



Head of school news

And just like that we have made it to half term! I am sure you will agree that the children are ready for a rest after what has been a busy half term. Firstly though, I know the children are excited about this evening's PTA school disco and we are grateful to our PTA for their dedication to providing fun events like this for our children. It is set to be an exciting event for our children to enjoy before we move into the half term break.

Yesterday, lots of children were out of school taking part in some amazing enrichment activities on offer. Several of our musicians attended an orchestra day at Axe Valley hosted by the music department. Thank you to Mrs Gibbs who accompanied the children on this full day workshop, allowing them the opportunity to perform as part of an orchestra. Other members of KS2 had the opportunity to play a football match against Beer on the 3G pitch. A big thank you to Mrs Burrough and Mr Murnane for accompanying the children to this. We hope that all the children attending both of these events enjoyed these experiences.

On Wednesday, we held our Sacramental Liturgy of Marriage. During this liturgy, the children witnessed the staff and governors of St Mary's make their commitment promises alike to those in a marriage. The staff promised to dedicate themselves to the children at our school and continue the excellent teaching, learning and support they provide to our children and families. We are so lucky to have such a brilliant team of staff and extremely supportive governors all working together tirelessly to support our families.

Last Friday, we held our Number Day where the children came into school 'Dressed in Digits'. We all enjoyed a day of mathematical fun to celebrate numbers and all things mathematical, including some problem-solving involving Smarties! Donations collected from 'Dressing in Digits' supported our GIFT team's chosen charity The RNLI. We are grateful for your kind donations.

Finally, we want to say a big thank you to Mrs Kendall Heard who has been supporting Miss Braddock with admin support over the last 2 years. Mrs Heard is the Senior Administrator at St John's Catholic Primary School in Tiverton and has been working behind the scenes supporting with health and safety documentation, policy writing and outdoor education approvals at St Mary's. We are grateful to her for her support and knowledge which she has shared with St Mary's. Miss Braddock will continue this work supported by Mr Meech, Mrs Webber and the School Academy Trust. Thank you, Mrs Heard.

We hope that you all have a lovely half term break, and **we look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 25th February.**

Please note that Monday 24th February is a Non-Pupil Day due to staff training.

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	

Ten:Ten Resources

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

[Parent Newsletter – Ten Ten Resources](#)

Dates for your diary

Diary Dates

Monday 17th February 2025 - Monday 24th February (inclusive) - HALF TERM

Monday 24th February - Non Pupil Day (Staff Training Day)

Tuesday 25th February - Children return to school

Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday Mass - 9.00am

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day at St Mary's (more info to follow)

Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th March - Parents Evenings

w/c 31st March - Holy Week - Class Assemblies

(Woodpeckers - Monday, Owls - Tuesday, Eagles - Wednesday and Kestrels - Thursday)

Friday 4th April - Last Day of Term

PE class days- Spring term 2025

***Robin Class** – Monday & Wednesday

***Woodpecker Class** – Monday- Friday Swimming

***Owl class** - Monday &

***Kestrel class** - Wednesday & Thursday

***Eagle class** – Wednesday & Thursday

Class News

Robins News

In our RE this week we have been learning that Jesus would like us to share what we have. The children listened to the story of Maddi's Fridge where the little girl Maddi didn't have enough to eat at home. We talked about how her friend, Sophia, helped Maddi when she noticed that her family didn't have much food to eat. We talked about how Maddi also helped Sophia to climb the wall. After learning about what a food bank is, the children designed some posters to put up around the school to encourage other people to bring in food for the food bank. It would be amazing if you could take your child shopping over the half term and buy something to add to our food bank. We will collect food the first week back and then organise a visit to take the food to the food bank.

Woodpeckers Class News

This week the children have been researching an animal of their choice and they have created fact files about that animal ready for writing their own version of 'Could a penguin ride a bike?' We have finished our fire of London history unit, which the class have really enjoyed. They have been talking lots about London and sharing their knowledge. Thank you to those who have shared books and drawings with us too. We hope you all have a lovely half term!

Owls Class News

The children in Owl class have enjoyed a busy half term. We have come to the end of our learning of each topic. In English, the children have written some fantastic recounts of our Teddy Bear Picnic. In art, the children have created and painted their clay characters. We have learnt about a variety of famous explorers and compared how their lives were similar and different. I hope all the children enjoy a restful break and come back ready to

Kestrel Class News

Over the last two weeks Kestrels have been writing their own quest stories about an unlikely hero. In computing they finished their podcasts about school life. In science we finished learning about states of matter and linked it back to the water cycle which we learnt about earlier this term in English. In history we have finished our learning about the Early Islamic Empire and we considered all of the reasons why it is important that people learn about this. In PE the children created fantastic rock 'n' roll dances in groups of 4 and showed an excellent understanding of the different steps we have been learning.

Eagles Class News

Eagle class have been continuing their learning about world war 2, they have looked at how the lives of men, women and children changed during and after the war. In RE, Eagles have found out about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and understood the different parts of it. In computing they have individually created a webpage on a chosen topic - in these they have shared a lot of interesting information! Eagles have worked very hard this term and achieved well in their learning - have a lovely restful half term!

Other News

Sports News

Girls Football

Well done to all the girls who went to Colyton Grammar School and took part in the football session on Tuesday evening. The children took part in a round robin sequence of football drills to learn different skills.



Mixed Football Fixture

On Thursday afternoon the children walked across to the 3G and played a football match vs Beer Primary School. After the Axe Valley students warmed up our children, we split the children into three teams, and they played two 12-minute halves. Two of our teams won their matches and one of our teams lost their match. It was a good opportunity for the children to learn good sportsmanship and show the school games values of passion, self-belief, respect, honesty, determination and teamwork. We were really proud of how the children behaved in victory as well as defeat. Well done St Mary's



Eco News

The eco warriors have been busy over the last two weeks completing a litter pick and naming the school's sustainability mascot- Stanley the polar bear. He will be going into a class each week who are showing they are trying to be sustainable.

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: Power Maths Games
Year 3: Maths Flex
Everyone practice times tables.

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

Star of the Week

Robins- Arthur & Laurence
Woodpeckers- Maia & Lewis
Owls- James & Seb
Kestrels- Ava & David
Eagles- Rhys & Holly
Sports- Sophie D
Music- Lewis



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 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