

St Marys Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

25th October 2024



We have arrived at the first half term break and what a busy start to the year it has been! Thank you for helping us to ensure all the children had a settled start to the year and for your ongoing support with your child's home learning and getting them into school on time each day. We have had a lot of bugs going around the school and we are hoping half term will provide an opportunity for all of the children to rest and recharge their batteries for a busy Christmas term ahead!

As I write this newsletter, classes have been going outside to lay their coins as part of our Plymouth CAST 10th anniversary celebrations. We welcomed Rose Colpus Fricker, who is the Chief Operating Officer for Plymouth CAST to our school today and she has joined us for our fundraising activities, as well as introducing herself to staff and children. We will let you know how much money has been raised for the Plymouth Catholic Children's society once your kind donations have been totaled up. Thank you as always for your generosity.

Our PTA has been busy this week with preparations for tonight's school disco. It is always a fun event for our children to enjoy with their friends and we hope your children will be able to join this event.

This week has been a week full of trips. Robins Class had a wonderful visit to Magdalen Farm on Wednesday where they were able to feed the animals and especially enjoyed meeting the new piglet who had only recently been born.

Eagles Class had a wonderful visit to 'We are the Curious' science museum at Bristol. They enjoyed taking part in all the hands-on science activities on offer and especially enjoyed their time in the planetarium learning about the solar system. Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported these trips and a huge well done to the children who represented our school so fantastically.

After the half term break, we have our Harvest Service on Wednesday 6th November at 9am. You are all welcome to join us for this celebration of the Harvest. We are asking the children to bring in donations of non-perishable goods and cleaning products, which we will donate to the Axminster foodbank. A separate letter has been sent regarding this. Thank you also to families who have already started constructing their Christmas shoeboxes for our parish and supporting the Samaritan's Purse charity. Just a reminder that all shoeboxes need to be filled and back in school by Thursday 14th November.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 5th November 2024. Please note Monday 4th November is a staff training day so school will be closed to pupils.

We hope that all our families have a restful half term week.

With blessings

Claire Webber

PE class days- Autumn term 2024

- *Robin Class – Monday & Wednesday
- *Woodpecker Class – Monday swimming & Thursday
- *Owl class - Monday & Friday
- *Kestrel class - Wednesday & Thursday
- *Eagle class –Thursday & Friday swimming

Ten:Ten Resources

Please follow the link below to the parent's newsletter.

[Parent Newsletter – Ten Ten Resources](#)

Dates for your diary

Half Term - Monday 28th October -
Monday 4th November (inclusive)

Monday 4th November - Teacher Training Day - School closed to pupils.

Wednesday 6th November - Harvest Celebration 9am

Friday 15th November - Children in Need - Show your spots and stripes! Wear spotty or stripey clothing to school and cake sales at breaktime.

Monday 18th November - Sacrament of Anointing - led by our GIFT Team - 9am

Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th November - Parents Evenings

Wednesday 4th December - PTA Christmas Shopping Day in school

Monday 9th December - Woodpeckers and Owls nativity (timings tbc)

Tuesday 10th December - Woodpeckers and Owls nativity(timings tbc)

Thursday 12th December - Kestrels and Eagles Carol Concert - 5.30pm

Wednesday 18th December - Robins Christmas Concert (timings tbc)

Wednesday 18th December - Carols after school on the playground (timings tbc)

Wednesday 18th December - PTA Christmas Fayre 5pm - 6.30pm

Thursday 19th December - End of term Mass - 9am

Friday 20th December - Last day of term.

Class News

On Wednesday, Robins had a wonderful visit to Magdalen Farm. One of our activities was a hands-on farming experience where we fed the animals. We had a wonderful time. On Thursday, we made apple crumble using apples donated from a local orchard at Lower Westwater Farm. I hope the children enjoyed eating them. As part of our RE learning, we visited the church for a treasure hunt, looking for parts of the church for example the font, the altar and the Easter candle. As well as this we went to the church and role played a Baptism for our class doll, Frances Rosie Robin.

This week in Woodpecker class the year 1 children have been thinking about the ways that they can help our planet. Mrs Bray has posted a video of the children's work on our website, so please have a look. We hope you have a lovely half term and that the children who are going, enjoy the disco on Friday.

Show + tell for the first week back after half term will be, Lewis, Eva and Gabriel.

A huge well done to Owl class for having such a fantastic first half term. We have been busy finishing off each unit of work this week. The children have shown how much knowledge they have gained and are able to talk about. In science the children loved learning about the human skeleton and the organs in the body. In history the children have been able to compare the Mesolithic and Neolithic eras of the Stone Age. Last week we went on our trip to Offwell Woods where the children engaged in a range of teamwork-based activities to help Little Red Riding Hood help find Grandma. It was enjoyed by all

Kestrels have had a fantastic first half term and their learning behaviours have really improved. They have just finished their own stories based on 'King of the birds'. We have also finished our classifying organisms unit in science and the children wrote letters explaining why it is important to look after the biodiversity in the world. In computing they edited their own images to create a new image by merging two or more images. In RE we looked at the theological virtues and reflected on when we can see these in our lives. They also had a fantastic session at Colyton Grammar school where they learnt the skills involved in basketball and had the opportunity to play games.

Eagle class had a fantastic trip to We are the Curious (the science museum) in Bristol. They took part in a workshop where they used levers, cams and gears in practical activities to understand how they work. In the museum they 'played' with lots of the exhibits, learning about topics from honey to sand, our bodies to the earth, bubbles to animating. Pictures of the day will be put on the website for your to see. In class we have finished our writing topic and used our computing and art skills to present their work so it looked like a page from the book.

Music

At St Mary's we like to celebrate the instruments that our pupils learn, both in class and also individually with peripatetic teachers. If your child has instrumental lessons in school, their photo will appear in the music room on our board, as shown here. If your child learns an instrument outside of school and would like to appear on this board, please let me know and I will arrange a photo note for them.



Sports News

Personal Challenge Festival

Mr Murnane was super proud of all the children who attended the Personal Challenge Festival at Bicton College last week. The children gave it their all, even when tasks were challenging. They worked hard as a team and supported each other throughout the morning. It was great for the children to experience some new games and skills they wouldn't normally be able to access at school. I think the archery and boccia were a particular favourite.

St Mary's Values			
Living, loving, and learning with God			
Safe	Trust	Achievement	Resilience
Forgiveness			
Respectful Responsible Caring Value each other	Aim high. Have a go Curious Self-belief		

Star of the Week

Robins- Rowan, Eric
 Woodpeckers- Iqra, Kareem
 Owls- Alen, Isabela
 Kestrels- Sharmain, Elliot, Myles
 Eagles- Sophie, Violet

Sports- Theo K, George H
 Music- Chloe P

Homework

Robin
 Please encourage reading and remember to write your comments in their learning journals.

Woodpecker
 The power maths homework has been updated and logins will stay the same. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.
 The year 2s were sent home last week with some spellings to learn ready for a check next week. These are in their reading records. They will have spelling books in school for practising spellings. They will also receive some reading challenges, please support your child in completing these if they wish.
 We will send year 1 home with a sheet of common exception words. We would appreciate you practising these with your child.

Owl
 Maths:
 Year 2: PowerMaths Games
 Year 3: MathsFlex
 Everyone practice times tables.

English:
 Reading challenges over each half-term
 Please read at home at least 3 times a week.

Homework

Kestrel
 In kestrels we will have spellings handed out on a Friday and they will be tested on these the following Friday. Please continue to use maths flex at home. They will have oracy and maths homework (if you cannot access the maths flex) on a Monday to be brought back in the following Monday. They will have a reading book for the whole half term to read and answer a couple of questions per chapter to check their understanding.

Eagle
 Reading at least 3 times a week, please sign the reading record, Due in each Monday,
 Read the book sent home answering the questions after each chapter - due in by half term.
 Maths - sheet - due in on Mondays

Useful Links

The Catholic Children's Society support funding for essential household items.
[Grant Giving - Catholic Children's Society \(Plymouth\) \(ccsplymouth.org.uk\)](http://ccsplymouth.org.uk)
 Devon County Financial Support and Advice
[Financial Support and Advice - Help with household bills - East Devon](#)
 Do you need help with childcare costs? Please click the link below.
[The Government's Childcare Choices lists all the schemes available here](#)
 Axminster Foodbank
Contact: Hanover House, Chard Street, Axminster EX13 5DZ Tel:01297 32331

St Mary's Catholic Primary

Term dates 2024-2025



Autumn term 2024	
Non-Pupil Day	Tuesday 3 rd September
Term Begins for Children	Wednesday 4 th September
Autumn Half Term	28 th Oct- 1 st Nov Break up on Friday 25 th October
Non-Pupil Day	Monday 4 th November
Children Return	Tuesday 5 th November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 th December
Spring term 2025	
Term Begins for Children	Monday 6 th January
Spring Half Term	17 th – 21 st February Break up on Friday 14 th February
Non-Pupil Day	Monday 24 th February
Children Return	Tuesday 25 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 th April
Summer Term 2025	
Term Begins for Children	Tuesday 22 nd April
Bank Holiday	May Bank holiday Monday 5 th May
Summer Half Term	26 th - 30 th May Break up on Friday 23 rd May
Non-Pupil Day	Monday 2 nd June
Children Return	Tuesday 3 rd June
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 22 nd July
Non-Pupil Day	Wednesday 23 rd to Friday 25 th July