



w/c 7th October 2024

Message from the Headteacher

September was a busy month at St Mary's. Our reception class pupils (Year R) have made a great start to their learning at St Marys and have now completed their baseline assessments. Thank you to the Year R parents for all of your support.

The season of creation came to a close last week and to celebrate National Poetry Day each class wrote poems about caring for our planet. A couple of our Year 6 poems are attached for you to read. Thank you to everyone who supported our prayer and sensory garden fundraising project by wearing yellow on Friday and donating a few pounds. Every little helps.

October is a focus for many things, including Black History Month, Harvest and our heavenly mother, Mary. During October the children say the Hail Mary Prayer each day and also pray a decade of the rosary at least once a week. On 18th October our children join millions of children around the world to say a decade of the rosary together .

October is also world mission month and as we conclude our focus on Stewardship this month, we consider how we can be saint like and do our best to care for our world and all those we share it with.

Have a good week.

Value of the Week

Gospel Value: Humility

British Value: Mutual Respect

Catholic Social Teaching: Stewardship (caring for our planet)

Important Dates

Monday 7th October	Open Book – Grandparents Day
Wednesday 9th October	Maths Workshop 14:30
Friday 11th October	Harvest Mass (see letter attached)
Thursday 17th October	Open Evening for prospective parents
22nd and 24th October	Parent/Teacher Consultations (booking information attached)
Wednesday 23rd October – 9:00	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
Thursday 24th October – 11:00	Open Tour of the School for prospective parents
25th October - 1st November	Half Term Break

Monday 4th November	INSET Day
NEW DATES ADDED!	
Thursday 6 th February 2025 –14:30	Year 2 Liturgy – (parents invited to attend)
Thursday 20 th March 2025 14:30	Year1 Liturgy – (parents invited to attend)
Thursday 8 th May 2025 14:30	Reception Liturgy – (parents invited to attend)

Weekly Phonics Practice

We will post a video each week for pupils to watch and participate in with their parents and carers. This is primarily for pupils on the RWI phonics programme.

Fred's adventures - Zoo for EYFS <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7hp0zUfB/65UmanJY>

Set 3 sounds focus sound – ea <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/efEScgP6/xFXtFioU>

Announcements

Maths Workshop

Please come along on Wednesday 9th October, at 14.30 (2.30pm). Our Maths Leader, Miss Lindsay, will be leading a parent information session on maths. If you would like to support your child's learning in maths, boost your own confidence in maths and be more informed about our maths curriculum then please do join us. Please sign in at the office then you will be escorted to a classroom for the workshop.

Harvest Mass – helpers needed!

Please contact the school office if you are available to walk the Y1 to Year 6 children back to school on Friday after Mass – thank you!



Pupil Log ins

We are working towards your child having the same log in for all platforms, a new sticker will soon appear in your child's record. The new log in will be as per the previous one but will be prefixed by their cohort year.

Request for Donations

We are seeking donations for cushions, baskets, lego and good quality wooden toys to enhance our learning and play spaces. If you have any of these items in good condition that you no longer need, we would greatly appreciate your support.

Your generosity will help us to create a warm and engaging environment for the children. Thank you in advance of your kindness!

Job Roles

Reception's next topic will be People Who Help Us. We are sending out a plea for any parents or carers whose job role involves helping people. If you would be happy to give a brief chat to the children about your role, we would be very grateful. We would like to do this either in the week before half term - 21st October or the week after half term - 5th Nov. We are really keen to hear from people whose role is not stereotypical and roles that show diversity. We would love to hear from anyone in any of the STEM areas as well - Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths and how your role helps us.

Applying for St Edward's School via St Mary's Catholic Church

The requirement for seeking approval for a place at St Edward's School changed a couple of years ago from simply having done First Holy Communion, to a need to attend the church regularly. It is not for the priest to prove you are Catholic, it is for you to demonstrate it by your behaviour.

