

The banner features a blue background with the school's crest on the left and right. The crest is a shield with a cross, a figure, and the text 'Be Loving and Truthful', 'Saint Mary's', and 'R.C.'. In the center, the text 'St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter' is written in a large, bold, black font.

St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter

Attendance

Our attendance this week is 93.06 %

News from across the school

Open the Book

We were delighted, as always, to welcome our friends from *Open the Book* to lead our assembly on Wednesday. They told us the second half of the story about how the Israelites followed God's instructions and marched around the walls of Jericho, playing their trumpets – as you can see, we had some very impressive (and noisy) trumpet playing. We won't see them again this term and wish the members of the team a happy Christmas and thank them for their support of St Mary's.



CAFOD World Gift Stall

With the help of Bea, our CAFOD volunteer, Year 5 and 6 spent Thursday afternoon making things to sell on their CAFOD stall at the Christmas Fair – the Chaplains are aiming to raise £20 to buy a World Gift to help someone this Christmas – you might still have the opportunity to buy some of their lovely cards and book marks or to get your copy of our Fairtrade cookery book – all recipes tried and tested by the St Mary's Dragons' Den – only 50p! They will be selling their excess goods after school.



Las Posadas

This week, we will be starting our annual version of Las Posadas – more information will be coming home, and the children will be finding out about how they can host Mary and Joseph, whilst supporting our own community foodbank, during Advent.

News from the classes

<p>Reception</p>	<p>Reception has had a lovely week; we have been very busy practising our nativity. We had a lovely Wellie Wednesday Walk around the school grounds, looking at the seasonal changes that we could spot. In Maths, we have been looking at one less up to 10 and singing some songs to help us to work this out. In Drawing Club, we have been looking at the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and we have been creating maps to help the bears find Goldilocks in the woods.</p> <div data-bbox="293 1115 1005 1383" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1 has had a busy week. Rehearsals for the Christmas nativity are getting underway, and everyone has been working hard – some lovely singing. The children have been finishing their work on the book 'Whatever Next'. They have re-written and re-told the story. In RE, we have been thinking about Mary and Joseph and the beginning of the Christmas story. In Maths, we have been looking at fact families and continued our learning in part whole models, adding and subtraction.</p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Nativity rehearsals have begun in earnest and Year 2 (along with Year 1 and Reception) has greatly impressed us with the way they have started learning their lines as well as their singing, dancing and ability to follow a myriad of stage directions! All this hard work and enthusiasm is going to make <i>Prickly Hay</i> a wonderful nativity extravaganza that we can't wait for our parents to see! Keep up the hard work, Year 2! We have looked at the story of the Visitation in the Bible (when Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth) and wrote a letter as Elizabeth describing what happened. We have started a new class text, <i>Traction Man is Here</i> and are really enjoying reading about the</p>

	<p>adventures of Traction Man and his sidekick, Scrubbing Brush. We have been counting in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's in Maths. Be proud of all you have achieved this week, Team 2.6!</p>
Year 3	<p>Year 3 has had another really busy week. We have been working really hard on our new class text 'Stone Age Boy'. This week, we have been learning all about descriptive writing and how we can use adjectives, similes and metaphors to make our descriptive writing more interesting. We used this knowledge to write some character and setting descriptions. Next week, we will be moving on to some instructional writing.</p> <p>In DT, we have continued to work on our sewing skills, making our Stone Age puppets. The children are all really enthused by this activity and the results are really pleasing.</p> <p>In RE, we have been learning about Mass, why people go to mass and the order in which Mass occurs.</p> <p>As you can imagine, we have also been working hard practising for the Christmas concert where we are certain we will wow you all with our talents.</p>
Year 4	<p>What a busy week for year 4 – plenty of practise for the Christmas concert and we've been working hard to remember the words for our poems and songs! In Science, we have continued with our work on sound and looked at different parts of the ear. In preparation for our trip to Dorchester on Thursday, we learned why the Romans invaded Britain and in English, we have been enjoying sharing our new class text, a playscript called 'The Emperor's Head'; we've loved taking on roles and showing off our acting skills. Well done, Year 4!</p>
Year 5	<p>Well done to year 5 this week who have produced some excellent work. I have been very impressed with them in how they can now add and subtract mixed numbers in their fraction work. They are continually pushing themselves to improve in all areas of the curriculum. In Science, they found out about the principles of different materials and now fully understand the difference between a solid, liquid and a gas.</p> <p>Well done to the children from 4, 5 & 6 who took part in the Indoor Athletics qualifier and came first, which shows how much their hard work has paid off. They now progress onto the next round.</p>
Year 6	<p>Another wonderful week in Year 6! The pupils have worked extremely hard in English, and they are currently writing an alternative ending for our class text – The Adventures of Odysseus. In Science, they have learnt about the different elements of blood and types of blood vessels. In Geography, pupils planned their own UK road trip that incorporated human and physical features and the various capital cities. Fr. Tim visited us on Tuesday afternoon and answered our questions about vocation - something we have been discussing in RE. On Thursday afternoon, many children participated in the Indoor Athletics tournament (coming first) while the remaining pupils created beautiful CAFOD items for the Christmas Fair. We ended the week with a fabulous trip on the 'Bird Boat' which explored Poole Harbour ...what a splendid day for spotting birds!</p>

St Mary's Stars of the Week

Reception – Whole class

Reception – Anabel & Rafe

Year 1 – Grace & Rory

Year 2 – Hope & Ezmay

Year 3 - Aibhlin & Christopher

Year 4 - Dylan, Ruby & Arlo

Year 5 – Nico & Poppy

Year 6 – Whole class