



February 2024 Newsletter



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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I can hardly believe that half term has gone already! We have had a busy few weeks and next term is looking exciting too! Please see diary of dates at the end of this newsletter.

We hope that you enjoyed the half term holiday and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

INSET Day

Just a reminder that Monday 19th February is an INSET Day and no children will be in school.

Parking

You may have noticed the new road lines and signage outside of school, (the 30 mile an hour limit will be extended to Washpond Lane but is waiting to be authorised at County.) However, we are still getting cars parked on the zig zag and double yellow lines outside the school gate. This obviously raises significant safety concerns. Please help us keep our children safe. County have informed us of the following: the new lines are legally enforceable, *and they are **no stopping**. So it is an offence to stop even **momentarily stop** on the lines if picking up a child or dropping off - photos of anyone parking on the school keep clear can be sent to Dorset police through their op snap initiative see below:*

<https://www.dorset.police.uk/police-forces/dorset-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/operation-snap/>

We continue to receive complaints from nearby houses regarding drive ways being blocked. Again, please can we ask that you act in a responsible manner.

Just a reminder that the car park near Days Park (at the end of De Moulham Road by the Football Club) **is free** at school drop off and pick up times and no ticket is required.

Parent Evenings

Parents evening will take place for Reception through to Year 6 in the week beginning 4th March 2024. Dates and sign-up details will be sent out in the first week back.

Catholic Life



Hats on for the Homeless

Our chaplains organised our annual fundraiser for St Mungo's with lots of interesting and whacky hats seen around school – we are delighted to be able to send them £123.00 to help support their good work.



Fairtrade Status

We have achieved The Fair Active award and are in the process of applying for the final level of Fair Achiever and with FT fortnight approaching we should have all the evidence that we need to complete it before the end of the year.



School Choir

Our school choir sang with the choir at the Town Carol Service and is due to take part in the Spring Arts Club Choir concert at the end of March. Quite a few of our choir members now sing with the St Mary's Church choir and of course lead our singing at Mass.

National Storytelling Week

Storyteller-The whole school were delighted to catch up with storyteller Martin as part of our activities linked to National Storytelling Week. We came together for an interactive assembly and then each class spent some time-sharing stories with him. We used his ideas throughout the week to create our own stories to tell and then sharing them with each other – using our imaginations and our speaking skills. Big thank you to FOSM for such a lovely treat.



Story telling Buddies – we enjoyed Key stage 2 buddying up with Key stage 1 and Reception to share some stories they had written.

Storytime

Reception, Year 1 and many of their parents enjoyed our second story-time in the hall. This time linked to traditional tales – a great time was had with plenty of wicked witches and trolls!



Visiting Clergy

We now have a rota established to allow for the local clergy to lead collective worship most Wednesdays – Jo from All Saints Church has taken on organising this and the following clergy now visit us, St Mark's, Swanage Primary, St George's and Corfe - Katrina from The Salvation Army, Ian from St Mary's, Jo from All Saints and Open the Book.

Christingle

Just before Christmas, Years 3 and 4, school chaplains, choir and parents enjoyed a Christingle service at All Saints. We are pleased to send £56 to the Childrens Society.

Mass

We have enjoyed Mass for Epiphany and Candlemas and Fr Tim has booked Mass dates for Lent and Holy Week. Of course, we are lucky to have David to support us musically both at Mass and at our Monday liturgy. The pupils are always keen to take an active role at Mass and our readers are taken from across Years 4/5/6 and you are always very welcome to join us.

Dates next half term: Friday 23rd February – Lent and Friday 22nd March – Holy Week – both at 9am in the school hall

CAST Song

We are delighted that after a visit from the CEO of the trust, where she joined us for our morning liturgy, that CAST have asked if they could adopt our school song about Laudato Si, for the CAST song. *'It Starts with just one feeling'* was written by Year 6 with David Fawcett in 2019 and we sing it regularly during our worship, as we do with our other song 'Be Loving & Truthful' So, another 34 CAST schools will soon be singing our song!!

Purbeck Youth Music

PYM provided a wonderful opportunity for Year 3 and 4 to improve their singing skills. They enjoyed two afternoons of singing workshops and then gave a performance for their parents.

Lent Giving

We are looking forward to our weekly opportunity, throughout Lent, to think about how we pray and give. We will be starting with our Big Lent Walk as along with hundreds of other schools across the country.

Bend the Rules Day FOSM

Thank you for organizing such a fun filled day – everyone had a super time.



Spring Diary

February	
19 th	INSET DAY
21 st	Dorset Woodland School visiting year 3
21 st	Matilda – Year 6 - Mowlem
22 nd	CAFOD workshop – Year 5 and 6
23 rd	Mass – Lent 9am in the hall
23 rd	Big Lent Walk
27 th	RNLI visiting Year 1
March	
4 th -15 th	Fairtrade Fortnight
7 th	World Book Day – dress up as book characters – more info to follow
8 th	Girls National Football Day – come in your PE Kit. Whole school
11 th	Fairtrade Breakfast Reception and Key Stage 1 - from 8am in the hall
12 th	Fairtrade Breakfast. Key Stage 2 from 8am in the hall
15 th	Comic Relief more details to follow
20 th	Dorset Woodland School. Year 2 visit Studland
21 st	Year 6 Parent Tea party – more details to follow
22 nd	Mass – Holy Week – 9am school hall
26 th	Year 4 – Saxon Farm Trip – more details to follow
28 th	Last Day of Term – Uganda Fundraiser