

6th May 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Year 5 had an enjoyable few days at Leeson House in Purbeck last week. The weather was mild and sunny; the children enjoyed their trip to Studland beach, a walk to Dancing Ledge and other activities, including a night walk. We are working hard to keep the cost of school trips to a minimum as this ensures the trips are accessible to all pupils. We are finding it harder to staff trips with budget cuts nationally and many can only go ahead with parent volunteer support and payment from the majority of families. Even where we use a coach for transport instead of our minibuses, we maintain trip prices lower than many local schools. Well done to our Year 5 pupils for their impeccable behaviour and to all the staff who cared for them so well.

Year 1 and Foundation have also enjoyed trips recently. Year 1 went to Upton Country Park where they learnt about the wildlife and seasonal changes. Foundation had a sunny walk to Oakdale Library last week where they looked out for different types of houses, spotted bus stops and post boxes etc, the library team helped the children foster a love of books and reading.

Earth Day: On Monday 22nd April Earth Day was celebrated across the world. At St Mary's some of the activities that the children took part in were, wild flower planting, switching lights off when not in use, exploring google earth and creating artwork to raise awareness.



Important Dates

SATs week

Year 6 pupils please arrive in school at 8:15am on Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May for a special SATs Week breakfast in the hall. Pupils should come to the main entrance where a member of the Year 6 team will meet them.

Sports Days

Our sports days are coming up in the next couple of weeks – we do hope that up to two parent / carers for each child are able to join us. We will have a coffee van available on the day and invite you to bring a picnic chair to use to sit around the far side of the astro turf. We are hopeful that May sports days will be cooler than in July!

This year we will not have a photographer on site as many parents said that the photos were expensive. We will take photos of each event and these will be shared on our website and dojo if your child has appropriate permissions.

Dairy Dates Table

9th May	Sensory Breaks workshop for parents run by Mrs Watts SENCO	All Parents invited
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
21st May	Yr 5 & 6 BSO Concert at Poole Lighthouse pm (parent helpers needed)	Year 5 & 6 children
22nd May	Yr 3 & 4 BSO Concert at Poole Lighthouse pm (parent helpers needed)	Year 3 & 4 children
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	All Years

SUMMER TERM 2nd half

3rd June	INSET DAY 5	All Years
4th June	Children return to school	All Years
w/c 4th – 14th June	Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Checks	Year 4
7th June	Reserve KS2 Sports Day	Years 3 - 6
w/c 10th – 21st June	Year 1 Phonics	Year 1
11th June	Reserve KS1 Sports Morning	KS1 Parents/Carers
13th June	New Intake Information Evening – 18:00	Prospective new F2 Parents/Carers
14th June	Year 2 Liturgy in school – 9:00	Parents/Carers of children in Year 2
17th June	Father and Father figures Open Book – 14:30	All Year Groups
21st June	Catholic Children's Society – non-uniform day	All Year Groups

Announcements

Dog Free Site

Please be aware that we can only allow assistance dogs on site, no other dogs are allowed past the school gates and should not be tied up unattended on gates or railings. Thank you for your support.

Ascension Day Thursday 9th May 2024

Mass times for the Ascension Day Masses at St Mary's and St Anthony's are as follows:

St Mary's Church: 12:00

St Anthony's Church: 10:30

School Summer Fayre

Save the date: Friday 5th July 3.30-5.30pm. Thank you to the PTA and Mr Lakatos for organising this event. Please come along and support us!

Reminders

Volunteers Please

Help for Lighthouse concert 21st (yrs 5 & 6) and 22nd May (yrs 3 & 4) please volunteer if you can help!

Class Photographs

Don't forget to order class photos online directly from Fraser Portraits fraserportraits.com

Earrings

Stud earrings only are to be worn in school. Dangly earrings are not allowed in school.

Long hair

Please can all pupils with long hair have it tied back and pulled back off the face.

Lost property

Today there will be a table full of recent unnamed lost property outside of the before/after school club room. Please take a look if your child has lost any items. It helps us to reunite your child with their belongings if their items are named.

Summer dresses

We have some good quality donated school summer dresses. Please contact Mrs Wright if you could make use of any – if the weather picks up of course!

Be Safe

News items often report the dangers of radicalisation of young people especially when current events such as pandemics or wars lead people to question what is happening around them. We know that those with extremist ideologies seek to exploit this confusion and use it as a way to recruit young people. One of the best ways you can help keep your children safe from extremism is to talk about values that challenge extremist ideology. These values are shared by many countries in the free world but in school we refer to them as 'British Values'. WE will talk to the children about DRIM (Democracy, Rule of law, Individual Liberty and Mutual respect and tolerance) and how it is good to live in a country that holds these values. You could talk to your child about times when they have choices in life, how rules that everyone follows keep them safe, about how they have the right to challenge other opinions and how everyone deserves respect because they are a human. If children are aware of all of this, they are much more unlikely to adopt an extremist ideology.

Be Here, be Ready

Prompt Arrival at School

The school gates open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am.

Your child's teacher is waiting at their classroom to welcome them; they start teaching at 8.50am after registration at 8:45am. Children arriving after this time must enter via the front office as their classroom doors will be closed. Your child must be signed in to ensure all children in school are accounted for.

No Car Zone

There has been a marked increase in the number of children rushing into school after 8.45am and this is linked to an increased number of parents dropping their children off and driving up Devon Road. We have asked that the cul-de-sac is a **no car zone** in the mornings, and the afternoons, unless cars have permission to enter the car park. Turning your car in the cul-de-sac in front of the school where children are walking is not an option; it is dangerous as a child under 10 is not always able to see over a car's bonnet.

100% Attendance Week

Each child's attendance should be 95%+ Any attendance below this is monitored carefully and referred to our education attendance officer, Mrs Hammond-Forge.

Our aspiration target is 97% at St Mary's, we think attendance is extremely important! Attending school helps children to prepare themselves for the rest of their lives. The higher the attendance, the more opportunity for success! The class with the highest attendance this week was 6L.

Class	% Attendance	Class	% Attendance
F2E	94.2	F2Ed	95.2
1B	94.4	1K	93.8
2H	95.0	2GL	95.1
3J	95.2	3S	93.9
4H	95.1	4L	94.1
5L	95.5	5M	95.8
6L	96.3	6W	95.7

Spotlight

This Thursday it is the **Feast of the Ascension** – this is a Holy Day of Obligation and Catholics are obliged to attend Holy Mass. Mass times at our local parishes are listed above.



The Feast of the Ascension helps us to explore themes of awaiting the Holy Spirit, the unity and diversity within the church, and our mission to evangelize as commanded by Jesus. This feast influences our faith and actions as followers of Jesus.

Pope Francis encourages us to focus our prayers this feast day on the importance of communication, as we consider the best ways to communicate the Good News that we have received. Pope Francis has homed in on the bewildering advances in Artificial Intelligence and how AI impacts on the way we think and work. He stresses that whatever form of communication we choose to spread the Good News, it should be authentic and 'human' having its source from our 'hearts' and not just our lips.

Mission Moments



Well done Eliza who had her hair cut off and sent to the Little Princess charity - her hair will go towards helping children who have lost their hair through cancer treatment
#becompassionate



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Tickel

Diocese of Plymouth



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF TRUSTED CATHOLIC EDUCATION