



St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter




Jubilee Year :

Today we celebrated mass in school and our theme was the Jubilee Year. Over the next week we will be finding out more in school about the Jubilee Year and exploring how we might be celebrating and taking part. There is some basic information below, but we will share more with you over the coming weeks and months:

What is a Jubilee Year: In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year? A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025? The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.



Big Schools' Bird Watch



This year, Mr. White and year 5 are going to be counting the birds around our school site and sending in the data – watch out in the coming weeks for their report in our weekly newsletter.

Big Garden Bird Watch – 24th 26th January

If you would like to take part in this year's birdwatch at home, you can find the details at: [Big Garden Birdwatch](#)



Mass dates for Term:

Mass will be on the following dates this term. They are all at 9am in the school hall – you would be most welcome to join us.

Friday 31st Jan - Mass - Candlemas

Friday March 14th Mass - Lent Pray Fast Give

Friday March 28th Mass - Lent 3

First Holy Communion

The Swanage Parish is hoping to start a First Holy Communion programme in the parish after Mass on February 9th. Please see Fr Tim for an application form, if you have not already done so, and return it as soon as possible.

Uniform Reminder:

Essential: •

Grey trousers or grey shorts, grey skirt · Light blue polo shirt with collar · School logo sweatshirt / school logo cardigan · Grey or white socks · Black shoes (not trainers, boots or fashion sandals) · Light blue & white check summer dress with short sleeves

Coats: please ensure your child has a coat in school.

P.E. kit

Logo shorts/skort (summer), logo blue tracksuit bottoms (winter), house logo T-shirt, trainers for outdoor sports, Logo PE hoodie,

Sky blue football socks (Socks for KS2 only)

If children would like to wear legging / skins under their skort or shorts these must be plain and navy blue

Bags:

- KS1 Children: (Reception Years 1 & 2) School logo book bag.
- KS2 Children: Years 3 - Book bag or school logo backpack
- Years 4, 5, 6 – School logo backpack

Long hair: Should be tied back

Jewellery: Jewellery should not be worn to school

Earrings – small studs only – to be removed or taped for PE



Toys / things from home:

Please do not bring toys/ electronic devices etc. into school unless it is for a pre-arranged show and tell – we cannot be responsible for their safety. This avoids precious / expensive items getting lost and / or damaged

I took these photos on the way to work one morning this week- aren't we lucky to live in such a beautiful place?



News from the classes

<p>Reception</p>	<p>Reception has had another lovely week at school. We have been looking at the story 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen and particularly enjoyed making chocolate rice krispie cakes. We have been thinking about where food comes from. We had a lovely visit from Chrissie at Wessex Wild. The children learnt all about the life cycle of various animals including chickens and enjoyed making their own chicken to bring home.</p> 
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 1 has had another busy week and worked very hard. We had a visitor come into class on Wednesday- Chrissy from Wessex Wild. The children looked at what happens on a farm in each season. They then drew a picture showing what happens and Chrissy displayed this in our classroom (see picture below). We have continued our work on the United Kingdom. This week we were looking at the capital cities in each of the four countries. In maths we have continued our learning on 2D and 3D shapes. The children went on a hunt around the classroom to look for different shapes. In Science we are continuing our topic on 'materials'.</p> 
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>Another week of great learning and hard work! Year 2 has continued to develop their historical disciplinary skills by analysing sources (drawings and paintings) that show</p>

	<p>Scutari Hospital before and after the changes made by Florence Nightingale. We were able to make links between the work she carried out and the effect of this. We also found out more about Florence Nightingale in our class text: Vlad and the Florence Nightingale Adventure, which we really enjoyed reading. In Maths, we have looked at adding and subtracting tens, while in PE we were looking at ways to improve our jumping skills. In Art, we carried on the theme of art inspired by cultures on different continents and have modelled teacups from clay that would be used in a traditional tea ceremony in Japan. We are looking forward to painting them next week. Keep up the great effort, Team 2.6!</p>
Year 3	<p>Year 3 has had a really busy week. In RE, we wrote some beautiful poetry about the Magi and their journey to the stable. We also learnt about the Lord's Prayer and the meaning of different lines within the prayer.</p> <p>In our English sessions, we completed a diary entry all about how Poppy Pym felt when she was told that she would be leaving her circus family and joining a boarding school. The children pretended that they were Poppy and talked about the emotions that she would be experiencing.</p> <p>In our History lessons, we continued to learn about Ancient Egypt. We did a brief overview of a variety of topics such as the pyramids, the River Nile, the mummification process and Pharaohs. We will be looking at each of these subjects in more depth over the course of our topic.</p> <p>In Maths, we have been looking at making exchanges in column addition and subtraction. The class has found this a little tricky, however with determination and resilience we have seen lots of positive progress.</p> <p>Keep up the hard work, Year 3!</p>
Year 4	<p>Year 4 has had a great week. I'm very grateful to the class for working so hard this week and welcoming me back into the classroom. This week we've started our new class text, Beowulf. I think they've enjoyed being introduced to the characters and unpicking some of the interesting vocabulary in the story so far. In RE we've been learning about Jesus' miracles and how people felt about them. In PE we've started cross country; this can be a challenging area of the curriculum, but I'm pleased to say that the children have embraced the challenge. Thank you for your hard work this week Year 4. Keep it up!</p>
Year 5	<p>Year 5 have had a pleasing week where they produced some excellent work on the planets. Scaled drawings really helped them to understand how large some of these planets are. In Math's we also focused on the solar system comparing the data from a table: for example, how long a day is on the other planets! In Geography, we are beginning to look at rivers and the pupils also got off to an excellent start in gymnastics where they were learning some individual moves such as handstands and cartwheels. They will then look to incorporate these moves into a paired routine.</p>
Year 6	<p>Year 6 has worked extremely hard this week. In Science, we have continued with our topic of Evolution and Inheritance, looking at how living things have adapted (through genetic mutations!) to their environment over time. We looked at various living things and what adaptive traits they have acquired to aid their survival. In Music, pupils learnt the names of the strings on their new ukeleles, how to play two chords and the strumming action required within a piece of music. In Geography, we looked at the size of the continent of Africa and how the regions differ from one another.</p>

