



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 4 - Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This November we have seen a high number of children and staff unwell with flu like symptoms. I have reached out to the south west health protection team to ensure that we are following the appropriate advice. Thank you to everyone for ensuring that if your child has a high temperature they stay at home until they are better. Your child can be in school if they have mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough and are otherwise well. The NHS site '[Is my child too ill for school](#)' can be reached [here](#) which you may find helpful, to know when to send a child in and when to keep at home. Our school website also has some helpful advice [here](#). In school we are encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene, such as hand washing and we are maintaining robust cleaning practices and paying attention to frequently touched areas. My hope is that everyone will be in better health to enjoy the festivities of December!

This week is **Parliament week** and we have been thinking about the work of those that work in Parliament and understanding our British Values better. Members of our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) had an online meeting this week with Mrs Samuel and Edward Morello MP for West Dorset. He was keen to listen to the children about their ideas of how Bridport could be even better.

Next week is the beginning of December, which is the start of **Advent** and a very exciting time for many! In school we will be preparing for Christmas with decorations, singing and performances. The PTA Christmas Fayre is after school on **Friday 12th December** so please add the date to your diary and we hope you can all stay to enjoy the fun. Our worship advent theme is 'The Joy of Christmas' and below are some ideas for you to use at home. Next week on Wednesday is Bridport Christmas Cheer and our choir will be singing. I hope to see you there!

Katharine Anstey

Key Dates for this term

Tuesday 9th December - Non school Uniform day - for PTA Fayre and Flourish Christmas for KS2

Friday 12th December 3.15pm - PTA Christmas Fayre- All welcome

Monday 15th Dec 9.30am - Reception Nativity St Mary's school

Tuesday 16th December 9.30am - Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance St Mary's school

Tuesday 16th December 1.30pm - Year 3,4,5 and 6 Christmas Performance at St Mary's church

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Jumper Day *please note change of date*

Last day of term - Thursday 18th December - School closes at 3:15pm - No after school clubs

Friday 19th December and Monday 5th January - Inset day - No children in school

Tuesday 6th January 2026 - First day of term of Spring Term for children

BUILDING A CARING COMMUNITY WHERE ALL CAN LEARN AND SHINE

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Attendance

Everyday, Every lesson

This week our attendance is...

Reception - 90.6%

Year 1 - 63.33%

Year 2 - 66.21%

Year 3 - 76.21%

Year 4 - 73.21%

Year 5 - 65.88%

Year 6 - 63.85%

Whole School - 71.57%

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please come and talk to us about support we can provide.



Safeguarding

Our safeguarding team is Mrs Anstey, Mrs Samuel, Ms Barnett and Mrs Gerrard.

We work closely with families and professionals providing support when it may be needed. If you have concerns around the welfare of a child, you can also call Family Support and Advice Line on 01305 228558



led with
Star club



Star Club took part in a Flourish event on Thursday, connecting online with other schools in Salisbury Diocese and nationally. We heard about what other Church schools do to celebrate their vision and values and spent some time exploring messages in the bible. St Mary's Star Club children in Yr 4, 5 and 6 shared how we led the Harvest celebrations in church. Our next Flourish event is Christmas and planning takes place next week.

There are 2 Flourish events each term, one after school where families are invited into school at the end of the day to join in with activities, games and family fun. The other Flourish event is during the school day for all children to take part in.

Please see the poster below with the dates of the events for the year.

Could your child be eligible for free school meals?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll also qualify for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. Food vouchers may also be available through the Household Support Fund.

Click [here](#) to complete a simple check to find out more.

Would you like to be involved in the Governance work of our school?

Come and support the school by joining our local school committee.

A letter has been sent to all families inviting applications from parents. If you want to know more please talk to Mrs Anstey on the gate or call the school to speak to the Chair of the LSC, Sally Walton or Mrs Anstey.

Did your child miss out on the Flu vaccination?

We have been advised that our school is below the national uptake target for the Flu Campaign.

Please can parents be advised of the following clinics that we will be hosting in January:

Dorchester Cricket Club 05/01/2026 14:30 – 17:00

Kings Park Hospital 05/01/2026 15:00 – 17:00

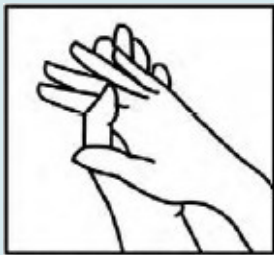
Canford Heath Clinic 06/01/2026 15:00 – 17:00

Sherborne Scout Hut 08/01/2026 14:30 – 17:00

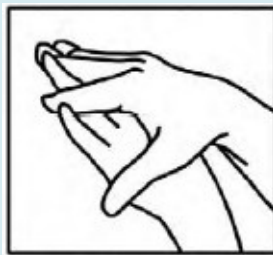
They will need to contact the Team on either 01425 891162 or dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net to book an appointment.

The vaccine is the best defence we have against flu, protecting children, families, staff, and the wider community from preventable diseases.

Remember to wash your hands regularly The six steps of hand washing



Palm to palm



The back of the hands



In between the fingers



The back of the fingers



The thumbs



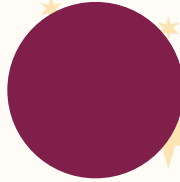
The tips of the fingers

Some suggestions for how pupils can take what they have been learning in school

ABOUT THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS into the home setting.



...**AT HOME**



GRATITUDE & HOPE JOURNAL

TRY WRITING IN A LITTLE JOURNAL EACH DAY!

- WRITE THREE THINGS THAT MADE YOU SMILE OR THAT YOU'RE THANKFUL FOR.
- THEN WRITE ONE THING YOU'RE HOPING FOR—LIKE SOMETHING FUN, KIND, OR EXCITING.

