



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 8- Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term 2026! It has been wonderful to see the children return back to school so enthusiastically. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new teachers. Mrs Norton, who joins us to teach Year 1 and Miss Begum who is teaching Year 4. They have both commented on what a brilliant start the children have made and how excited they are to join our team.

On our Inset day on 5th January all staff received phonics training from our new scheme 'Unlocking letters and sounds'. This was an excellent day that provided a refresh for all staff on how we teach phonics, how to use our new resources and the strategies we will use to support children to catch up when needed. Thank you to those who were able to attend our information event on Wednesday. We know this was very short notice so please see details below of a chance to come into the classroom to see your child learning phonics. We look forward to seeing our reception parents and carers on Wednesday morning for an information workshop on how we teach phonics and early reading.

Have a lovely weekend,

Katharine Anstey

Key Dates for this term

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Parents of Reception Phonics Workshop 9am

Monday 19th January 2026 Yr 6 Trip to Sir John Colfox to see 'Annie'

Tuesday 27th January 2026 9:30-11:30 - Year 4 Local Tree Workshop

Wednesday 28th January 2026 - Parents of Years 1 & 2 Phonics Workshop 3pm

Thursday 5th February 2026 KS2 Panto Jack and the Beanstalk

Tuesday & Wednesday 10-11th February 2026 - Parent Consultation Meetings

Friday 13th February End of Spring 1

Monday 16th-20th February Half Term - No children in school

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Staff Training Day No children in school

Tuesday 23rd February 2026 - Children return to school

Thursday 5th March 2026 - PTA School Discos

Friday 27th March 2026 End of Term 3.15pm Finish

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Attendance

Everyday, Every lesson

This week our attendance is...

Reception - 94.67%

Year 1 - 93.05%

Year 2 - 94.64%

Year 3 - 97.13%

Year 4 - 95%

Year 5 - 98%

Year 6 - 99.23%

Whole School - 95.98%



Thank you for working with us to ensure that your child attends school every day.



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



Reception **Wednesday 21st January 9am**

We invite you to a phonics workshop with Mrs Geldard to learn more about how to support your child with phonics and early reading. Refreshments available!



Year 1 and 2 - **Wednesday 28th January 3pm**

We invite parents and carers into your child's classroom to see them learning phonics and then enjoy their phonic book with you. Biscuits will be available!



This week at St Mary's

Reception, Year 1 and 2

Reception have been learning some traditional tales. They have loved hearing different versions of Jack and the beanstalk.

Year 1 have been learning phonics with our new unlocking letters and sounds scheme. They are loving the new resources and books!

Year 2 have been learning to count money and use different coins to make the same amount. They are doing brilliantly at knowing the amount of each coin!

Year 3 have started reading The Iron Giant and thought about the descriptive words from the story that they can use.

Year 4, 5 and 6

Year 4 have been showing Miss Begum what incredible writers they are including features of a recount. A fantastic start to the year with your new teacher!

Year 5 have been learning to include descriptive language based on their knowledge of the Beowulf story.

Year 6 have been learning about ratio. This is a new mathematical concept for yr 6. Keep up the excellent work.

Congratulations Yr 6 on having the best attendance in the school this week. 99%! Amazing!



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.



**Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime on
Thursday 5th February 2026!**

To secure a space for your child, please book through Trips in your Arbor portal with payment.

Please collect your child from the Electric Palace at approximately 4pm, we will confirm this nearer the time.

Refreshments will be available during the interval, please send £3 the morning of the pantomime to cover the cost of this.

Ofsted
Registered

PR MARY

FOREST SCHOOL &
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

FEBRUARY HALF TERM
HOLIDAY CLUBS

BRIDPORT • CHRISTCHURCH • TAUNTON • WEYMOUTH

Bushcraft
Mud Kitchens
Nature Crafts
Firelighting
Campfires
And so much more!

TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
9.00 - 15.30
8.30 - 15.30
8.30 - 17.30
FROM £28.60
PER DAY



Den Building!



Making Friends!

www.primary-forest-school.co.uk



We're looking forward to seeing everyone for our first
Messy Church after the Christmas break
Thursday, 22nd January from 3.30pm

Come along and join us to make a
Christingle and share a meal and a mess!



Bridport United Church
East Street

