

St Marys Catholic Primary School



Newsletter



29th November 2024

As we approach the Season of Advent here at St Mary's, we are looking forward to beginning Advent Reflections in school. Advent starts the season for preparing for the coming of the Messiah and the celebration of [Christmas](#) with the birth of Jesus Christ.

The children are starting to prepare for their Nativities and Carol Concert. We have listed all the dates for these in this newsletter and we hope that you will be able to join us for these special events.

Thank you everyone for supporting us to get the school day started promptly. The number of children arriving late has greatly reduced and this means that teaching and acts of worship are able to start promptly. We appreciate that parking is difficult around the school but please remember not to use the staff or church parking spaces in the front carpark.

It has been lovely to welcome parents into school this week for Parents evenings. I hope you enjoyed looking at your child's books and having the time with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress and attainment so far and targets to support them with moving forwards.

Our amazing school choir performed fabulously when they took part in the Chorister's Outreach Project, culminating in performing at Exeter Cathedral. Today, they have been presented with their certificates in our achievers assembly. We were so proud of them that night. They sang in front of a packed cathedral and were respectful, patient and showed amazing integrity during the afternoon rehearsal. Thank you to all in our St Mary's community who supported them both in rehearsals and during the performance.

Last week, we held our Sacrament of Anointing where we inducted our GIFT team into their roles. They made their promises on how they would support the spiritual life of our school and pupils. They had a busy week as they also delivered all the harvest gifts to Axminster Foodbank. The staff at the foodbank wished to pass on their enormous thanks to all the families of St Mary's for these very kind donations which will now be shared with vulnerable members of our local community.

At St Mary's, we have enjoyed learning about 'Respect' and this culminated in a Dress to Express Day at the end of our Anti Bullying Week. Thank you to everyone for the fantastic efforts. It was great to see how the children expressed their hobbies and personalities through their outfits. It was certainly a great conversation starter and important for the children to learn about respecting each other's interests and how they may differ to their own.

We are pleased to announce that St Mary's now has a fully formed PTA. They held their AGM last week and the following officers were elected. They are still looking for parents who wish to join the committee and volunteers to support at upcoming events.

Chair - Holly Roberts

Secretary - Lindsey Pearse

Treasurer - Elizabeth Pearse

They can be contacted via the school office and are already planning lots of exciting Christmas Events for your children (see the dates below).

Finally, a huge well done to all the children who have been participating in sporting events both inside and outside of the school day. Our Y3/Y4 cross country team, our Y5/6 netball players, our KS1 who took part in Multi Skills challenges and the children who attended the Boccia festival this week. It is wonderful that we have so many budding sports superstars at our school and we presented so many sporting certificates this week in Achievers assembly.

Have a restful weekend and prepare yourself for a busy month ahead!

With blessings,

Claire Webber

Ten:Ten Resources

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

[Parent Newsletter – Ten Ten Resources](#)

PE class days- Autumn term 2024

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

Dates for your diary

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.

ELFRIDGES SHOPPING DAY

Donations Needed!

On December 4th the children will have the opportunity to do their own Christmas shopping for their loved ones!

Gifts will be chosen by them, wrapped and labelled ready to gift.

To make this possible we are asking for donations of good quality unwanted gifts/ items.

How to Donate:

Items can be dropped at school reception before Monday 2nd December

What to Donate:

No food or drink please. Any good quality new/ second hand giftable items welcome. Wrapping paper donations also welcome!



Class News

Robins have been very busy this week. They continued their learning about migration by making bird feeders for the birds who visit us in wintertime and those like Robins and Blue Tits who don't migrate. In Drawing Club, they have been listening and joining in with the story, *Peter and the Wolf*. In RE, continuing from last week's lesson, where the children were learning that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. They listened again to the story, *Room for a Little One* by Martin Waddell. The children thought about how the animals felt when they were welcomed into the stable by the Ox and each other. They had words like, calm, relaxed, relieved, nice, fuzzy etc. suggested by the children. Then the children drew one of the animals from the story and told us what they said which we scribed into a speech bubble. After this, the children thought about what they can do to be kind.

On Thursday Year 1 and Year 2 had multi-skills! Pupils from Colyton came and delivered a brilliant session. Our children had so much fun and the pupils from Colyton were absolutely brilliant with them. They have begun their new story, *Orion and the dark*, by Emma Yarlett. The children have really enjoyed learning it.

Thank you for the great Parents' Evening meetings that we have had, so far. If you have not booked an appointment, then please get in touch via Dojo or the school office and we can definitely sort something out.

Show + Tell: Next week, (5.12.24) please may the following children bring in something to share for show + tell, Millie, Jacob and Dexter

Another busy couple of weeks in Owl class. We have been coming to the end of our English unit and the children have been writing some fantastic independent writes. In Geography, the children have enjoyed learning all about deserts. In RE, the year 3s have been learning about the parts of Mass and now we are starting to think about the time of Advent. In We have been continuing our Nativity practises, the children are doing amazingly at remembering their lines and joining in with the musical parts. Please remember that we are asking for costumes to come into school from next week.

Over the last couple of weeks, kestrels have been working hard to understand the start of digestion including the role of different teeth. In RE we have been comparing Elijah, Isaiah and John the Baptist. In maths the year 4's have been working on their times tables and the year 5's have been working on their fractions. In English we have started a new story called 'Mimi and the mountain dragon'- the children have loved learning this story!

In Eagles we have been learning about climate change. They have investigated the relative impact of different measures that reduce carbon dioxide emissions. They were surprised to find out how much carbon dioxide can be absorbed by mature trees and how much carbon dioxide could be saved by buying in season fruit and vegetables among other measures. In DT they have been exploring mechanisms and have been applying them in the context of pop-up books. In RE we have been thinking about what makes a good leader. They have used text from the New Testament to find evidence that Jesus was a good leader.

Sports News

Netball

Well done to our netball teams who competed in the Colyton Grammar School netball tournament. They came in 1st and 3rd place which is excellent. Our Year 6 team will represent the school at the East Devon Finals at The King's School Ottery on Wednesday 26th February.



Year One & Two Multiskills

On Wednesday afternoon, year one and two enjoyed a fun afternoon taking part in multiskills challenges. These were provided by Year 12 sports leaders at Colyton Grammar School. They worked really well as teams to complete each of the challenges and really enjoyed taking part.

A big thank you to the Sports Leaders for being so encouraging with the children. They had such a brilliant time and there were so many high fives and smiles shared!



Boccia

On Tuesday morning a team of Year 5/6 pupils went to compete in a Boccia Competition at Bicton College. All the children did really well. St Mary's Sharks came 1st which means they qualify for the Devon School Games next year! St Mary's Storm came in 6th place. Well done to both teams. Thank you, Mrs Walters, for accompanying the children at this event.



Star of the Week

Robins-Laurence and Burt
Woodpeckers- Rosie and George
Owls- Tristan and Ethan
Kestrels- Theo and Livvie
Eagles- Lillia
Sports- Eva
Music- Arthur s, Rowan and Seb D

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

St Mary's Values

Living, loving, and learning with God

Safe	Trust	Achievement	Resilience
------	-------	-------------	------------

Forgiveness

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

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