

# St Marys Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> January 2025



As always there has been lots going on in the last fortnight here at St Mary's and lots more set to come. This term we have welcomed Amiyah into our school in Woodpeckers Class.

We hope you and your family will enjoy your time with us at St Mary's.

As I write this newsletter, Kestrels and Eagles have travelled to Exeter to watch the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra play. They have been learning some songs and actions to accompany parts of the performance, and it is set to be a brilliant chance to hear an orchestra play live whilst being fun and interactive for them. I can't wait to hear about it on their return! Thank you to the staff involved for accompanying the children to this and for Mrs Gibbs for coordinating this.

Earlier this week, 5 children from KS2 - Neiva, Olivia, Rhys, Jacob and Leo travelled to Paignton for the finals of the Devon Boccia festival after qualifying at the East Devon rounds before Christmas. We are pleased to announce they were awarded a fantastic 2nd place and received their own individual silver medals alongside certificates and a trophy for the school. A huge well done to them all for showing such sporting behaviours and trying this fun new sport. We look forward to them teaching the rest of the school to play. Thank you to Mrs Walters for traveling with the children and Mrs Burrough for organising this.

Our new after school cubs are now underway and it has been great to see the new Kickboxing club in action. The children are enjoying learning this new sport and completing the sessions with smiles on their faces. We still require some KS2 girls for the football sessions, so please let the office or Mrs Burrough know if your daughter would be interested.

Next week, classes will begin to be taught our new 'Happy Minds' programme for PSHE. We will be running a launch assembly on Monday morning for the children and a Parents Information session on Monday 3rd February at 2.45pm. Please come along to find out more. Letters will also come home via Parentmail with details of how to access the parents app. This is an exciting new programme which will help children to develop their emotional literacy, mental health and positive relationships both in school and out of school.

You will see from the class news that there has been lots going on across all the classes and the children have been super busy. Visits to the Axminster library, the Flamingo Pool and our parish church have been taking place, and there is lots more to come.

Finally, please can we remind you of the uniform expectations as we have noticed standards of uniform have begun to dwindle. We expect all our children to be dressed in a full school uniform of PE kit and not a combination of both. Please see the uniform list below and ensure your child is wearing the correct items. We will be reminding children and parents of our expectations and letting you know via Dojo or a telephone call/letter if we notice your child does not have the correct uniform or PE kit. All school uniforms are available from Honiton Sports Shop. They stock everything that you will need and can be contacted on 01404 42100.

## School Uniform Expectations

Navy polo-shirt with gold embroidered school logo

Grey trousers, grey shorts, navy blue skirt or pinafore

Black, white or navy socks or navy blue tights  
Black school shoes (not trainers or boots)

Navy blue school pullover or cardigan with gold embroidered school logo.

**Summer term** - Navy and white school summer dress

\*\*Please note- School shirts and ties are still an option if you wish, but no longer necessary.

## P.E. Kit Expectations

Navy t-shirt with school logo

**Navy blue** shorts, skorts, jogging bottoms or leggings

Trainers (outdoor P.E.) or plimsolls (indoor P.E.)

## PE Kit is worn to school on PE days.

Thank you for your cooperation with this and helping to keep our pupils looking smart.

God Bless

# Class News

In Robin Class this week, we have been enjoying learning about the Lunar New Year. In Drawing Club this week, we listened to the story of Nian the monster and enjoyed drawing and writing about Nian the monster, where he lived in the mountains and how we might be able to tame the monster. We also watched a video about celebrating the Lunar New Year and listened to a non-fiction book about Chinese New Year. In explore and learn some of the children chose to make lanterns and dancing dragons. We all made lion masks and learnt a lion dance. We also listened to the story, The Magic Paintbrush by Julia Donaldson and we learnt how to paint some characters in Mandarin. What a fabulous week!

This week in Woodpecker class the children have been skipping! It has been so lovely seeing them all out at break and lunch with their skipping ropes - what a great skill! We have been learning facts about Stegosaurus as part of our writing topic. The final piece will be children writing about an animal of their choice.

Show + Tell: Eva, Ryley and Sophie for show + tell on Thursday February the 6th.

Owls have shown great resilience over the last 2 weeks. They are enjoying the learning for each unit. In art, the children loved getting a messy with clay and creating amazing characters based on different poems. In science, they have explored the process of fossilisation. The children have come to the end of their English writing, where they have rewritten a classic tale, changing the characters into a range of animals, we can't wait to share these with you. Just a reminder that we will be going down to the library on Tuesday morning. Please could you ensure your child is in school by 8:45am, and that they have their library card and any unreturned books.

Over the last 2 weeks in Kestrels, we have all finished our own versions of 'Witty the waterdrop'. A particularly interesting story was when Witty ended up in a hot tub! We have now started our new book, which is a quest story, we have lots of ideas for our own stories already. In computing we are all creating podcasts using audio editing software. In science we have been looking at changing states of matter. In RE we have been looking at the corporal acts of mercy.

In Eagles, we have finished writing our stories based on the book Flotsam. They were very creative with each person imagining different pictures that were found on the camera. In History we are continuing our topic on WW2 and learnt about Operation Pied Piper (Evacuation) and the Blitz. In RE we have learnt about the Corporal Acts of Mercy and how they can be applied in everyday life.

## Ten:Ten Resources

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

[Parent Newsletter – Ten Ten Resources](#)

## SPORT

### Skipping Festival

On Tuesday the whole school took part in a skipping festival which was enjoyed by all the children. They learnt some new skills and since the festival it has been wonderful to see the children choosing to skip at playtimes and lunchtimes.

### Devon Boccia Finals

On Wednesday, we sent a team to the Devon Boccia finals in Paignton. Our St Mary's team competed really well and finished in second place which is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to Mrs Walters for accompanying the children to this event.

### Girls Football

We are still wanting some more girls from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 to take part in the Colyton Grammar Sports Partnership football coaching sessions in order to make a team on Tuesday 4th February, Tuesday 11th February and Tuesday 25th February from 4pm to 5pm. Please let the office know ASAP if your child would like to take part. They need shin pads and trainers. They are well run sessions and were enjoyed by all the girls last year.

## Sustainability update

At St Marys, we are trying to be more sustainable. Over the last couple of weeks children have been selected from each class to help other in their class (including the adults) be more sustainable. We had our first meeting, and the children have a lot of ideas about what we can do as a school.

The children are as follows:

Robins- Chloe and Rowan

Woodpeckers- Eva and Macy

Owls- Chloe and Anya

Kestrels- Emma and Elliot

Eagles- Zac and Artie

To make sure Mr Meech, Mrs Webber and Miss Braddock are being sustainable, we have Charlie from Kestrels.

## Diary Dates

**Monday 3rd February** - 2.45pm - Happy Minds Parents Information Session

**Friday 7th February** - Number Day - Dress in Digits

**Tuesday 11th February** - Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 12th March**- Sacramental Liturgy of Marriage - All welcome

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

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

**Wednesday 5th March** - Ash Wednesday Mass - 9.15am

**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

## Star of the Week

Robins- Arthur and Hugo

Woodpeckers- Gabriel and Nevin

Owls- Arthur C and Edyth

Kestrels- Alex and Avah

Eagles- Jacob and Neiva

Sports- Kestrels class and Sophie B

Music- Joshua R and Joshua H

### 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

### 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

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