



Friday 19th January 2024

# ST MARY'S NEWS

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

## KEY DATES

**Tuesday 23rd January**  
Pantomime - Cinderella

**Monday 29th January - 9am**  
Ash Class Assembly

**Tuesday 30th January**  
Year 2 - T@SM Church visit

**Thursday 1st Feb - 5:15pm**  
Story Night Reading Workshop

**Tuesday 6th February**  
Safer Internet Day

**Thurs 8th Feb - 8:45-09:15am**  
Curriculum Open Morning

**Thursday 8th February**  
Last Day of Term

**Friday 9th February**  
INSET Day - school closed

**Mon 12th to Fri 16th February**  
Half Term - school closed

**Monday 19th February**  
First Day of Term

**Tuesday 20th February**  
Year R & 4 - T@SM Church Visit

**Tuesday 27th February**  
Year 3 - T@SM Church Visit

**W/C Monday 4th March**  
St Mary's Book Week

**Friday 8th March**  
Dress up as a book character

**Monday 11th March**  
Beech & Maple Class Assembly

**Tuesday 12th March**  
Year Four Music Concert

**Mon 18th - Wed 20th March**  
Year 4 Residential - Hooke Court

**P = Parents invited**

## Note from Mr Homer

I hope this newsletter finds you defrosted with a cup of hot chocolate, nestled under a blanket or six! Whilst the recent cold snap had us all contemplating the benefits of hibernation, fear not, we've emerged victorious! Thank you to those of you who sent your children to school dressed for an arctic expedition, it was certainly called for! Some children are still coming dressed for a day on the beach, but we're working on this!

Thank you to all of you who attended parents' evenings this week, whether in person or online. It was a fantastic opportunity to explore your child's recent progress report with you and to share how you might be able to continue supporting them at home. We had a superb take-up from parents and are truly grateful for your support. Thank you, also, to all of our teachers who spent many hours preparing for and meeting with you all.

Now it's time to gear up for the next week of learning and events, here at St Mary's. On Tuesday, we are thrilled to be welcoming back M&M Theatrical Productions who will be performing their latest pantomime, Cinderella. This year, they will be performing to our school in the Community Hall, which will hopefully make this an even more exciting event! May we thank our School Association for funding this for our children. Without the incredible support they, and all of you, give this wouldn't have been possible.

Thinking of the School Association, we are already turning our thoughts to the Charminster Family Fun Day which will be taking place on Sunday 14th July 2024. If you are willing to get involved in the lead up or on the day, please let the School Association know asap - [schoolassociation@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:schoolassociation@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Homer

Be the best that you can be. Shine God's love for all to see.

• Friendship • Joy • Service • Hope • Compassion • Courage •

# PARENTING *is hard*

*Congratulations on your daily escapades in the unpredictable world of parenting! If you ever find yourself wondering if you're the only one who feels like they're juggling flaming torches while riding a unicycle on a tightrope, fear not! We assure you that you're not alone in the chaos and confusion. So, grab your cape and take a moment to breathe. Remember, there's a secret society of parents who understand the struggle, and help is just a coffee away! If you need support then please reach out.*

*You're doing an amazing job and you've got this!*

## FREE online parenting courses

Our courses are filled with helpful techniques and ideas to help you become a happier parent. Our library of courses includes something for each age and stage of parenting

- Parents Together
- Let's Play
- Coping with Teens
- Bringing up Confident Children
- A New Baby in the Family
- A New Baby in the Family (Arabic)
- Sibling Arguments and How to manage them

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

SERVICE



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

This week's BIG QUESTION is...

What does 'service' mean and who are our role models for Service?



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Our school attendance for this academic year is currently:

**95.5%**

*Last week's winners were...*



## Vision and Value Award Winners...





# Recently at St Mary's

## Recently in Willow...

...we have been learning all about space!

We started the week with the story 'whatever next' and have thought about what we might take to space if we were the bear.

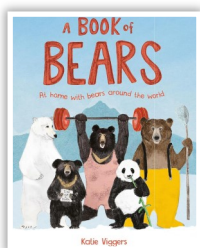


## Recently in Oak...

...we've started our new project 'Bright Lights, Big City' - identifying four countries of the UK and their Capital Cities. In science we have been looking at seasonal changes and enjoyed a walk around the school identifying deciduous trees and evergreen. We have used natural objects to create weather symbols in Art. We have begun Curious Quests for Drawing club and have been busy writing messages to Professor Klunk via the magic mustard tin!

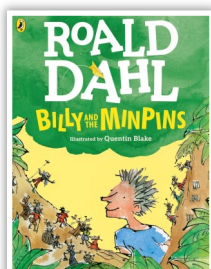


## Recently in Beech...



...we have really enjoyed Guided Reading with our new books 'A Book of Bears' - thank you Mrs Joslin!

We have also begun our new book for writing 'Billy and the Minpins' which has led us to creating some very scary sounding monsters and some amazing descriptive writing.



## Recently in Maple...

...we have started our new project of Coastline.

This project teaches children about the physical and human features of coastal regions across the UK.

### Coastline

#### United Kingdom

The United Kingdom, or UK, is a union of four countries. These are England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The UK is surrounded by four seas and oceans. These are the Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, Irish Sea and North Sea.



#### Coastal features

There are many features of the UK coastline.

##### Physical features

Physical features are naturally formed. Humans haven't made them. Rain, wind and the sea can change physical features over time.

##### Human features

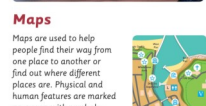
Human features are those that have been made by humans. There are many human features on the coastline such as shops, roads and piers.



#### Erosion

Erosion is a natural process where materials, such as rock, sand and soil, are moved from one place to another. As waves crash against the coastline, they break off or erode, tiny pieces of rock. Over time the coastline is worn away.

Sea defences, such as sea walls and lines of large rocks, called rip-rap, are put at the bottom of cliffs to stop erosion.



People will often use a compass to tell them which direction they are travelling. The main points on a compass are north, south, east and west.

#### Dangers at the coast

The coastline can be a dangerous place. It is important to stay safe and know what to do in an emergency.



Look for warning signs. Follow advice and do not take risks. Never go near water alone. Make sure an adult is with you. Do not use inflatable rings or inflatables in the sea where a wind sock is blowing.



Red and yellow flags mean it is safe to swim. Black and white flags mean it is safe for surfing, but for swimming. Red flags mean danger. It is not safe to swim.



## Recently in Linden...



## Recently in Ash...

...we have started our new project of Rumbles, Relics and Rocks. We are all very excited to discover more about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. This week we have looked at plate tectonics and used another type of biscuit to represent what





# 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:

