

Friday 3rd November 2023

ST MARY'S NEWS

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

KEY DATES

Mon 6th & Tues 7th November

Life Education Days

Tues 7th November - 8:45-9:15

Life Ed. Parent Workshop

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

Friday 1st December - 3-5pm

St Mary's Christmas Market

Wed 6th December - 9:15am

Christmas Performance

Thurs 7th December - 9:15am

Christmas Performance

Thurs 7th December - 5:30pm

Christmas Performance

Friday 8th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 8th December

Termly Progress Reports

Tues 12th December - 2pm

Christmas Service

Wednesday 13th December

Local Food Links Festive Lunch

Friday 15th December

Last Day, Party Day!

Mon 18th to Fri 29th Dec

Christmas Holidays

Note from Mr Homer

Welcome back! It has been lovely to see lots of smiley faces back in school this week and the children have all settled into their routines once again.

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of two members of our St Mary's team who are leaving us over the next half term:

Mrs Simpson, our wonderful Senior Teaching Assistant in Willow class, will be leaving us after dedicating fourteen years to St Mary's. Mrs Simpson has taken up the chance to blend her skills and experience of working with children with her passion for horses, ponies and animals in a therapeutic environment. Mrs Simpson has an incredible impact on everybody at St Mary's and she will be greatly missed by all of us and her many former pupils. Mrs Simpson's last day will be next Friday (10th November) and we are recruiting for a Teaching Assistant for Willow class on Wednesday, next week.

Mrs Drysdale, our wonderful Teacher in Willow class who works on Thursdays and Fridays, will also be leaving us. Mrs Drysdale is starting a training course in Equine Assisted Learning and will then go on to work as a Facilitator of an Equine Assisted Learning Centre. Throughout her eleven years at St Mary's, Mrs Drysdale has devoted herself to many roles including Deputy Headteacher, leader of a number of curriculum subjects and teacher of both Key Stage One and, more recently, Reception. Mrs Drysdale will be hugely missed by us all and her many former pupils. Mrs Drysdale's last day will be the end of this half term (Friday 15th December). Next half term, Mrs Beale will be teaching Willow Class Monday to Thursday and Mrs Garner (our previous Headteacher) will be teaching Willow each Friday. We are recruiting for a Deputy Headteacher who will share the teaching of Willow with Mrs Beale from after February half term.

We will of course keep Willow Class parents updated with the forthcoming changes and we are sure that everybody will join us in wishing Mrs Simpson and Mrs Drysdale all the best for their future endeavours.

Mr Homer



On Monday of this week, the teachers met together for our second Inset Day of the school year.

The focus of the morning was on developing our leadership of curriculum subjects and ensuring that our new curriculums are being embedded whilst our existing curriculums continue to be developed.

In the afternoon, we explored behaviour within our school. We focused on developing our understanding and awareness of different behaviours and what work needs to be done to enable children to better regulate their response to emotions. We will now begin work to develop a Behaviour and Relationships Policy for our school.

Thank you all for supporting our Inset Day, allowing us to conduct this vital work.



The Coram Life Education & SCARF team will be visiting our school next week. The children's charity Coram Life Education provides Health and Wellbeing Education workshops, delivered by skilled educators and the SCARF resource is the framework of our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) education curriculum.

Throughout Monday and Tuesday, each class will attend a workshop with the Life Ed team, accompanied by their teachers and TA's.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will learn about keeping their bodies healthy, managing feelings, being a good friend and the safe use of medicines.

Key Stage 2 children will explore emotional needs, choices that can affect health and wellbeing, qualities of friendship, how to cope with bullying and the influence of friends. They will also consider the effects and risks of drug use, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco.

On Tuesday morning, 8:45 - 9:15am, the Life Ed team will be leading a workshop for parents. Please enter via the school office if you are able to join us. It will be lovely to see lots of you there!

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

AGM

Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved

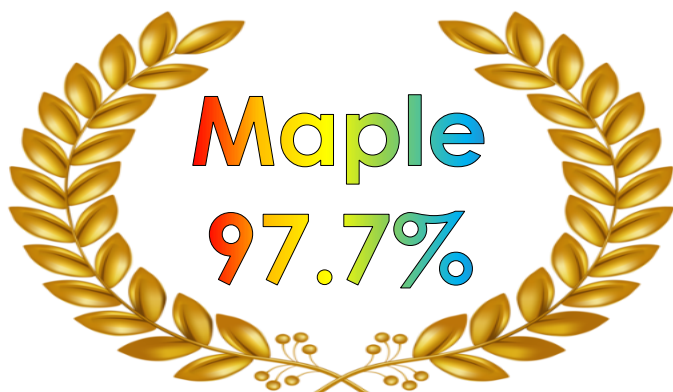
When: 7pm Tuesday 7th November
Where: Charminster School, West Hill,
Charminster, DT2 9RD.



Our school attendance for this academic year is currently:

96%

Last week's winners were...



This Week's Awards for Growing and Flourishing



ST MARY'S SCHOOL CHARMINSTER

1ST  DEC

CHRISTMAS MARKET

3-5PM



SANTA SLOTS ARE FOR ST MARY'S
CHILDREN & SIBLINGS ONLY



SANTA

BRATWURSTS

MULLED WINE

CHILDREN'S CAROLS - CRAFT - GAMES - RAFFLE - STALLS

This week at St Mary's

This week in Willow...

...we have been learning all about 2D shapes in Maths and learning about celebrations in our topic. We have prepared our role play for a celebration and made paper chains. We have become amazing at identifying 2D shapes by the amount of sides and corners. We have also had fun making firework pictures.



This week in Oak...

...we have had fun learning about adjectives and body parts! In Art we have focused on faces for self portraits. In class worship we talked about how surprises bring us joy. It was a joyful surprise when some of Oak class received certificates for the summer reading challenge! Well done Oak class!



This week in Beech...

...we have enjoyed finishing our writing work on Mary Anning and have celebrated putting them up on the wall. We are looking forward to tracking our progress through the year!

We have been AMAZING at Maths this week and have made great progress with our Power Maths work.



This week in Maple...

...we have been enjoying reading our new story called Traction Man by Mini Grey.

Traction man has a variety of outfits to suit various different adventures that he goes on around the house. We have read the story with expression and looked carefully at the wonderful illustrations that really add to the story. Before we started, we wrote our own adventure story for an action hero to compare with our writing later in the term. We have written some descriptive phrases about Traction Man and thought about our favourite parts of the story.

In mathematics we have been using number bonds and number facts to help us to add up to and across a ten.

This week in Linden...



This week in Ash...

...in English we have started this half term looking at explanations using the book 'Until I met Dudley'. This started by looking at some of the great inventions in recent history and then designing some of our own. Does anyone fancy glasses with windscreen wipers, zombies to scare you to get rid of your hiccups, and non melting ice cream?

We continue with our topic Through the Ages and are now moving on to the Bronze Age. We have made and painted pots just like the beaker people of that time.





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:

