



National Storytelling Week:

Storyteller

It was lovely, as always, to welcome Martin Maudsley, a local storyteller from Bridport. He started the day with a whole school assembly where everyone got the chance to join in with the action! During the day, each class works with him listening and developing stories to tell. After his visit he emailed to say what a wonderful day he had had with us and to say that he has been coming to St Mary's for 8 years and he always looked forward to the day. A HUGE thank you to the FOSM for paying for this – such a wonderful way to bring stories to life and engage with the oral storytelling traditions that so much a part of different cultures across the world.

Mystery Readers

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Reception, year 1 and 2 were delighted to welcome some mystery storytellers to their classes. Our visitors, from our wonderful band of volunteers, shared some stories with the classes at the end of the school day – a big thank you to them all.

Mass

On Friday, we celebrated Mass together and our theme was – Jesus the storyteller and the Bible with it's huge selection of stories. Fr Tim talked about some of the stories from the Bible and how Jesus used storytelling in the form of parables to explain things God's ideas to others. We learnt two new hymns that were linked to this theme – some of you might remember singing them when you were young (although not many of you are as old as me!) *When a Knight Won His Spurs in the Stories of Old and Tell Me the Stories of Jesus.*

Storytime

On Friday afternoon it was lovely to see so many people at our story time in the hall. We continued our theme from the morning and heard the story of Daniel in the lions den and the story of Noah and the great flood. There were plenty of other books to share together and I will put another date in the diary for before Easter.

School Choir News

Congratulations to Victoria who was awarded a surplice last Sunday, to mark her admission as a full member of the choir of St Mary's Church, Swanage. Victoria has sung with the choir since April 2024, and on 22 February will join other choristers in an exciting day singing Choral Evensong in Wells Cathedral as part of a Royal School of Church Music joint choir.

There is a close relationship between St Mary's church choir and our own School Choir - both are run by Mr Fawcett, and some of our pupils now sing in both.

This relationship extends the opportunities for our students to take part in regular performances and develop as singers, at no cost to families. If your child might be interested in joining the church choir, whether or not they are a member of the school choir, contact Mr. Fawcett on:

david.fawcett@rocketmail.com

Rotary Young Musician Competition

Miss Michie thoroughly enjoyed last Sunday afternoon at the Rotary Young Musician Competition – it was wonderful to see a selection of our pupils taking part and congratulations should go to them all for taking part – Well done to: Harry, Hannah, Olivia, Filip and Lia – particular congratulations to Filip and Lia who came in 3rd and 2nd places respectively.

Sports Update:

Cross Country: the results are in, and it's been fantastic for St Mary's as we won every category overall.

- **Year 4:** Boys 2nd ; Girls 1st ; Overall 1st
- **Year 5:** Boys 1st; Girls 1st; Overall -1st
- **Year 6:** Boys 1st; Girls 1st; Overall 1st

Tag Rugby: this went well as well with a FIRST-place finish, taking place at Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club. 12 children represented the school with excellent sportsmanship and positivity.

Purbeck Cup Football Results:

- Swanage Primary 1 v St Mary's Boys 14.
- Swanage Primary Girls 2 v St Mary's Girls 5.

Dates for the coming week:

Friday 14th – Hats on for the Homeless Day in aid of St Mungo's– More details to follow this week.

Friday 14th – last day of half term. Finish at 3.15pm

News from the classes

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| Reception | Reception has had a very busy week, as always! We started the week with a lovely visit from Martin the Storyteller. We have been looking at the story, 'The Magic Porridge Pot' and made some predictions about the ending. We enjoyed doing some observational drawings of birds on Wellie Wednesday in the sunshine. In RE this week, we have shared a story called 'The Big Red Umbrella'; the story is about kindness and making sure everyone is included. We used the parachute as our own umbrella and made sure everyone could be included under it. |
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Year 1



The children enjoyed National Storytelling Week, they listened to stories and songs from Martin. The children then went on to draw a picture and make their own stories, which they read aloud to the class. In English, we have completed our



reading of *Paddington Bear*. The children pretended to be Paddington and wrote wonderful diary entries about an adventurous trip to the zoo. Their writing was truly impressive! Continuing with our *Paddington* theme, we had a fun and delicious time making marmalade sandwiches. The children followed up by writing detailed instructions on how to make the perfect marmalade sandwich—Paddington would be proud!