To do this and in particular, during Year 5, we ask the children of parish families to register on tablets at the back of the church whenever they attend Mass. This gives a record of attendance over the year and helps

the priest to sign the form with confidence and not feel he is being asked to tell a lie for someone who is simply trying to gain access to this oversubscribed school. Who would ask a priest to lie?

Forms are usually handed in when you attend your normal Mass and can be picked up after the Mass the following Sunday. If there is a problem, the priest may wish to meet up with you and your child briefly to reassure himself and will arrange this.

Nothing happens to forms before the closing date so being early is not an advantage! The parish secretaries have no authority over the forms and will refer you to this routine as the only response they can give.

If you have any questions, please email Deacon Nick Johnson on nick.johnson@prcdtr.org.uk

Reminders

No nut Policy

Please remember, we are a nut-free school to protect those with allergies.



Morning Routine

This month we encourage all pupils Year 1 to Year 6 to say goodbye to parents and carers at the school gate. We are so impressed with how independent the children are becoming and thank you for getting the children to school on time everyday ready to learn. Please remember we close the front gate at 8.45am so children must be on site before then otherwise they are marked late.

Absence – Breakfast Club Notification

If you have booked a Breakfast Club session and your child will not be attending, please text (no telephone calls please) Early Birds directly on 0775 641 7579 on the morning of their missed session.

Be Safe

Some of our families may wish to take part in Halloween activities and we would like to suggest looking at the following information if this is the case.

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0857/8875/4241/files/Halloween_Safety_Infographic.pdf?v=1710860856

Be Here, be Ready

Don't be Late Through the Gate!

As well as regular attendance at school, parents need to ensure that their child arrives at school in good time each morning.

School starts at 8.45 with the gates opening at 8:35. Being late on a regular basis adds up to a loss of learning time. If your child is late after the registers close 9:05 then they will receive a mark that denotes an unauthorised absence so they will miss the present mark for that session. It is embarrassing for children to walk in late to a quiet classroom and they may miss the input for the first lesson. Please help you child be organised and ready to learn:

- ✓ Uniform ready the night before
- ✓ Book bag packed the night before
- ✓ Packed ready first thing
- ✓ Reading book/record packed the night before
- ✓ Screen time limited during the evening and stopped in the hour before bed. It's best to keep phones and other digital devices out of bedrooms at night
- ✓ A good night's sleep

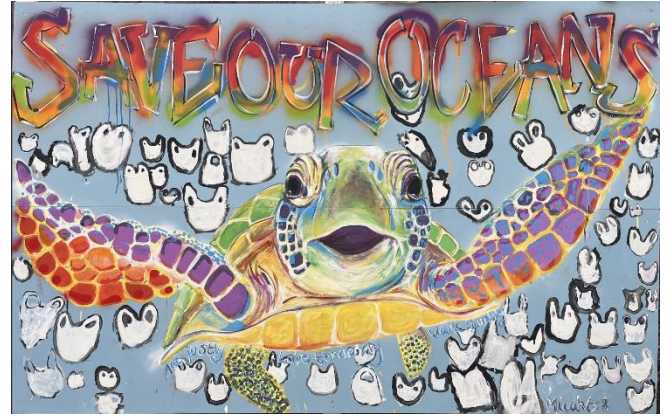
There are occasions when things can get stressful, things go wrong, or unforeseen circumstances can cause a family to be a few minutes late. However our role, in partnership with parents, is to also prepare pupils for the next step in their school careers and beyond. This means young people need to value the importance of being on time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Spotlight

Year 6 Stewardship

Year 6 have been thinking about the stewardship we have of our earth, how to make it better for the future. They will be focusing on the plastic pollution in the ocean. Last week they were fortunate enough to create a joint mural with a visiting artist, see picture adjacent.



Mission Moments



Congratulations to Stirling in Year 6 who demonstrated such wonderful manners when thanking our visiting artist – he inspired the other pupils to do the same. [#loveinactiongratitude](#)

Final Word

What is full of holes but still holds water? əbʊdʒ

Q: What do librarians take with them when they go fishing?
A: A bookworm.

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.