



Friday 23rd February 2024

# ST MARY'S NEWS

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

## KEY DATES

**Tuesday 27th February**

Year 3 - T@SM Church Visit

**Friday 1st March**

Vision Screening for Reception

**W/C Monday 4th March**

St Mary's Book Week

**Wednesday 6th March**

Willow visit Dorchester Library

**Thursday 7th March**

Dress as a character or word

**Friday 8th March**

'Story in a box' Competition

**Friday 8th March**

Free Book Friday!

**Monday 11th March** Ⓟ

Beech & Maple Class Assembly

**Tues 12th March - 6:30pm** Ⓟ

Year Four Music Concert

**Wednesday 13th March**

Oak visit Shire Hall

**Thursday 14th March**

KS2 Rugby Festival

**Mon 18th - Wed 20th March**

Year 4 Residential - Hooke Court

**Friday 22nd March**

Progress Reports sent home

**Tuesday 26th March - 2pm** Ⓟ

Easter Service

**Thursday 28th March**

Last Day of Term

**Friday 29th March**

Bank Holiday - school closed

**Mon 1st to Fri 12th April**

Easter Break - school closed

**Monday 15th April**

First day of Term

**Monday 22nd April** Ⓟ

Oak Class Assembly

## Note from Mrs Joslin

We are holding our story week in two weeks time to celebrate and promote our love of reading! We have lots of activities planned during the week which are all linked to stories. These include virtual author Q&As, paired reading, guess the story on the door, a whole school book focus, free book Friday, story in a shoebox competition and of course a dress up day! Here's what you need to know;

### Thursday 7th March - Dress up day.

Due to whole school cricket on Friday, we have moved our 'dress up day' to Thursday 7th March. Please come to school dressed as either a word (exhausted, fabulous, dynamic, heroic are just some examples) or you could come dressed as a character from your favourite book. You are welcome to bring in your book and share it during paired reading.

### Friday 8th March - 'Story in a box' competition

You are invited to recreate a scene from your favourite story, inside a box (shoe box/cereal box etc). Please bring the boxes into school on Friday 8th March for judging where they will be displayed in the main hall. For inspiration, please see this [LINK](#) for examples of stories in boxes. Please note, this is an optional activity. Good luck, there are prizes to be won!

### Friday 8th March - Free Book Friday

We seem to have accumulated an awful lot of books in school over the years! At the end of the school day we are inviting the children to come to either the playground/school hall (depending on weather) to choose a book to take home and keep. If there are any parents who could help support this, then we would be extremely grateful!

Your child will soon bring home a token to use in book stores to buy/put towards a new book. We are sending these out early to beat the rush! Full details are available here - [LINK](#)

We look forward to a fun-packed story week!

Mr Joslin, English Leader

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

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

# INSET DAY

Thank you all for supporting our latest Inset Day on Friday 9th February. These days are such a vital part of our improvement journey as a school and this one did not disappoint! I could go on to tell you in great detail how fantastic our day was, spent at Three Bridges Primary School in Southall, London, and how much we appreciate the time and hospitality offered to us by this fantastic school, but with Stories being the theme of this week's newsletter, I thought I'd do it in the form of a children's story! Enjoy!

Once upon a time, in the charming village of Charminster, there was a school called St Mary's CE VC First School. One chilly Friday morning, all of the school children stayed snuggled up in their beds, unaware of the extraordinary adventure about to unfold.

Meanwhile, at the school gates, a group of teachers gathered bright and early. Little did they know, they were about to embark on a magical journey to the wondrous land of London! A magical minibus driven by the over-excited Mr Homer awaited them.

As they boarded the minibus, groans and grumbles filled the air. That was until they found the bag of sweets on their seats! Filled with sugar, the teachers decided to turn their journey into a joyous dance party, playing driving anthems and groovy 90's dance music. But, the excitement didn't stop there! Along the way, the mischievous Mr Holt, who is known for being a bad-influence, suggested a detour to the golden arches of McDonald's. As reluctant as Mr Homer was to eat such a gluttonous delight so early in the morning, he conceded for the good of his team. After a quick stop, their journey continued onwards.

Their magical journey led them to the extraordinary Three Bridges Primary School in Southall. It was a place where everybody learned, grew, struggled and succeeded together. It was a school filled with friendship, joy, compassion and courage in which everybody's relentlessly high expectations led to unbelievable outcomes. Our St Mary's teachers spent five enchanted hours speaking to wise leaders, magical teachers, and the delightful children of Three Bridges.

At the end of the day, the teachers hopped back onto the minibus, still humming the tunes of 90's dance music. As they journeyed back to their own school, they pondered the wonders they had seen and the possibilities which lay ahead for the children of Charminster.

Exciting news filled the air! St Mary's and Three Bridges decided to stay in touch, promising to share their magical secrets and continue spreading joy and knowledge. From that day forward, St Mary's became an even more enchanted place, where laughter continued to echo through the hallways whilst dreams soared to new heights.

Who knows what enchanting adventures await our beloved school next?

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



In Collective Worship this half term, our focus has now shifted onto our next school value of 'Hope'.

Our BIG QUESTION for this week was...

**What was Jesus' biggest job?**

Our BIG QUESTION for next week will be...

**What are our hopes for each other?**



Our school attendance for this academic year is currently:

**94.8%**

*Best attendance recently...*





# Recently at St Mary's

## Recently in Willow...

...we have enjoyed a trip to the church with our Year Four buddies and we have been learning about dinosaurs!



## Recently in Oak...

...we have been learning about the story of Abraham and how his descendants would be as many as the stars in the sky and sand on the beach. We created our own Abraham star globes. In Art we learnt about Van Gogh and his starry night painting. We then created our own class version of starry nights with a London skyline, which we had been learning about in Geography and added the stars of Abraham.



## Recently in Beech...

...we have created our own watercolour silhouettes of animals! We will show them off when they are complete. In Maths we have been practising multiplication and division, getting especially good at using arrays!



## Recently in Maple...



## Recently in Linden...

...we have been sampling soil and using a branching database to decide if the soil is sandy, silty or clay.



## Recently in Ash...

...we are continuing with our Rocks, Relics and Rumbles topic and have started to look at different rock types and how fossils are formed. In English, we are starting to become reporters and will be writing newspaper articles for the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79 in Pompeii. On Tuesday, our Year Four children enjoyed T @ St Mary's with their Reception buddies.





# 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:

