

St Marys Catholic Primary School



Newsletter

January 17th 2025



Hello and Happy New Year!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school after the festive break and to see them quickly settle back into learning and their new topics for the term ahead.

We started the week this week with a mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany ably led by our GIFT team. Thank you to the families who joined us for this. It was wonderful to celebrate the Wise Men's arrival at the stable and God's gift of his son Jesus.

This week has been a busy one. Owls Class enjoyed a morning at Colyton Grammar school taking part in a gymnastics session. They enjoyed experiencing the use of the balance beams, trampettes, springboards and large crash mats. It was great to see all the gymnastics they have learnt at St Mary's being put into action on their equipment.

Eagles class had a wonderful and informative visit to Exeter Museum this week. They were exploring their WW2 workshops to support their learning on World War 2 in history this term. They had the opportunity to try on clothing from soldiers in WW2, go into an air raid shelter, explore rationing and making meals with rationed ingredients. They also learnt about evacuation, the blitz in Exeter and got to see the tail end of a bomb. It was a great day, with a train journey into Exeter and then back to Axminster at the end of the day. Thank you to Mrs Fudger, Miss Crouch, Mrs Pearse and Mr Meech who accompanied the children.

Our before and after school clubs have begun again this week. It has been great to see so many children uptake the wide range of activities on offer. Thank you to all the staff and Father Jacek who take the time to organise these extra activities for our children.

We still await the OFSTED report following our visit during the last week of term and we will share the details of this with you as soon as it becomes available, which will hopefully be in the next two weeks.

Just a reminder as we begin this new term, that our school day begins promptly at 8.45am and registers are taken at 8.50am. Children are marked as late if they are not in class when registers are taken and are marked as absent for the whole morning if they arrive after 9am. We thank all our families who are helping us to get our day started promptly.

Collection is at 3.30pm unless your child is attending an after-school club. We have already had several occurrences of children not being collected until 3.45pm or even later, causing the children involved anxiety as they wait for parents to arrive. Please let us know if you are running late for any reason so we can ensure your child is aware and supported until you arrive.

Finally, please ensure that all uniform, coats, bottles, lunch boxes, hats etc are named. We have a huge supply of lost property which is unnamed and unclaimed. Naming items helps us to ensure they are reunited with owners promptly.

Thank you for your ongoing support and don't forget to check out our school website, Facebook page and ClassDojo for regular updates of what we get up to!

God bless Claire Webber

PE class days

***Robin Class** – Monday & Wednesday

***Woodpecker Class** – Monday- Thursday

***Owl class** - Monday & Friday swimming

***Kestrel class** - Wednesday & Thursday

***Eagle class** – Wednesday & Thursday

Ten:Ten Resources

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

[Parent Newsletter – Ten](#)

Dates for your diary

January

21st- WP Library visit

28th- Skipping festival

28th- Robin Library Visit

February

4th- Owls library visit

11th Sacramental Liturgy

9am all welcome

14th- Last day of term

Class News

In our RE this week we learnt that the wise men brought gifts to baby Jesus. We listened to, 'The Story of the Three Wise Kings' by Tomie De Paola. After Robin Class received a gift from Mrs Burrough, (Three Wise Men play mobile) the children thought about what gifts Jesus would like as a gift from us. We learnt that Jesus loves us very much and wants us to love and care for each other. We learnt that when we do something kind for someone else, it is the same as if we have done it for Him. This means that if we want to give Jesus a gift, we can do this by doing something kind for other people. We thought about kind things we can do at home and at school for other people. We drew a picture of our act of kindness, wrote a label to whom we were kind. As well as this, we made our own wrapping paper to wrap our gift. We put our gift in a box, wrapped it with our wrapping paper, and put the label on it.

This week in Woodpecker class we have been learning about the Great Fire of London. The children were History detectives, and they looked at clues as to how the fire started, when it started and how it started. In English we have started our new text - a non-fiction text called, 'Could a penguin ride a bike?' The children will work towards writing a fact page or pages of their own.

Show and Tell: Thursday 23rd January is our next Show and Tell day. Please may Joshua, Sebastian and Violet bring in something to share with their classmates.

Well done Owls for an amazing start to the new term. The children have been busy starting our new topics for learning which include Significant Individuals in history, Rocks in science, drawing and making characters in art. The children absolutely loved their first swimming session, and it was great to see so many fantastic swimmers! A highlight so far has been how enthusiastic the children were yesterday at the gymnastics festival at Colyton Grammar School. The children showed all our St Mary's values as they listened respectfully and waiting patiently for their go on all the different stations.

These last 2 weeks Kestrels have been exploring the water cycle through the book 'Witty waterdrop' and in their science lessons. In computing they have been learning how to record audio, and we will soon learn how to edit these. In maths we have all been looking at multiplying and dividing using formal written methods. In dance we have been exploring 'dance by chance' and creating dances using random formulas. In RE we have been looking at miracles.

Eagles had a fantastic visit to Exeter Museum on Thursday. They sat inside an air raid shelter and listened to a recording of what it was like in an air raid and peoples memories of the event. They tried on clothes from the home guard, ARP and land army as well as finding out about rationing. In class we have been finding out about the lives of women during the second world war and they shared this knowledge confidently with the museum staff. In school, in science we have been finding out about the life cycle of mammals and in computing we are working towards creating our own webpage.

ART

Now in its seventh year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–18 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Registration and submission is open until 5 March 2025. Please speak to your teacher if you are interested in submitting your artwork. Poster is attached to newsletter.

Star of the Week

Robins-	Fenton & Betsy
Woodpeckers-	Thomas & Eileen
Owls-	Joshua & George
Kestrels-	Evie & Elliot
Eagles-	Zac & Whole Class
Music-	Woodpeckers & Kestrels Class
Sports-	Ashley
Head Teacher-	Ezra V, Jenson & Theo K (woodpeckers)

Homework

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

Robin

Please encourage reading and remember to write your comments in their learning journals

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 Responsible Caring Value each other	Aim high. Have a go Curious 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