IF YOU LIKE, YOU CAN TURN YOUR WRITING INTO A LITTLE PRAYER TO SAY OUT LOUD OR IN YOUR HEART.

SHARING JOY

CREATE A POEM, STORY, DRAMA, DANCE THAT YOU CAN PERFORM FOR YOUR FAMILY, THAT SHARES ABOUT THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS.

HOPE BOXES

CREATE A HOPE BOX WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOUR OR A LOCAL CARE HOME, FILLED WITH THINGS THAT MIGHT BRING THEM JOY. THIS MIGHT BE WITH THINGS THAT YOU MAKE AND DOESN'T HAVE TO BE EXPENSIVE. EVEN A SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS, LIKE A HOME MADE CHRISTMAS CARD CAN BRING A LITTLE BIT OF HOPE!

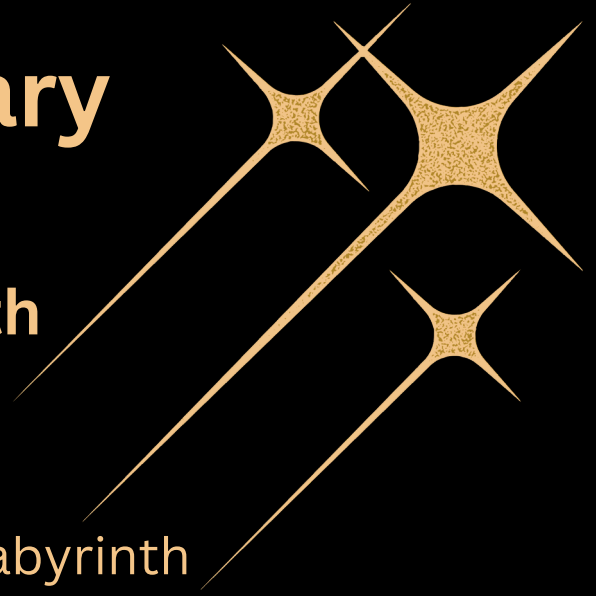
SAY THANK YOU TO SOMEONE

CAN YOU THINK OF SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY YOU'D LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO? IT COULD BE AN AUNT, UNCLE, GRANDPARENT, OR SOMEONE YOU DON'T SEE VERY OFTEN. YOU COULD:

- MAKE A CHRISTMAS CARD
- DRAW A PICTURE
- SEND A VOICE MESSAGE JUST TO LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE THINKING OF THEM!

Dates for your diary

St Mary's School
Family Flourish and Labyrinth
led with Star Club



9th December KS2 Labyrinth
in school and St Marys Church. Families welcome
to visit the displays in Church afterwards.

5th February Family Flourish 'Light up your life'.
Games, food, stories in the school hall, ends by
4.30pm

19th March KS2 Labyrinth, Easter Experience.

30th April Family Flourish Games, food, stories in
the school hall, ends by 4.30pm

Date tba Summer labyrinth celebration.

St Mary's Primary School PTA

Friday 12th December • 3.15 - 5pm

Christmas Fayre & Grand Raffle

Join Us
for
**Festive
FUN**

Father
Christmas!
Will be visiting each
class throughout
the day

Bottle Tombola

Festive Refreshments

Tombola

Christmas Themed Games

Jolly Jars

Secrets Room

& many more stalls

In the Secrets Room children can buy presents and have them wrapped to keep them a secret until Christmas Day!

Stay for our Grand Raffle Draw taking place at 4:00pm
to see if you have won £50 cash first prize!



St Mary's, Bridport: Newsletter Autumn Term

The first half of the Autumn Term saw the Year 4 class attending Forest School sessions with the new leader, Mr Derrick.

The Y4's helped develop the site: we collected and disposed of litter, and used loppers to chop and sort some of the loose branches, producing fantastic den building material. Having learnt how to safely engage with a campfire, the class thoroughly enjoyed the marshmallows and toffee apple slices we toasted during our campfire session, despite being rained on quite heavily!

The Year 2 class are taking to Forest School commendably, already having discovered a range of marvellous minibeasts and built shelters with tarpaulins and cords to survive the storm (a.k.a. watering can)!

This week we learnt to use loppers and built stick sculptures.

As we head into winter and the weather changes, it's particularly important that all participants are dressed appropriately. Please see the next page for some guidance on how to stay warm and dry.



www.primary-forest-school.co.uk/bookings

EXPLORE LEARN GROW



Dressing for Winter Outdoor Education



Base Layer

THE LAYER CLOSEST TO YOUR SKIN. YOU CAN WEAR TIGHTS, LONG - UNDERWEAR, OR A LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT.



Warm Layer

THIS IS THE LAYER THAT YOU CAN ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY TO ADD WARMTH. YOU CAN WEAR SWEATERS, SWEATSHIRTS, FLEECE. DON'T FORGET WARM SOCKS.



Outer Layer

THIS IS THE LAYER THAT PROTECTS YOU FROM THE WIND AND SNOW. YOU CAN WEAR YOUR SKI PANTS, WINTER JACKET, AND WARM BOOTS.



All the Extras

YOU WILL NEED A SCARF OR NECK WARMER, TOQUE, AND MITTENS TO KEEP YOUR SKIN PROTECTED FROM THE WIND AND FROST BITE.



STARTING SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2026



IS YOUR 3 OR 4 YEAR OLD STARTING
SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026?

Welcome to St Mary's CE Primary
School Bridport!

Find out more about our school by
visiting our Website;

stmarybridport.co.uk

Please enquire if you are interested in a
School Tour.



*Building a caring community, where
all can learn and shine!*

Enquire now by contacting the School Office :

01308 423065 / office@stmaryscephprimary.org

