

St Marys Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

13th September 2024



From the Head of school

Welcome back to a new academic year here at St Mary's.

Firstly, thank you for ensuring your child(ren) are back in school looking so smart and with everything they need so that they are ready to learn. It has been wonderful to welcome our school community back together after a summer break and hear from the children about all their adventures and experiences over the summer.

We welcome our new children who have started in Dragonflies and Robins Class this term. We hope you will all enjoy your journey through St Mary's with us. We also welcome new children and families across our school. We hope you will all enjoy life at St Mary's.

Thank you for making me so welcome in my new role as Executive Head of School across St Mary's and St John's in Tiverton. I will be at St Mary's every Monday and Wednesday as well as every other Thursday. Mr Meech will be at St Mary's on Tuesdays and every other Thursday and Mrs Fudger will support the school's leadership on Fridays. You can always contact us via our admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk email address or cwebber@stjohnstiverton.co.uk if we are not in school and we will get back to you as soon as we are able to.

As always it has been a busy start to term with children settling straight back into lessons and enjoying their new curriculum topics and units. Please check out your child's class page on the school website for more information about the term ahead www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk

We look forward to working alongside parents, children and our school community this term and wish to take this opportunity to remind all of our school community that you are always welcome to join us for events in school, trips or to come in and support listening to readers etc. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you might be able to support in this way.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

God Bless

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

- 16th September- Clubs start this week
- 19th September is year 6 transition at Axe Valley
- 23rd September- Sacramental Liturgy
- 24th September-WP visit to Library
- 27th September- Kestrels class Trip
- 1st October- Owls visit To library
- 1st October-School Photos
- 15th October- Robin visit library
- 16th October- Woodpeckers class trip to Escot
- 23rd October-Eagles class trip to Bristol
- 25th October 3.30pm is 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	Self-belief
other	

Class News

Robins have had a great first whole week at school and have settled really well. This week we have mostly been concentrating on using the areas of the classroom, being respectful of the resources and remembering to tidy away after ourselves. In our RE this week we have been listening to the story of Creation and have learnt a Creation song. We have learnt that God made me, God loves me, God loves everyone, God is love and God loves each one of us as a unique person. Each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. We also learnt the chorus of a song called, 'God Loves Me' by John Burland. We have painted some fabulous self-portraits, independently and have made self-portraits out of transient art resources. Well done Robins!

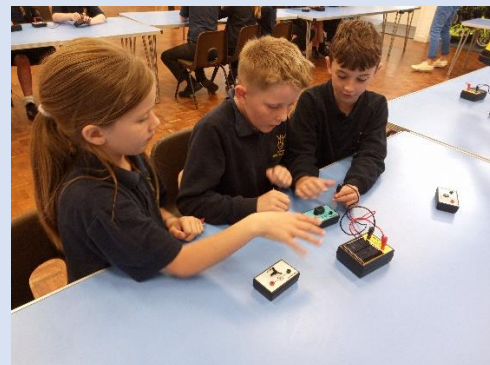
Welcome to a new and exciting year in Woodpecker class! We have had such a great start. The children have been getting to know one another again after the summer. Our classroom has had a few tweaks over the summer, so everyone has been exploring the environment. Our stars of the week this week were the year 2s, who have impressed us so much with their maturity and kindness towards the year 1s. They have risen to the challenge of being role models! Year 1 and year 2 will each bring home reading books tailored to their level. Please read as often as possible with your child - we recommend every day but appreciate that this can sometimes be difficult. Reading is the most important way that you can support your child academically and we really notice the progress when children are regular readers at home. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school and that they only bring water into school - no squash, please.

What an amazing start Owl Class have made this year! They have shown fantastic engagement in every lesson. They are enjoying our English unit of Little Red Riding Hood, they will be writing their own versions in the coming weeks. In History, we became archaeologists and paleontologists to find evidence of the past. In art, we used a variety of different techniques to paint with watercolours. Please see the website for updates.

Kestrels have had a wonderful start to their new school year. They have settled into their routines quickly and have blended very well as a new class. We had an exciting two afternoons looking at solar power and understanding how this works and visiting a solar farm to ask an engineer all of our questions. We even got to test mini solar-powered equipment in school. We have been enjoying the story of Tom Thumb and also looking at other traditional tales as well.

Eagles class have settled into work very well after the summer break. In English they have been reading a version of Rumpelstiltskin retold from a different point of view. They have practised creating atmosphere in their writing. In History, they have been finding out who the Anglo Saxons were and how they settled in England. In RE we have begun to explore the story of Abraham, they have found out what life was like in Ancient Egypt when the story took place,

Kestrels had an exciting couple of day learning about solar panels. First, we had Kate from Earth Energy Education come into school to teach us about renewable energy and solar farms. On the first day we did a workshop experiencing solar power and how we could use it to replace batteries in circuits to power light bulbs, buzzers and motors. We then used tools that an electrician would use to test how much electricity was being powered using different amounts of light. After the in school workshop we had a trip to Wyld solar farm. We had a tour around the solar farm learning about how the solar panels work and had any of our questions answered by a solar technician. We then explored the biodiversity of the farm.



SPORTS NEWS

CLUBS

Please take advantage of the clubs we offer at St Mary's. It is recommended that children are physically active for at least 60 minutes a day and our clubs are fun and engaging and they help the children to develop healthy habits for life.

School Games Mark – Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the School Games Mark Gold Award again this year. The purpose of the School Games Mark is to reward and recognise a school's engagement in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping people active. As a school we had to demonstrate that we maintained a series of outcomes including working towards 60 active minutes for every child (30 active mins within the school day), as well as afterschool provision, delivering and engaging in competition with purpose, creating positive experiences, a clear focus of transition, e.g. year 6 to secondary and improving experiences for young people and their families. This is a fantastic achievement and a result of hard work by our staff.

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.

Admin

If your child requires medication in school
can you be sure to return it please.

Thank you

Star of the Week

Woodpeckers- Whole class

Owls- Charlie B

Kestrels- Adam

Eagles-Blake

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 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 the 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