

# St Marys Catholic Primary School



## Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024



It has been a busy start to term here at St Mary's and the children have been enjoying a range of activities, visits and learning experiences.

It has been wonderful to see our new Robins settling into school life and following our school routines so brilliantly. I have been making regular visits into their class and it has been great to see their early phonics and number learning taking shape. They have been excited to showcase their learning to me each time I visit.

Eagles and Woodpeckers have started their swimming lessons, earlier this week Woodpeckers enjoyed a trip to the library and Owls will visit the library next week, As I write this newsletter, Kestrels are at the Eden Project for their geography/science trip, and I look forward to hearing all about this exciting adventure on their return! Kestrels have also enjoyed learning to play brass instruments in their music lessons at Axe Valley. Sports and After school clubs are in full swing and it has been great to see so many children accessing these extracurricular clubs.

Earlier this week, we presented Year 6 with the leader's hoodies during our Holy Orders sacramental liturgy. A special thank you to all the parents who joined us to watch their children make these special leader promises. Our next sacramental liturgy with a focus on the Sacrament of Baptism will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, when Robins receive their settling in gifts and confirm their buddies. We hope that lots of Robins parents can join us for this at 9am.

On Monday (30<sup>th</sup> September) we will have our start of the new school year and Season of Creation mass at 9am in the school hall. All are welcome to join us for this and we hope to see you there.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Claire Webber

### **A few upcoming diary dates:**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Robins Class Baptism Sacramental Liturgy – 9am

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – PTA Meeting – Come along to find out more!

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – PTA School Disco (to be confirmed and timings to be shared once arranged)

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Parents Evenings (details to be shared nearer the time)

### **Advance notice – Provisional Christmas Dates (all timings will be confirmed nearer the time)**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Woodpeckers and Owls Nativity

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Robins Christmas Concert

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Kestrels and Eagles Carol Service (5pm for 5.30pm)

### 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

1<sup>st</sup> October- Owls visit To library

1<sup>st</sup> October-School Photos

15<sup>th</sup> October- Robin visit library

16<sup>th</sup> October- Woodpeckers class trip to Escot

23<sup>rd</sup> October-Eagles class trip to Bristol

25<sup>th</sup> October 3.30pmis the start of half term

### **St Mary's Values**

**Living, loving, and learning with God**

Safe	Trust	Achievement	Resilience
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### **Forgiveness**

Respectful	Aim high.
Responsible	Have a go
Caring	Curious
Value each other	Self-belief

# Class News

We have had such a lovely week. The children love going swimming on a Monday and have been all week, 'Is it swimming today?!' We have started our new History topic about how our homes have changed after time. We are very lucky to have Mr. Henty, who is also Miss Wood's Grandad, come in to hear readers every week, so last week we interviewed him about how the homes that he has lived in have changed over time. If you have any expertise in History or Science that you could share, then please speak to one of us!

The children have enjoyed Show + Tell this week. Next week, please may Theo K, Mila and Nevin bring in something to share on Thursday 3rd October. This can be a toy, a certificate or a photograph of an event. Please discuss with your child what they will tell the class about their Show + Tell and keep in mind the purpose is public speaking. Thank you in advance.

Owl class has had a busy couple of weeks, they are continuing their independent stories of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We can't wait to share these when they are finished. In History the children have learnt some of the prehistoric animals and this week they created some amazing Stone Age houses to learn the three different periods of the Stone Age. In computing, the children have been using Scratch to explore the pen feature. In science, the children showed their fantastic prior knowledge of herbivores, carnivores and omnivores

Over the last two weeks, Kestrels have been busy settling into our new topics. They have learnt different ways scientists classify animals and had a go at using classification systems. They have learnt how things changed throughout the Roman empire including how much land they conquered and who ruled. In RE we have been learning about Abraham and why he is important, and not just in Christianity. In English we have been rewriting the ending of the traditional tale Tom Thumb.

In Eagles we found out what it was like to be archaeologists. We visited Robin Class and used the sand pit to carefully excavate and photograph items. We found out that this was the way the burial site at Sutton Hoo was excavated. In science we made circuits and tested different materials to find out about conductors and insulators/ We found out that all types of metal conduct electricity. In English we have completed writing our own version of a fairy tale - they are all a great read!

## Attendance

In September, it is particularly important that your child attends school in the first few weeks as research shows that: *'If a child attends every day for the first few weeks of the school term that is a strong indicator that they will go on to attend school regularly throughout the term.'*

This shows just how important it is that children are at school, ready to learn in the first days and weeks of the Autumn. **A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly!** Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- access the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades
- maintain friendships and develop new ones
- have access to social and sporting events offered by the school
- explore potential life skills
- develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment

Therefore, if you or your child are worried or has any concerns around attending school, we urge you to talk to us. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with other educational partners who will also be able to help if needed. We are committed to supporting you so it is important you contact us as soon as you have concerns so we can work together to address any barriers to attendance. Alongside this newsletter, you will find information about the changes the Department for Education have made in relation to attendance for the year ahead and an update on penalty notices for unauthorised term time absences such as family holidays.

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

Woodpeckers- Theo K  
Owls- Arthur s  
Kestrels- Aisha and Leo  
Eagles- Caden and Ivy

Sports- Cora  
Music- Theo K

### 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 \(Plymouth\) \(ccsplymouth.org.uk\)](https://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

School office email: [admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.co.uk) School tel: 01297 32785

School website: [www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk](http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk)

# St Mary's Catholic Primary

## Term dates 2024-2025



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