



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 9- Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been quite an eventful couple of weeks! Thank you for your understanding this week as we have managed the weather and decisions around closing or keeping the school open. These are very difficult decisions and although we try and make decisions and provide as much notice as possible sometimes this is not possible.

Recently we have held parent information workshops about our new phonics scheme, **Unlocking letters and Sounds** with Reception, Year 1 and year 2 families. These were brilliantly attended and a chance for parents to see class teachers in action teaching phonics. The children are loving the new resources and books and making excellent progress. Thank you for reading regularly with your child so that they can increase their fluency and confidence. It really makes a huge difference!

With **World Book Day** fast approaching on the 5th March, we have decided that this year children can dress up if they wish, as well as enjoying reading fun in school. We do not expect families to buy costumes at great expense so we will be sending out some ideas shortly of ways we can recycle costumes and share some easy dressing up ideas. Watch this space!

Parent consultation booking will go live on Monday 2nd February at 6pm. We look forward to welcoming you in school to meet with your child's teacher the week before half term.

I have my fingers crossed that the rain eases a little over the weekend so we can all get out and about. Have a lovely weekend,

Katharine Anstey

Key Dates for this term

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 -World Book day and PTA School Discos

Tuesday 24th March 2026 - Easter service in St Mary's Church - whole school and parents welcome

Friday 27th March 2026 End of Term 3.15pm Finish

Monday 13th April 2026 Staff Training Day - No Children in school

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 - **97.14%**

Year 1 - **97.79%**

Year 2 - **97.95%**

Year 3 - 96.43%

Year 4 - **97.25%**

Year 5 - 96.65%

Year 6 - 93.96%

Whole School - 96.75%



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



Home - School Communication

The majority of our school communication will come to parents via email from Arbor. This includes letters or messages to the whole school. This is to ensure a single message to everyone is sent and received at the same time.

Communication to individual classes from class teachers will come via Dojo. This may include class specific messages, photos to celebrate events and reminders.

In the case of an emergency closure in future we will also send a text message to advise you that we have sent an email with important information.

Thank you for your understanding.



This week at St Mary's

- Reception** have been practising their number bonds this week and are getting really good at remembering the different totals.
- Year 1** are blowing us away with their incredible reading and phonics! Keep reading!
- Year 2** have been learning about why people visit the seaside and when the weather is better I know they will visit the seaside!
- Year 3** have talked a lot about how much they are enjoying learning Spanish. This week they have been practising numbers up to 30.
- Year 4** have been learning about the parts of the digestive system and its function. What a long way food has to go!
- Year 5** have been practising using their multiplication and division calculations to solve problems.
- Year 6** have loved their Frozen Kingdom learning this week with a focus on the expedition of Robert Falcon Scott.

Attendance

Congratulations Reception, Yr 1 , Yr 2 and Yr 4 on having the best attendance in the school this week. 97%! Amazing!

Cross Country run

Well done to the children in Year 3,4,5 and 6 who were selected to join the cross county run event at Beaminster yesterday. They all joined in with great enthusiasm and effort despite the mud!

Annie Performance at Sir John Colfox

Last week year 6 went to Colfox to enjoy a fantastic performance of Annie. Well done to the students at Colfox for a stunning performance!

JLT

This term our very enthusiastic Junior Leadership Team yr 1-6 have started working together on the Archbishop Youth Leadership award. This is a programme that develops leadership skills with a focus on action that we can take in our local community to make a difference.



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.

Medicines in school

Please can all medicines be brought to the school office to ensure they are stored appropriately and the correct paper work is completed.



**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.

Coppet Hill

Nature Photography Walk & Workshop

with Kirsty Paterson



Saturday,
28th February
at 7.30am
at Coppet Hill



TICKETS: WWW.COPPETHILL.CO.UK



Coppet Hill

Nest Box Building at Coppet Hill

FRIDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY
2-5PM

THE PURCOMBE BARN
COPPETHILL,
DT6 6RL

Join us for a hands-on Nest
Box Building Workshop!
Build and personalise your
own bird box and enjoy hot
drinks and cake

TICKETS £6 + £10 PER BOX

WWW.COPPETHILL.CO.UK



Ofsted
Registered

PRIMARY

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



www.primary-forest-school.co.uk

