6th January 2025

Issue 16



St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter



It has been a busy first week back at school – on Monday we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany (see below), and everyone has settled well into our new term. We look forward to some interesting and fun learning opportunities; a chance to share and support each other and the wider world and, hopefully, some warmer and dryer weather!

With every blessing for the coming year

Epiphany

We started the week celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany, when the wisemen visited the Holy Family bringing their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh for the baby Jesus.

Reception and Year 1 Farm Workshops

Next week, Chrissy from Wessex Wild will be visiting Reception and Year 1 for some workshops that will support their learning in science. Reception will be finding out about life cycles and Year 1 the seasons of the year. During the year, all classes either have a workshop here in school or get the opportunity to visit Chrissy's farm, in Tinkleton, or have a trailer ride at Middlebere. All

session link to science/history topics for the classes and we are delighted that we have re-established a link with Wessex Wild.

Mass dates: (TBC)

Friday 17th Jan - Mass Friday 31st Jan - Mass - Candlemas Friday March 14th Mass - Lent 1 Friday March 28th Mass - Lent 3

News from the classes



Reception	This week we have been thinking about the New Year and how it is celebrated; we enjoyed
•	watching and listening to some New Year fireworks and making a New Year's wish. We
	have looked at the Christmas Story in RE and focused on the Wise Men visiting baby Jesus.
	We learnt they followed a bright star in the sky, and we did some beautiful star artwork to
	start off our RE learning for this half-term.
Year 1	Year 1 has had a busy first week back. We have started a new book in English: The
Teal I	Hundred Decker Bus. The children had a chance to plan a new deck, and they came up
	with some amazing ideas. The children have been working hard on their sentence writing.
	We have spent a lot of time this week writing sentences and using our Year 1 words. In
	Geography, we have started to look at our new topic, the United Kingdom. We had a look
	at the United Kingdom on a map and found where Swanage is. In RE, we have been
	thinking about Luke's Gospel and the story of Simeon and Anna. We also started to look at
	Candlemass traditions. The children made their candle, and we had a candle procession,
	ending at the sand pit where they laid their candle and said a prayer.
Year 2	Year 2 has come back to school fully rejuvenated and has started the term brilliantly by
Teal 2	working incredibly hard this week! In Science, we have started thinking about how we can
	keep our bodies strong and healthy. We carried out a science experiment to find out what
	happens to our body and why when we exercise, reflecting as well as on why exercise is
	important. We then looked at healthy and unhealthy foods and why healthy foods are
	good for our bodies. In History, we were brilliant historians when investigating sources
	(artefacts, photos and drawings) connected to our significant figure – Florence
	Nightingale; the sources gave us lots of information about her life. We really enjoyed
	working just like historians do! Well Team 2.6 - keep up the excellent work!
Year 3	This week we have started our new class topic 'Poppy Pym and the Pharoah's Curse'. The
	children are really enjoying the text and have been writing their own predictions about
	what the story may be about, based on the front cover and the blurb.
	We have now started to learn about diary writing. Next week the children will be writing
	their own diary entry as if they were the main character in the story.
	Our new topic this term is Ancient Egypt. The children have wowed us with some of their
	prior knowledge on this subject and they all appear really enthused to learn more.
	In our Art lesson we learnt about Egyptian hieroglyphics. The children all had a go at
	writing their names in hieroglyphs and then coloured them in. These are now proudly
	displayed in the classroom and look fabulous.
	In RE we learnt about the Epiphany, the students acted out some freeze frames of the
	story. They then used these to order the story and explain which part of the story they felt
	was the most important and why.

	Mrs. White and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the cards, gifts and well wishes that we received prior to the Christmas break.
Year 4	We have had a busy first week back in Year 4. We created an advertisement for our class
	text 'The Emperor's Head' encouraging audiences to come and watch. We continued our
	Science topic of Digestion, Teeth and Food Chains by looking at various animals' teeth and
	using them to help us identify what diet they might eat. In RE we have started our new
	topic of 'Galilee to Jerusalem.' We looked at how different artists from around the world
	portray Jesus and which pictures we felt looked most like how Jesus is described in the
	Bible. In Geography, we learned what a mountain is and how they are formed.
Year 5	Its been a great first week back for year 5. We especially enjoyed our trip to the tank
	museum where we were able to recap and improve our knowledge on World War 2.
	In science we have started to learn about earth and space. Pupils are expected to know
	the order of the planets from the sun. In PE we will be starting gymnastics on Tuesday. In
	maths we have continued getting to grips with decimals.
Year 6	This week we have started our new topic 'Africa'. In Geography, pupils recapped
	continents, learnt about the different countries and where they are located. In Science,
	the children brought into school a variety of family photographs which linked to our topic
	of evolution and inheritance, and they were able to identify characteristics that are
	inherited. We also began a new class text 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters' and pupils wrote
	a detailed prediction of the next part of the story.
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St Mary's Stars

Reception - Sophie & Willow

- Year 1 Olyn & Taylor
- Year 2 Sofia J & Hope
- Year 3 Ludo & Saoirse
- Year 4 Roman & Heidi
- Year 5 Hunter & Charlie
- Year 6 Olivia & James D