



# St Mary's CE VC First School

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Newsletter 13 - 2021/22

17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy half term and we have been pleased to be resuming some normality in school this month by inviting visitors to work with the children and a wonderful pantomime for all to enjoy! We have begun gathering as a whole school for our Collective Worship in the hall during the past few weeks. Coming together as a school feels very special considering the past 2 years of this pandemic. Our Year 4 Buddies have done a fantastic job of supporting their Reception buddy as they get used to being in a large group in our school hall again.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Karen Enikova as an additional Teaching Assistant to Oak Class. Mrs Enikova will work in Oak Class on a part-time basis and comes to us with a wealth of experience in supporting children's learning. At the end of this week we will say 'farewell' to Miss Jess Cutler who is moving on from her Lunchtime Supervisor role in order to carry out a new Teaching Assistant role in another local school. We all wish Jess well in her new venture.

We will be welcoming Mrs Helen Pegram into school every Tuesday from 1<sup>st</sup> March. Mrs Pegram is our 'Learning Transition Mentor' who will be getting to know our Year 4 children and helping them in their preparations for transition to St Osmund's Middle School. She will work in school every week from March until July and will be a familiar face for the children when they start at St Osmund's in September.

All classes participated in our 'Safer Internet' Day last week through stories. Thanks to Stratton Parish Council's donation we have purchased a new collection of story books to promote online safety messages to young children and these were used by all classes. Please see below for a safeguarding message from our Dorset safeguarding team.

Following the half term break we are all looking forward to celebrating 'World Book Day' in school. Please look out for the vouchers which will be sent home this week to ensure that children can have time to buy a new book in the holidays. Further World Book Day information follows below.

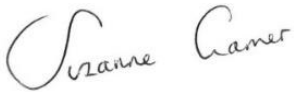
Our Spring Term Parent Consultations will take place during the week commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Please look out for the link to book your appointment following the half term break.

Our Class Assemblies will re-commence after half term. Please note down the date of your child's assembly and we will look forward to welcoming you. All Class assemblies start at 9am and give the opportunity for the children to present aspects of their learning in front of an audience.

Thank you for ensuring that your child is dropped off between 8.30 and 8.45am. We have noticed some children being a little bit later as we have approached the end of the half term. Please can I ask that all children arrive by 8.45am at the latest. This helps teachers to be able to make a prompt start to the learning each day.

Let's hope that the half term break will bring more sunshine for us all to enjoy! There follows further information below.

Yours sincerely



### **World Book Day - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

The whole school homework will be to **take a photo of your child reading in an unusual place**. These can be sent in via Tapestry/Class Dojo or brought in. We will create a display on one of the corridor boards for everyone to see! Children can dress up either as a *word* (e.g. *dark, sparkling, rainbow...*) or a *book character*. We hope that this allows all children to participate and to join in parades around the school on the day! There will be reading sessions in class where children can share a book from home with a friend. In addition, we are holding fun quizzes for children to join in with which include, 'The Masked Reader', for children to guess the member of staff reading to them!

### **Community Cookbook**

Through her role as Children and Families worker at St Mary's Church, Vickie Lawford, is beginning to gather recipes from children and families in our villages for our Community Cookbook. Please have a think about any recipes which your family enjoy and share them with Vickie at: [stmaryschurchfamilies@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryschurchfamilies@outlook.com)

### **School Association - Piggy Banks**

Thank you to those of you who have been sending coins into school in order to fill the class piggy banks. Please keep sending coins in next half term as the competition will run until Easter!

### **Safeguarding - Online Safety Message for Parents from the Dorset Safeguarding Team**

Huggy Wuggy is a character from a computer game Poppy Playtime, which is a horror/survival game available on Steam, Poppy Playtime chapter 2 has been released 2022. There does not seem to be an age rating for Poppy Playtime and there are multiple copycat versions available for young people to download on Roblox and other app stores. On YouTube there are lots of videos of game play of Poppy Playtime and the Huggy Muggy song - who sings about hugging you until you pop.

It is unsuitable for young children, videos of poppy playtime game play are NOT filtered out by Google safe search or YouTube restrictions and some game play videos are available on YouTube Kids.

[Poppy Playtime: Online Safety Review - Safer Schools \(oursaferschools.co.uk\)](https://oursaferschools.co.uk)

### **Dorset County Museum**

Our Year 4 group enjoyed their visit to the Dorset County Museum last week. The museum is a fantastic resource on our doorstep and offers some free visits for families. Free Monthly Openings

at Dorset Museum 5pm - 7pm, the next dates are Thursday 24th February and Thursday 24th March. The museum also offers 'Relaxed Evenings for those with Sensory Difficulties. They are hosting an autism friendly opening for families at Dorset Museum on 22nd February 4.30pm - 6pm. It would be perfect for children with sensory difficulties where they can enjoy quiet galleries and relaxed activities. This is recommended for children aged five to 15. Siblings are welcome. **Booking is essential.** The link here to book: [https://www.dorsetmuseum.org/event/after-hours-relaxed-opening/After-hours relaxed opening - Dorset Museum](https://www.dorsetmuseum.org/event/after-hours-relaxed-opening/After-hours%20relaxed%20opening%20-%20Dorset%20Museum)

### **Message from Dorset Council**

Families, carers, education settings and communities are being asked for their thoughts on laying the right foundations so Dorset's children have the best opportunities to thrive.

