



Friday 15th September 2023

# ST MARY'S NEWS

The latest news from St Mary's CE VC First School

## KEY DATES

**Tuesday 19th September**  
Year One - T@SM Church visit

**W/C Monday 25th September**  
Cycle to School Week

**Tue 19th & Thur 21st September**  
Parent Consultations

**Wed 27th - Fri 29th September**  
Scholastic Book Fair

**Friday 29th September**  
Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

**W/C Monday 2nd October**  
Open Week for 2024 Starters

**Tuesday 10th October - 2pm**  
Harvest Festival

**Monday 16th October**  
Curriculum Open Morning

**Tuesday 17th October**  
Flu Immunisations

**Tuesday 17th October**  
Year Two - T@SM Church visit

**Friday 20th October**  
Last Day of Term

**Mon 23rd to Fri 27th October**  
Half Term Holidays

**Monday 30th October**  
INSET Day – School Closed

**Tuesday 31st October**  
First Day of Term

**Mon 6th & Tues 7th November**  
Life Education Day

**Tuesday 7th November**  
Year Three - T@SM Church visit

**Wed 8th November - 2pm**  
Remembrance Service

**Monday 13th November - 9am**  
Linden Class Assembly

**Friday 17th November**  
Children in Need

**Monday 20th November**  
Spirituality Day

## Note from Mr Homer

What a busy week it has been here at St Mary's!

We kicked off our week with a fab assembly by the RNLI. They taught us the importance of staying safe near water, particularly focussing on inland waterways. We learnt the four rules for staying safe and having fun around water:

1. Stop and Think
2. Stay Together
3. Float
4. Call 999 or 112



This week, our new Reception children were in full time! They are amazing us with how well they are settling in. It was lovely to see the whole school come together for the first time in Wednesday's Collective Worship and to see our Year Fours truly flourish as they step up to the role of Year Four Buddies. Currently, our Year Four children are applying to become Playground Leaders and School Ambassadors. Application deadline in Monday 3pm!

Today, our wonderful Year Two cohort spent a fun-packed day in Lyme Regis. This is the first of our trips linked to our new curriculum. This term, Year Two are focussing on the historical significance of Mary Anning and other historical figures. Our next trip will be in October, when Linden and Ash head over to New Barn to deepen their understanding of the Stone Age as part of their 'Through the Ages' project.

Have a fab weekend,  
Mr Homer



# CURRICULUM NEWS



At St Mary's, our core purpose is to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment that inspires a love of learning and prepares our children to be confident, resilient and compassionate citizens of the world. We believe that every child has the potential to achieve great things, and we strive to ignite that potential through a dynamic and engaging curriculum that meets the diverse needs and interests of our learners.

We are using many well-researched 'tools' to create and deliver our school's curriculum. In Reading, we use Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised and Fred's Teaching to develop fluent and confident readers who can explore the world through the power of books. In our Writing curriculum, we use key texts linked to our wider curriculum projects to foster a love of language and enable our children to express themselves with creativity, clarity and confidence. In Maths, we now use Power Maths to equip our children with the mathematical skills, understanding and confidence they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world. In our wider curriculum, we use the Cornerstones Curriculum to provide rich and meaningful learning experiences that enable our children to develop a deep understanding of the world around them and to make connections between different areas of knowledge. **Over the coming weeks, all children will start to bring home regular 'Knowledge Organisers' which will detail a wide variety of knowledge which they will be learning through their current project/unit of work. These are solely aimed at keeping everybody informed of the learning taking place and you are free to use them as you wish!**



Join us in a couple of weeks time as we promote the use of bikes and scooters throughout 'Cycle to School Week'. Whether you swap a car journey for bikes/scooters or head out for a bike ride as a family, every little helps!



Our school attendance for last week was:

**98.7%**

We are committed to ensuring our children achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance is key to achieving this aim as it improves your child's chances of success in life. There is clear evidence of the link between good attendance and high achievement.

We would appreciate your help in ensuring that your child's attendance remains above 95% whenever possible.

Throughout the year, we will be writing to families of children whose attendance falls below this level with the aim of making them aware of their child's attendance and to promote improvement. We do understand that some absences are unavoidable, so this will be taken into

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In Collective Worship this half term, we will be focusing on the Christian value of Thankfulness.

This week, we enjoyed exploring the parable of the Lost Sheep which was led by visiting reverends, Keith and Heidi from Dorchester.

In a little over three weeks, we will head to St Mary's Church for our Harvest Festival. This will take place at 2pm and parents are welcome to join, although space will be limited.



## *This Week's Awards for Growing and Flourishing*





# This week at St Mary's

## This week in Willow...

...we had a fabulous first full week in school. We are quickly getting used to our routines and have enjoyed having lunch in the hall with KS1. This week we have been learning to recognise amounts of objects without counting and talking about our families.



## This week in Oak...

...we had fun when a bear went missing whilst playing with the parachute! A search party began for the missing bear with missing posters put up around the school and a den built in our learning garden to entice him back! Mrs Powell later found him in a packet of honey boulders and he was soon marched back to class!



## This week in Beech and Maple...

...we had a fantastic day in Lyme Regis! We spent the day learning about the incredible work of Mary Anning and following in her footsteps along the coast, stopping to search for fossils on the beach. A HUGE thank you to all of our parent helpers who volunteered their time to make this possible.



## This week in Linden...

...we have really enjoyed getting to know each other by playing games in the classroom and during PE. We have also loved exploring the new play apparatus!



## This week in Ash...

...we have been exploring Stone Age to Iron Age timelines as well as investigating with colour mixing using watercolours.





# Are you concerned about a pupil?

If you are worried about a child,  
you must share your concern without delay.



**Mick Homer**

Headteacher

**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Lisa Thornicroft**

Teacher & SENDCo

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Karen Bennett**

Family Support Advisor

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**

**Our Safeguarding Governor is Reverend Pene Kennedy**

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused,  
you can make a referral directly to:

**Dorset's Children's Advice and Duty Service on 01305 228866**

**In an emergency, or if you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm,  
call the police on 999.**

Click or scan this QR code  
to go straight to Dorset  
Council's website:

