

St Marys Catholic Primary School



Newsletter



15th November 2024

Firstly, a huge thank you for all the wonderful harvest gifts we received for our Harvest Festival last week. We will be taking them all to the Axminster Foodbank next week. Our GIFT team led us wonderfully for our harvest festival service and it was so lovely to welcome so many families into school to join us.

Thank you also to families who have created Christmas shoeboxes for our parish who are supporting the Samaritan's Purse charity. We have so many shoeboxes to send and we know that these will make a special difference to the Christmas experience for many children this year. Thank you again for your ongoing generosity.

On Monday, Eagles Class joined with the other local schools and members of the community to mark Remembrance Day. It was wonderful to receive an email afterwards from the Chaplain at the Royal British Legion thanking Eagles for their exceptional behaviours shown at this event and their excellent participation in the prayers, hymns and silence. Back at school, we joined together for a special Remembrance Day service and marked the 2 minute silence together. Thank you to everyone who bought poppies and poppy objects from our school box and this will be collected next week and added to the fundraising total for the Royal British Legion.

As I write this newsletter, the children are enjoying their cakes from today's Children in Need Cake Sale at breaktime. They all look brilliant in their Spots and Stripes and have had fun admiring each other's choices! All monies raised from the cake sale will be donated to the Children in Need appeal.

This afternoon, our Y3 and Y4 children who were selected for the Devon Cross Country event are running. Mrs Burrough and Miss Hill are there cheering them on and we cannot wait to report on their results once they are known next week! Good luck and we know you will all be brilliant!

This half term, as always, is a busy and Christmassy half term! Eagles have commenced their swimming lessons in PE, Kestrels are enjoying their gymnastics sessions, Owls and Woodpeckers have started practising for their nativity play and Robins have been working hard on their phonics and reading. Several classes have enjoyed trips to Axminster Library and lots of KS2 have enjoyed the netball sessions after school at Colyton Grammar School.

Below are the main diary dates looking ahead and we hope to see you at lots of the events. Key information about each event will be sent via Parent Mail and Class Dojo as the events approach so just write the dates on your calendars for now and look forward to hearing more and how you can get involved! We hope to see lots of you at our PTA AGM next Wednesday at 3.30pm and then at the upcoming Parent's Evenings on 26th and 28th November.

Finally, we wish our school choir lots of luck when they sing at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday afternoon as part of the Choristers Outreach Project. We are all immensely looking forward to watching you perform, especially after the taster they gave us in our Achievers Assembly yesterday!

With blessings
Claire Webber

PE class days- Autumn term 2024

- *Robin Class – Monday & Wednesday
- *Woodpecker Class –
- *Owl class - Monday & Friday
- *Kestrel class – Thursday & Swimming Fridays
- *Eagle class –Wednesday and Thursday

Ten:Ten Resources

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

[Parent Newsletter – Ten Ten Resources](#)

Dates for your diary

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

Wednesday 20th November - PTA AGM - All welcome!

Thursday 21st November - Autumn Instrumental Concert 5pm

Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th November - Parents Evenings

Wednesday 4th December - PTA Christmas Shopping Day in school

Monday 9th December - Woodpeckers and Owls nativity - 5.30pm

Tuesday 10th December - Woodpeckers and Owls nativity - 2.45pm

Thursday 12th December - Kestrels and Eagles Carol Concert - arrive 5pm to begin at 5.30pm

Wednesday 18th December - Robins Christmas Concert - 9am

Wednesday 18th December - Carols after school on the playground - 3pm - 3.30pm

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

Wednesday 18th December- Christmas Lunch (Come dressed in your Christmas jumper/Christmas clothing to celebrate

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

Friday 20th December - The last day of term.

Class News

Robins have had a busy week. In their RE lessons, they have been learning that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to add their names to a register. They thought about how Mary felt on her way to Bethlehem and what Mary and Joseph would have prayed for. In explore and learn Robins have enjoyed playing with a Nativity set in one of our tuff spots, acting out the story. As well as this, the children have enjoyed making maps of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and roleplaying it outside. On Thursday afternoon, we listened to the carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem and the children drew and painted a building that we will put together on our class display to represent the town of Bethlehem. In this activity the children LOVED mixing colours and painting brightly coloured buildings. For other news about our learning, please see Robin Class's newsletter.

We hope you all had a good half term. This term we are going to be looking at Geography and our local area. We will also be doing a fun DT project all about moving pictures and the children will be making a moving storybook. Please continue to read with your child and have a look at our class webpage for some useful skip counting videos.

Show + Tell: We will do our next show + tell on Thursday 21st November. Please can the following bring in something to share: Ryan, Thomas and Rosie.

In Owl's class, we have been busy working on chronological reports in English. We read all about The Great Fire of London and put the events in chronological order. This week we have been learning about Pompeii so that we can plan our shared write on the events of Mount Vesuvius erupting. In science, we have been exploring living things and non-living things before exploring different habitats. The children are able to explain why animals need to live in different habitats. We have started our new unit in geography, the children have learnt the difference between weather and climate. Just a reminder that Owl's will be going to Axminster Library on Tuesday morning, so please ensure they are in school by 8:45am.

Over the last 2 weeks Kestrels have worked hard learning a non-fiction text about different animals and have learnt lots of interesting facts about orcas. In science, we have been looking at different teeth and the jobs that they do. In RE, we have been looking at the prophet Elijah and comparing the people he encountered. In geography, we have begun to look at South America and mainly focussing in on Brazil, we have used maps to locate places and lines of longitude and latitude. We have also enjoyed our swimming sessions.

In Eagles we have started lots of new topics this half term. In Geography we are finding out about how the world is adapting to climate change and easy we can mitigate the impact of global warming. In computing we are using an online program to create models in 3D - moving and positioning objects next to and on top of each other. In DT we are exploring the use of mechanism to make pop up books. In Re we have found out about the prophets Elijah and Isaiah, learning about what they did to help people.

Sports News

Cross Country

Good luck to our Year 3/4 Cross Country teams who are competing in the East Devon Cross Country Finals this afternoon. Last year our Year 5/6 boys were Champions so we will be returning the shield.

Netball

Our netball teams continued in good form at Colyton Grammar School on Tuesday after school. Even though we were a bit short on players, due to illness, the children stepped up and worked hard in both their matches. We have one more session next week. As the evenings are getting darker more quickly, the netball matches will take place in the sports hall at Colyton Grammar School. Let's hope we can take all 11 players.



Please remember to start sending children in with coats, the children will and when possible be outside for break and lunch times.

Star of the Week

Robins- Belle

Woodpeckers- Violet & Macy

Owls- Logan & Xianna

Kestrels- Nancy & Parker

Eagles- Arty, Tola & Lily

Sports- Edyth

Homework

Robin

Please practise reading the words sent home on the sheets. Please hear your child read their book each evening and write in their reading record. Log onto Bug Club and look at the books and play the games with your child.

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 Values

Living, loving, and learning with God

Safe	Trust	Achievement	Resilience
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Forgiveness

Respectful Responsible Caring Value each other	Aim high. Have a go Curious Self-belief
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School office email: admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.co.uk School tel: 01297 32785

School website: www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk

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