

St Mary's Weekly Newsletter: 6th September 2024

Dear Families and friends,

WELCOME BACK!

It has been such a joy to have everyone back at school again this week – if a little tiring! We are very excited that this is the 10th year that we have been on our new site and look forward to some opportunities to celebrate over the next year – we will keep you updated as things are arranged.

A very warm welcome to our new families – we have had quite a few new children join year groups across the school in addition to our Reception class – we hope you have been made to feel welcome during your first week at St. Mary's.

We are aiming to send out a weekly newsletter this year, giving a some information about what each class has been up to; details of forthcoming events and any whole school activities that have taken place.

Platinum Sports Mark



During the holidays we heard the wonderful news that St Mary's has been awarded the Platinum Sports Mark! Congratulations and thanks must go to Mr White and Mrs Maidman who have put in so much work to collect all the evidence needed but also to facilitate such exceptional sporting opportunities for the children at St Mary's – Thank you also to all the children who take part so enthusiastically in their PE lessons; other extra-curricular activities and sports competitions throughout the year.

Early Birds

Early Birds has changed its booking procedures etc and it has been a successful few days and the children have had a great time. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Hot Dinners

Cumulus continue to supply our hot dinners and there is a delicious new winter menu to choose from so if you haven't tried them before do log on and have a look – we're sure there will be something to tempt you!

DATES AND EVENTS

The next term is always busy and dates for events will be going onto the calendar on the website – we will of course send them on newsletters too:

Fairtrade Fortnight – 9th 22nd September a special celebration of 30 years of Fairtrade – children will be learning about Fairtrade and of course there will be some activities for them and you that involve some Fairtrade goodies!!

Go Wild on Purbeck – Launch Event – Friday 20th September

We will be organising an event during the afternoon of the 20th for you to come and take part in some outdoor exploration as part of the launch of the local initiative Go Wild in Purbeck and also linking to Planet Purbeck weekend. Further details to follow next week but put the date in your diaries – some Fairtrade cakes on offer too!!

OPEN EVENING - 9th October

Mass

School/Parish Masses are on Fridays and there are usually 2-3 each half term – it is a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to celebrate Mass together with our local parish. Mass dates should be confirmed by the end of next week but before half term our Masses we will be celebrating the season of Creation; Harvest and the feast of St Luke.

First Holy Communion

I have had some enquiries regarding children taking their First Holy Communion and have spoken to Father Tim, he has asked me to get some idea about the number of children who might be interested. If your child is in year 3/4/5/6 please let me know if you would like more information; you can email me (see below) or let Mrs Maidman know at the office . rmeteau@stmarysswanage.dorset.sch.uk



Young Volunteers A huge thank you to the Inheritance volunteers who came during the holiday to help do some jobs in school. They were a delight to spend the morning with as they spent some time 'giving back' to the community as part of the Christian camp they were attending in Bournemouth.

Enjoy the weekend,
With every blessing – The staff of St Mary's

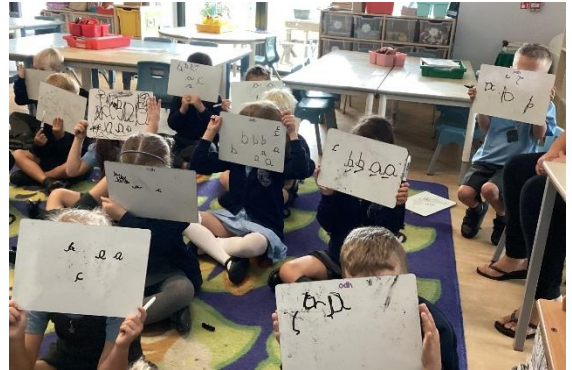
Reception

Reception have had a lovely first few days at 'big school'. Lots of time for exploring our new school, playing with the parachute and making new friends. We have been investigating colours and sharing lots of stories together. Next week we are going to be having PE on Tuesday and Wellie Wednesdays the following day, they will need to wear their PE kit on both days.

Year 1



Year 1 have had a good first week back. The children are settling in to their new class. The children decided on some class rules that they need to follow and they have each been given a class job.



We have started to learn how to write in cursive. This is very tricky, but they have all had a good go.

Year 2

The pupils in Year 2 have been amazing and have settled in brilliantly to their new classroom, routines and expectations! We have talked about our summer holidays and we each wrote a short recount about the different things we did. In our Maths lessons, we have all started using the Xtra Maths programme to help us with our recall of number facts, and revised number bonds to 10 in preparation for looking at fact families next week. Yesterday, we began our module on 'Colour Theory' in our art lesson: we identified the primary colours and how these are used to make secondary colours before painting our own colour wheel. After just three days at school, we have half-filled our marble jar already! Well done, Year 2 / Team 2.6!

Year 3

Year three have had a fantastic start to the term. We have worked together to create our class charter for the year. The children made some fantastic suggestions for the charter, such as; be kind, listen to one another and keep the classroom safe and tidy.

In English we have been writing a recount of our summer holidays. It has been wonderful to read all about the exciting adventures that the children have experienced during their break.

We also created some excellent 'all about me' hoodie, trainer and backpack designs. These are going to be the first piece of work displayed in our classroom.

Year three are excited about the year ahead and we cannot wait to share more information with you all about our learning journey.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a good first week back. They have had their first go at the 144 club and this has motivated lots of them to complete it as soon as possible. They have also worked hard at their handwriting with the race now on to be the first person to earn their pen licence. We have also introduced our Roman topic for this term, the class asked lots of good questions about the topic, which we will endeavour to answer before the end of the topic. Well done Year 4 for an excellent week.

Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent start to their new year. We have enjoyed getting to know each other better playing rounders cricket together. That was a lot of fun on Wednesday. We have also had a chance to express to each other, in a little bit of detail a bit about ourselves - example what hobbies we are interested in.

There is so much to look forward to in year 5 including learning inquiries about Rivers, The Battle of Britain and the Vikings. Children will also have the opportunity to take part in many events outside of school such as visiting the Tank Museum to find out about World War II, and a trip to the Ancient Technology centre in Cranbourne. There are also many sporting events to get involved with such as Tag Rugby, Football, Netball, Handball and Cricket.

Year 6

This week Year 6 have taken part in some team building activities where they explored effective group work and successful collaboration. The class have written a variety of text types in English, some pupils have produced letters which explain about themselves. They have settled extremely well and have shown a mature attitude throughout.

We look forward to starting our topic 'Ancient Greece' next week.