Well done, Year 1, for all your hard work and creativity.

Year 2



Yet another amazing week of hard work and enthusiasm from Team 2.6! The week began with a great session with Martin, the Storyteller and a mystery reader in the afternoon! We evaluated the vehicles we made last week as the final part of our DT cycle. I hope the children are proud of the wonderful vehicles that they made! In English, we started our new class text, *Stubby: A True Story of Friendship*, about a dog in World War One (the same time period as a significant figure we will be looking at in a couple of weeks). In RE, we

learnt about how Jesus healed a paralysed man and have written a letter pretending to be the paralysed man describing what happened and how his life may have changed after this miracle. Our new topic in Geography is *Hot and Cold Places* and we have focused on where we would find hot and cold places in the world according to how close or how far they are from the Equator. This topic has also been supplemented by reading about

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| | deserts and rainforests in our Guided Reading sessions. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 2! You are all amazing! |
| Year 3 | <p>Year three has had a busy week with lots of wonderful work completed. The children are all really enthused by their class text ‘Poppy Pym and the Pharoah’s Curse’, which links perfectly to our Ancient Egypt topic. This week we have been writing predictions about what we believe may happen as part of the curse. The ideas that the children came up with were imaginative and exciting and we are looking forward to seeing if any of the predictions were correct as we read more of the book.</p> <p>This week in art we made some beautiful sunset Egyptian landscape pictures. The children used a range of different artistic skills to create some aesthetically pleasing pictures which will take pride of place in the classroom.</p> <p>The children have also been enjoying playing handball in PE and as we have progressed through this half term; we have seen progress made in the skills required to play the game and in the sportsmanship that the students show to one another.</p> <p>Keep up the good work Year 3!</p> |
| Year 4 | <p>Year 4 has had an excellent week. We had a great time with the storyteller. We studied his very own Saxon tale that was called ‘Archibald and the Dragon’. We unpicked the characters and then had a go at writing and telling our own Saxon tales. In science we started our new topic of ‘animals in their habitats’, this involved sorting different organisms and learning about their life processes. In History, we have started our learning about the Saxons: where the Scots came from and more about their settlement. In Maths we have been finding out about fractions and the children have made a really good start.</p> <p>Keep up the good work year 4!</p> |
| Year 5 | <p>Year 5 has had a positive week in which they really enjoyed the Storyteller coming in on Monday. It inspired us to write a short science fiction story.</p> <p>Gymnastics has gone well with the paired routines moving along nicely. Pupils are learning to support their partners in many ways to perform a paired balance.</p> <p>In Maths, we have continued to learn about the perimeter of polygons.</p> |
| Year 6 | <p>Year 6 have worked extremely hard this week. They have continued with the class text ‘Children of the Quicksands’ and written some interesting informal letters. In Science pupils watched a documentary about the plesiosaur and discovered how fossils are formed over time. In Maths the children worked hard finding the area of triangles and parallelograms. They thoroughly enjoyed listening to the storyteller earlier in the week and produced some imaginative drama sketches. Pupils also created some fantastic African water colour pictures in art.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> |

St Mary's Stars

Reception – Ethan & Leonor

Year 1 – Thomas & Amira

Year 2 – Zac & Paige

Year 3 – Adelaide & Charlie Turnbull

Year 4 – Noah & Ann-Mariya

Year 5 – Lotte & Katsheen & Isla

Year 6 - Lei & Arthur

St Mary's Stars 31st January

Reception – Grace and Poppy

Year 1 – Delilah and Stanley

Year 2 – Violet and Theo

Year 3 – Leo and Eli

Year 4 – Ruby and Victoria

Year 5 – Jasmine and Zach

Year 6 - Frankie and Lia