



Friday 22nd September 2023

ST MARY'S NEWS

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

KEY DATES

W/C Monday 25th September
Cycle to School Week

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

Tuesday 28th November
Year R & 4 - T@SM Church visit

Wed 6th December - 9:15am
Christmas Performance

Note from Mr Homer

On Monday, we welcomed 'Kinetic Kate' from 'Fun Science' to deliver a fantastic assembly, inspiring our children with awe and wonder. Kate will be starting a science club, here at school, which will run on Tuesday afternoons from next week. Initially this will be for children in years two to four, but Kate will be offering an adapted club to our younger children, later in the year.



On Tuesday, a professional photographer spent the day with us, capturing some fantastic images of our school in action. These images will help to bring our learning environments to life whilst also giving our website and prospectus a burst of energy. To enable us to use these photos, please ensure that you have completed the photo permissions form ([LINK](#)) which Bev recently sent out. If you wish to change your level of consent at any time, please just let Bev know.

On Tuesday and Thursday evening, lots of parents took up the offer of having an initial meeting with their child's new class teacher. These were great opportunities to ask questions about the year ahead and to share information about your children. To ensure that parents/carers are constantly kept up to date with their child's learning/progress, this academic year we will be holding a parent consultation at the start of each term and sending home a progress report at the end of each term. These six official contact points will replace the one-off, longer report which parents normally receive at the end of the school year. We hope that, coupled with the sharing of regular Knowledge Organisers, this will enable us all to work closer together.

Have a wonderful weekend! Mr Homer



As you will know from recent news, schools are currently in the midst of a funding crisis which is putting a tight squeeze on all areas of school finances. Whilst we work hard to manage the funding of teaching and learning across our school to ensure that all children receive the education they so deserve, extra-curricular activities are becoming less and less manageable as the years go on.

For this reason, we have already been forced to review our Stay and Play Club policy and we are now having to review our use of educational visits/trips, also.

To enable us to continue to provide our children with the opportunity to attend school trips, we need access to additional funding. Every time we run a trip, there are a number of families who simply cannot afford to fund their child's place and therefore the school or School Association must cover the cost. In March 2024, our Year Four children will be off to Hooke Court and the total cost for this trip is over £7,000. It is inevitable that a portion of this cost will have to be covered by the school.

We are now actively seeking support from businesses who may be willing to sponsor our school to help buffer the cost of educational visits. This much-needed support would allow us to continue to offer regular trips which are vital to building confidence, widening perspectives and inspiring young minds.

If you, or somebody you know, may wish for more information about how to offer financial support to our school, please speak with Mr Homer via the school office. Thank you



Join us next week 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!

Please consider the safety of our children when driving or parking near our school.

We have had a number of reports of speeding and dangerous/inconsiderate parking since the start of term.

Please try to park in the Community Hall car park or in the pub car park opposite the school and use the crossing safely.

We have notified our local PCSO.



Meet our new Playground Leaders!



All of these Year Four Leaders applied to be Playground Leaders and they were all successful! From letters to videos, the range of applications certainly kept Mr Homer entertained this week! They will soon enroll onto a Playground Leader training programme, ensuring that they have the skills to make a positive impact on the playground for all of our children. Watch this space!

This Week's Awards for Growing and Flourishing



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning afternoon! and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: St Mary's First School, Charminster

Date: Friday 29th September 2023

Time: 2pm to 3pm

Contact: School: 01305 263880
office@charminster.dorset.sch.uk
School Association:
schoolassociation@charminster.dorset.sch.uk

Simply scan this QR code with your phone
to donate to your host's Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.





MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Bakers



Gonna bake
bake, bake, bake, bake

We need your creations &
donations for our Macmillan cake
afternoon.

Please bring them to the school on
the morning of
Friday 29th September

Thank you



**HAVE YOUR
CAKE
AND EAT IT**

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT



This week at St Mary's

This week in Willow...

...we have started 'Little Wandle phonics'. We have learned the phonemes and graphemes for s, a, t, p and are learning to orally blend cvc words. We have been having a go at writing these sounds using the rhymes to help us.



This week in Oak...

...we enjoyed a trip to St Mary's Church where we explored and learnt about different key areas of the church such as the font, the bells, the pulpit and altar. The children behaved brilliantly and we were very proud of them! They even got to enjoy a drink and biscuit!



This week in Beech...

...we have been drawing, naming and selling fossils just like Mary Anning! We came up with some amazing adverts for our wonderful fossils. We have also been enjoying our Power Maths work and getting stuck into our grown up workbooks!



This week in Maple...

...we have spent a lot of time in Beech class as Miss Webster has been unwell. We have loved joining with our friends in Beech and being taught by Mr Holt, Mr Homer and Mrs Harrison.



This week in Linden...

...we have been keeping up with the world's news by watching Newsround during our snack time. We also had a fab time dancing in our classroom during wet play, earlier this week.



This week in Ash...

...we have been hard at work, delving deeper into the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Stone Age periods. They have been exploring the similarities and differences in everyday life during these fascinating historical eras. Despite the rain on Wednesday, our PE session carried on inside the classroom. Thankfully everyone knew their left from their right and enjoyed learning some new moves. Ask them to show you the Charlie Brown!!!





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:

