



April 2024 Newsletter



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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After a busy term, we hope you have all had a restful and relaxing break.

The summer term is upon us and there are already plenty of activities and events in the diary, which will be sent out later this week. However, just a reminder that there are class photos this week on Wednesday, and we will be celebrating Mass for Easter on Friday at 9am in the school hall – all welcome.

We would like to say a big thank you to all our families for your support and of course all the wonderful volunteers who support our school community in so many ways. A special thank you to our wonderful Friends of St Mary's team for all their hard work – we have enjoyed some wonderful opportunities and fun this term – whether it has been: Bend the Rules Day, buying a Wonda Bar and seeing if there was a golden ticket inside or enjoying a movie – life at St Mary's is much more interesting with their contributions, and we know that none of these activities happen without a lot of effort and hard work.

We hope you enjoy reading below, to find out what has been taking place over the last term.

Easter Blessings,

The staff of St Mary's

Catholic Life – Spring 2 2024

Matilda @ the Mowlem

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Mowlem to watch The Swanage School's excellent production of the musical Matilda – many thanks for the invitation.

CAFOD

We were delighted to see Bea, our CAFOD link worker, whom we haven't seen since before COVID. She took a whole school assembly where we learned about this year's appeal for the Big Lent Walk. Year 5 and 6 also took part in workshops linked to this year's theme finding out about Aaron and his family.

National Trust / Dorset Woodland School

We are very excited to be included in the local initiative to encourage young people to explore the area in which they live. This includes input from RSPB, National Trust, and Dorset Wildlife Trust. By the end of the year every class will have visited Studland for a session; Year 5 went on a walk exploring Studland during WW2 some classes will work with The Dorset Woodland School and Year 6 are taking part in the Urban Heath Project – more details to follow.

Wessex Wild

We have teamed up with Chrissy at Wessex Wild again this year and so far, Year 2 and 3 have had workshops in school linked to food and farming, Year 4 visited the farm at Tincleton where they found out about Saxon farming. This term Year 5 are going to explore food production in WW2, Years R and 1 are visiting the farm later in the term for a session linked to their science and Year 6 will be going to the Middlebere site to explore evolution and inheritance!

Mass

We are very blessed to have the opportunity to celebrate Mass, as a whole school, on a regular basis. We enjoyed seeing Fr Tim and this last term we celebrated Mass for: Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent and Palm Sunday. You are always welcome to join us at 9am in the hall. Keep an eye on the new noticeboard outside for an up-to-date list.

Next Mass for Easter - Friday 19th April @ 9am – school hall – all welcome

Girls FA football day

A great time was had by all, after a whole school assembly everyone had the chance to take part in some footballing activity at some point during a busy and active day – many thanks to Mrs. Maidman and Mr. White for organising.

Storytime

Storytime in the hall featured the wonderful books of Julia Donaldson – watch out on the calendar for this terms' dates.

Douglas Strickland

Many thanks to the Douglas Strickland Bursary for their donation towards some new drums for St Mary's. Each year the bursary invites requests from local organisations for a contribution towards projects linked to the arts. It has been running for over 25 years and we have benefited nearly every year with contributions towards: musical instruments, cameras, book shelving, class texts, reading books and art equipment amongst other things and we are very appreciative of the support the bursary has given us over a long period of time. The awards are given out on a special evening and each recipient is asked to collect the money and, if possible, to contribute to the entertainment for the evening. This year Miss Michie took most of Year 6 to play the drums – an excellent performance and many thanks to them all for representing the school.

Dragons' Den – Year 6 Fairtrade DT

Year 6 designed and produced some Fairtrade teatime treats and as part of the process they took the prototype of their product into the Dragons' Den where they tried to persuade the Dragons' (Mr. Bonfield, Canon John and Mrs. Nash) to invest in their cakes! They then remade their designs ready to share with their parents when they came into school the following day. They have produced leaflets about Fairtrade and a very handy Fairtrade cookbook, full of their recipes, which will be available soon. Many thanks to the Dragons for bravely tasting all those cakes and biscuits!