Through an [online survey](#), Dorset Council wants people to think about the skills pre-school age children need to learn so they are ready socially, physically and intellectually to start school. One of the main aims of the survey is to prioritise a set of statements showing what are considered to be the most important skills and knowledge children need when they enter school.

**Councillor Andrew Parry**, [Portfolio Holder for Children, Education, Skills and Early Help](#), said: "We all have a role to play in giving children the best start, so we want to hear from people from all walks of life on what they think children should be able to do before they go to school. This consultation will bring together views and help us define how we want children to thrive and be ready for school. It will also help us to ensure we have the right services to meet the needs of children at this crucial stage of their development. The council also wants to use feedback gained through the survey to help it better define what is meant by the term 'school readiness'.

Traditionally, 'school readiness' is the term given to describe how ready children are socially, physically and intellectually ready to start school, usually in their reception year, aged 4 turning 5 years old.

**Theresa Leavy, Executive Director of Children's Services for Dorset Council**, said:

"We believe 'ready to thrive' better describes a child's whole journey pre-birth until they are 5 years old and this would sit alongside the term 'school readiness'. We don't think talking to expectant families about school readiness is necessarily appropriate language at that stage, although we know that we need a baby to grow and develop well in order to be ready for school. So we think the term 'ready to thrive' better describes this growth and development. 'School readiness' will describe the skills and knowledge that we believe children need when they enter school, at that moment in time".

All responses will be anonymous unless you choose to provide your email address to be part of future conversations. The deadline for the survey (which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete) is 31 March. All views and opinions will be collated to help Dorset Council produce a clear definition that can then be widely shared.

### **Incredible Years Parenting Programme**

'Action for Children' are holding an open-morning for parents to find out more about the Incredible Years. Please see the attached leaflet.

**Future Dates:**

21-25 Feb	Half Term
28 Feb	Staff Training Day - no school for children
1 Mar	Children return to school
3 Mar	World Book Day
3 Mar	Stone Age- Iron Age - Saxons- Farming in the Past - Year 4 Workshops
4 Mar	Individual and Sibling Photographs -CHANGE OF DATE
4 Mar	Stone Age- Iron Age - Saxons- Farming in the Past - Year 3 Workshops
7-11 Mar	Parent/Teacher Consultations
10 Mar	Year 3 and 4 Trip to New Barn Field Centre - Stone Age Experience
10 Mar	Full Governing Body Meeting (3)
14 Mar	Reception Trip to Dorchester Library - Willow and Oak Reception
14-18 Mar	British Science Week
17 Mar	Class Assembly - Maple - 9.00am - Parents Welcome!
18 Mar	Comic Relief
21 Mar- 1 Apr	The Big Walk and Wheel - Sustrans
21 Mar	Dr Bike - Bring your bike to be checked - courtyard
24 Mar	Class Assembly - Linden - 9.00am - Parents Welcome!
28-30 Mar	Hooke Court - Year 4 Residential Visit
5 Apr	Full Governing Body Meeting (4)
7 Apr	Easter Service 9.00am and 2pm -School Hall
7 Apr	Last Day of Term for children
8 Apr	Staff Training Day
	SUMMER TERM 2022
25 Apr	Children return to school
3 - 24 May	Year 2 Statutory Assessments (SATs)
2 May	BANK HOLIDAY - no school
5 May	Class Assembly - Ash - 9.00am - Parents Welcome!
9 May	Trip to the Farm - Tinkleton - Wessex Wild - Willow Class
10 May	Trip to the Farm - Tinkleton - Wessex Wild - Oak Class
12 May	Class Group Photographs
18 May	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Trip - Poole Lighthouse - Year 4
19 May	Trip to the Farm - Green-Fingered Farming Day - Year 3
19 May	Class Assembly - Oak - 9.00am - Parents Welcome!
20 May	Trip to the Farm - Green-Fingered Farming Day - Year 4
23 May (TBC)	Trip to the Farm - The Story of your Lunchbox - Beech Class
24 May (TBC)	Trip to the Farm - The Story of your lunchbox - Maple Class
26 May	Class Assembly - Willow - 9.00am - Parents Welcome!
26 May	New Parents' Afternoon Tea 2.15-3.30pm
30 May-3 June	Half Term
6 Jun	Children Return to school
6-10 Jun	Year 1 - Phonic Screening Test Week
6-24 Jun	Year 4 - Multiplication Tables Check
15 Jun	Welcome Evening - New Parents 2022 - 7.00pm
20 Jun	Potted Sports' Morning - 9.00am

23 Jun	Class Assembly - Beech - 9.00am- Parents Welcome!
27 Jun	Reports Home to Parents
27, 28, 29 Jun	New Reception Induction Sessions 3.30-4.30pm