



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 10- Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at February half term and what a busy time we have had! Despite the weather being very wet, we have been involved in many different local activities such as our Yr 6 seeing the Colfox performance of Annie, KS2 loving the Panto Jack and the Beanstalk and a KS2 Cross country run event.

This spring term we have also seen **fantastic progress in children learning**. We are so proud of how children are demonstrating the skills and understanding of their year group curriculum and we have seen the amazing progress in the assessments that have been taking place. It has been an absolute delight to have seen you at parent consultation meetings this week and for us to celebrate the achievements of your child. Thank you for attending those meetings and if you were not able to attend please get in touch with your child's teacher to rearrange.

Our amazing **Edible garden team** are looking for some more volunteers. The team do an incredible job every Wednesday afternoon of developing the area and in addition this year they have secured funding which has been used to provide an enrichment experience for every class in the school. See details below if you would like to get involved.

Next half term is only 5 weeks and we have a lot to pack in! There is **World Book day** on 5th March and the **PTA Disco** on the same day. There will be visitors coming into school to run workshops, year groups going on trips and sporting events taking place. Don't forget to put the Easter Service date in your diary at St Mary's Church, during the last week.

Staffing update

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to some staff. Teaching assistant Miss Kavanagh leaves at half term and Ms March in early March. Both have secured new roles. Sam, who is gifted to us through Youth for Christ will not longer be visiting St Mary's each Wednesday, as the funding that has supported this piece of work has now come to an end. I would like thank these colleagues for the support they have given the children and staff at St Mary's and wish them every success for the future.

I am sure we are all hoping for some sunshine and dry weather over half term, so we can get out and about. I have my fingers crossed!

Katharine Anstey

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 - 87.67%

Year 1 - 92.69%

Year 2 - 97.59%

Year 3 - 92.09%

Year 4 - 95.38%

Year 5 - 92%

Year 6 - 86.92%

Whole School - 92.05%



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



Key Dates for this term

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 24rd February 2026 - Children return to school

Friday 27th February 2026 Year 4 Dance festival

Thursday 5th March 2026 - World Book day and PTA School Discos

Friday 20th March 2026 - St Mary's has got talent! More details to follow

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

Friday 27th March Easter Labyrinth Event in School - Children only

Friday 27th March 2026 End of Term 3.15pm Finish

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



This week at St Mary's

Reception have been using the outside equipment to improve their balance and coordination. They are really enjoying the bicycles....even in the puddles!

Year 1 have made a fantastic cup and ball toy and evaluated it to think about what they liked and what would make it better. Their reflections were very thoughtful.

Year 2 have been learning the multiplication and division facts for the 2,5 and 10 times tables. Keep up the great work - they are getting really quick!

Year 3 have produced the most beautiful landscapes pictures using pastels to create atmospheric perspective. They are absolutely beautiful and on display outside yr 3. Well done!

Year 4 have loved their Ancient Egyptians topic and have learnt about the games that were played and written their names in hieroglyphics. Amazing!

Year 5 have been researching the Mayans and have found some incredible facts .

Year 6 have learnt about micro organisms and have been investigating how mould develops on food. I am sure they will be keeping an eye on food at home during half term!

Attendance

Congratulations Yr 2 on having the best attendance in the school this week. 97%! 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.

Parking in school car park

The car park in school is for staff only. This is shared with the family Hub. Only families with an agreed pass from school should be using car park.

Recently many parents are dropping off and picking up in the car park with engines left running or parking in front of other cars. We kindly ask that this stops and parents use the car park next to the KS2 gate for all other drop off and pick ups.

Your understanding to keep the school car park area safe for our children is much appreciated.