Year 6 Parents' Afternoon

Year 6 were delighted to invite their families into school to find out what they have been up to so far this year and of course to share their delicious Fairtrade teatime treats. Lots of the work they have completed this year, including some beautiful art, science posters, websites and creative writing were on display, and they gave a whole class presentation about their Year 6 journey.

Reception Spring singing

Reception parents and friends had a very special afternoon when they were treated to a concert of lovely singing by the children – some old favourites and some new numbers too – wonderful!

School choir

Congratulations to the school choir for their exceptional performance at the Purbeck Arts Choir concert at St Mary's Church. They took part in the concert where they sang Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart) and Ombra mai fu (Handel)– beautiful singing and a wonderful opportunity. Some of our young musicians also played in the orchestra. Well done to everyone who took part.

Clifftop

We have been keeping in touch with our friends at Clifftop and were delighted with the lovely heart bunting they sent us for Valentines Day and the Easter cards and eggs – you can see them in our entrance display.

We sent them some Ester treats too – Year 4 made delicious Easter cakes, year 5 some butterfly bunting and year 6 a few Easter cards. We look forward to seeing them this term.

LENT GIVING at ST MARY'S

Many thanks for all your support during Lent this year – we try to make a focus around the request for us to Pray, Fast and Give during Lent – as you can see below as a school family there was a real feeling of support for those less fortunate both in our own community and those further away.

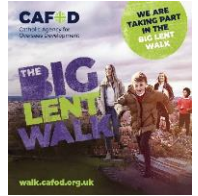


During Lent we are asked to focus particularly on Pray; Fast and Give. With this in mind, we have decided that in the coming weeks we will focus on our prayers and giving in a regular way. Each week we will have a different theme, as follows:

Week 1: CAFOD – Big Lent Walk



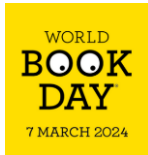
This year CAFOD are asking people to 'Walk Against Poverty' with the challenge to walk 200km in 40 days – however, we are going to walk together and hope that if we all walk 1KM we will do our 200km in one day! We are asking the children and adults in school to either **bring in a cash donation** which will go to CAFOD's Lent appeal or to **bring a donation for our local food bank**.



Week 2: Prayers for our community and world

Classes will be thinking about who and what they might want to especially keep in our prayers, as we journey through Lent – locally in our own community and across our world. We will share our prayers in school and with the churches in the town. If you look on the website, you can see the lovely prayers that the classes have written.

Week 3 – World Book Day/ Book Trust



On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day. We came to school dressed as our favourite book characters and brought a donation for the **BookTrust** – the UK's largest reading charity - we raised £41.

World Book Day was also an opportunity to buy a very special Wonka Bar!! – The FOSM were busy hiding golden tickets – lucky winners won the prize and enjoyed it later on in school.

We also held another Reception and Year 1 story-time in the hall this time to celebrate the books of Julia Donaldson! It was lovely to see so many parents come to share books with their children.



Week 4 - FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – Breakfast



During Fairtrade Fortnight we enjoyed Fairtrade breakfasts together: FT bananas, homemade Fairtrade breakfast bars, Fairtrade orange juice, Fairtrade hot chocolate and some delicious FT jam (and toast!). Year 6 have been creating Fairtrade recipes and their cookbook is nearly finished – we are well on the way to achieving the last Fairtrade Schools Award – Fair Achiever

COMIC RELIEF - Do something funny for money.....

We had a rib-ticking time listening to a host of jokes and were impressed by all the red nose designs and raised £123 for comic relief.



Week 6 – My Time

We have found out about young carers and one of the charities that supports them – My Time. Any donations from our ice-cream treat at the end of term will go to them.

28th March – Holy Week Liturgy – 9am – School Hall

We finished our term with a service of readings and songs linked to Holy Week Years 5&6 helped Fr. Tim to lead our worship in the school hall, including the readings telling the events of Holy Week and the school choir performed 2 beautiful pieces – thank you to Mr. Fawcett for all his support with the worship life of our school.

