This week we enter into the liturgical season of Advent. This is a very special time for the church as we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus. We hope that you'll be able to come along to watch your children in their Nativity Play or Carol Service this month as these events capture the special spirit of the season.



Important Dates

Tuesday 10th December 9:00	Year 1 Nativity
Tuesday 10th December 14:00	Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas school lunch (please order on scopay min 1 week prior)
Thursday 12th December 14:00	Year R Nativity
Friday 13th December 15:20	Carols Around the Tree including PTA tombola (see poster attached)
Wednesday 18th December 9:15	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Wednesday 18th December 1:50-14:50	Christmas tea and chat - older members of the school & church community, invite only
Monday 16th December 14:30	Christmas around the world - please contact the office if you can share Christmas traditions with your child's class (see poster attached)
Thursday 19th December 9:00	KS2 Carol Service (see poster attached)
23rd December - 3rd January	Christmas Break
Monday 6th January 11:15	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
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 at school at 14:30

School Admissions for September 2025

Please note that if you have younger children, or your friends and family do, the deadline for September 2025 places in primary schools is 15th January 2025.

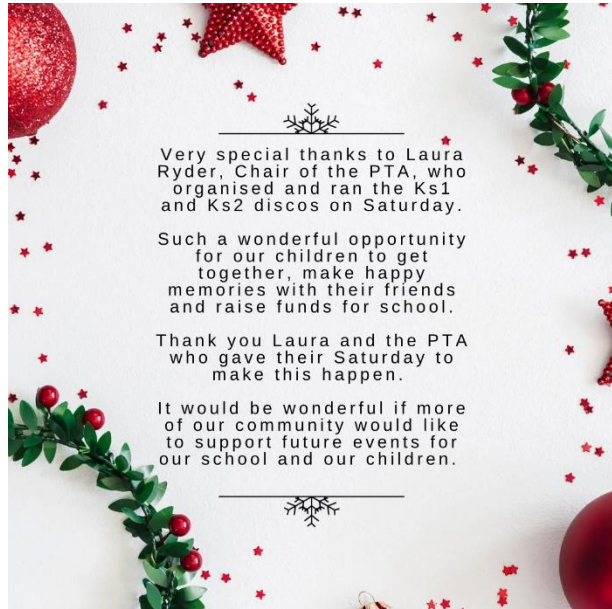
Additional school tours are available to book so please come along and see our lovely school in action!

Dates: **Wednesday 18th December 9:15** and **Wednesday 8th January 11:15**

Announcements

Thank you 'Friends of St Mary's School'

Thank you to our wonderful committee and everyone who helped to make the children's disco a success.



Spring Term School Meal Menu

Please find a new menu attached for the Spring term, this menu is effective for week 1, starting on 6th January. The menu will alternate between week one and two for the whole of the Spring term ending on 4th April.

Reminders

Christmas Around the World

Our 'Christmas Around the World' session in school will be held on 16th December (see flyer attached). All classes will be learning about how the special event of Christmas is celebrated in different countries and cultures. We invite all children to share information about their Christmas celebrations and would be grateful to any parents who would like to join their children's class to talk, or share pictures, stories, songs and artefacts to explain how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world. Please let your child's class teacher or the office know if you are able to join us.



Don't Forget to Order School Photos

Deadline for ordering school photos is Sunday 8th December. Please order directly with Fraser Portraits using the details on your child's photo proof. (Please contact the school office if you did not receive a photo proof)



Be Safe

It can be hard trying to juggle all the jobs a parent needs to do around bringing up children. Monitoring mobile phones can become a chore. However, there are a number of excellent apps that can help families keep their children safe when using phones. Apps such as Bark, Norton Family, Net Nanny, Parent Shield or Qustodio Parental Control can make keeping your children safe online and helping them schedule online time so much easier.

Be Here, be Ready

School attendance is key to a child's educational development and we are grateful to those parents and carers who make every effort to encourage good attendance. Your efforts are reflected in our attendance data which is still at the Government's target figure. For those children who have a medical issue we appreciate every session that they are able to attend.

Each week for the rest of the Autumn Term we will offer a top tip for encouraging attendance.

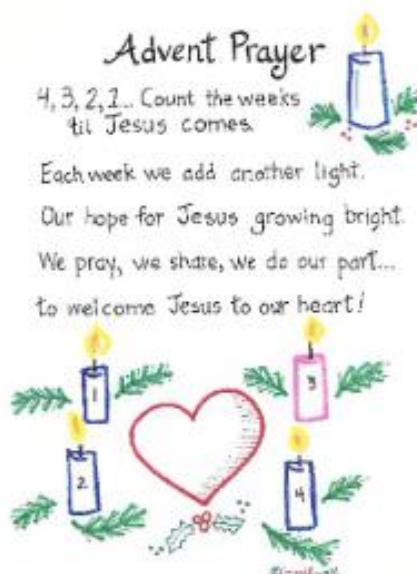
Establish a Positive Routine:

Create a daily routine that emphasises the importance of attending school. Set consistent wake-up and bedtimes, plan for regular meals, and allocate time for homework and extracurricular activities. A structured routine helps children develop good habits and prepares them for a productive day at school.

Spotlight

Advent

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a season of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "**advenio**," meaning "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. It is a time to renew our desire for the Lord and to anticipate both the celebration of Jesus' birth and His triumphant second coming. Many people make Advent Wreaths in their homes or in church during Advent. This Sunday we lit the first candle on our Advent wreaths.



Mission Moments



Adash in Year 5 is our Mission Hero for his donation of toys he's outgrown that will be enjoyed by children in the HUB [#missionandcharity](#)

Final Word

Well done to everyone who answered the question from last week: name keys that do not open doors...monkeys, piano keys, etc.

Have a good week!



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.