**St. Mary's school Bridport Edible Garden
Join our Growing Community!**

**Follow us on Facebook:
St. Mary's school Bridport Edible Garden
Volunteer with Us
Even just an hour a week makes a difference!**

- **Enjoy light gardening tasks**
- **Support our kids' garden groups**
- **Be part of a friendly, green community**
- **Learn new gardening skills**

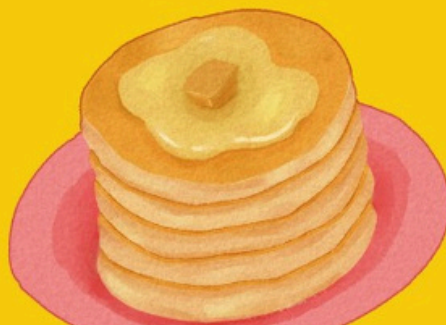
**Interested?
Contact us today!
sarahawilberforce@gmail.com
We'd love to hear from you.**



*For children up to 11 years,
with their adult carers.
Songs, Bible stories, craft activities,
a meal and a mess
Come and join in!
Thursday 3.30 - 5.30
4th Thursday of the month*

**Come along to Messy Church on Thursday,
26th February 2026**

**We will be thinking about Lent and enjoying
some pancakes together!**



Half term Art project at home

Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show

If you have some time over half term maybe you would like to submit an entry to the Royal Academy of Art's Young Artists' Summer Show. St Mary's is a registered school and parents can submit an entry online by 4th March.

There is no theme - it is free - click [here](#) for frequently asked questions
Good Luck!



The poster features a green and yellow background with a pattern of blue dots. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with clear headings and bullet points.

Young Artists' Summer Show 2026

The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–18 living and studying in the UK.

Students can submit one artwork for consideration which will be judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals. Selected artworks will be displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts either onsite or online. The RA will award prizes for inspiring artworks.

How to enter

From 5 January 2026, teachers will be able to register their school. Next, teachers and parents/guardians can submit artworks via the RA website until 4 March 2026.

Important dates

- 5 January–4 March 2026**
Registration and submission open
- May 2026**
Judging
- 14 July 2026**
Online exhibition opens
- 14 July–30 August 2026**
Display at the RA open

Sign up and find out more
roy.ac/youngartists
[@royalacademyarts](https://twitter.com/royalacademyarts)

Made possible by Robin Hambro

RA Royal Academy of Arts



WEST BAY DISCOVERY CENTRE HALF-TERM FUN!

Sat 14th Feb - Sun 22th Feb
11am-4pm
Free entry, Donations welcome

Come and join the fun :

- West Bay love postcards
- St Valentines crafts



www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk



Coppet Hill

Nest Box Building at Coppet Hill

FRIDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY

2-5PM

THE PURCOMBE BARN
COPPET HILL,
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.COPPEHILL.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



Den Building!



Making Friends!

www.primary-forest-school.co.uk



February Half Term activities

14th - 21st February, (Tues-Sat) 10am to 4pm

Free arts and crafts activity!

Saturday - 14th Make your own Valentine's Card (10am - 1pm)

Wednesday 18th & Saturday 21st - Make your own Jigsaw Puzzle (10am - 1pm)

or why not try your hand at making rope!

Kids go FREE

(Adults £5 for 12 months of unlimited visits)

Bridport
Museum



@bridport_museum

Registered Charity 1090327

St Mary's, Bridport: Newsletter Spring Term

While January's wind and rain bring extra challenges to Forest School, they also provides many benefits: learning our own personal boundaries of safety and comfort, recognising the power of the changing seasons, and, perhaps most importantly, lots of mud!

This article describes the potential benefits children stand to gain from interaction with the biodiversity found in mud:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/29/soil-sandpit-children-dirty-biodiversity-finnish-nurseries-research-microbes-bacteria-aoe>

The children of Year 3 learnt how to use a palm drill to make their own wooden medallions, which we used to explore the idea of identity.

Despite having very cold fingers, they also learnt how to tie a reef knot while building their own shelters with tarpaulins and cords. We tried to take the edge off the cold with a bucket of stones in hot water - natural hand warmers!



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.





Family film club

2ND SATURDAY EACH MONTH
10TH JANUARY
14TH FEBRUARY
14TH MARCH
11TH APRIL

£1 a family for popcorn and drinks

DOORS OPEN 9.40AM
FILM STARTS AT 10AM

BEACON CHURCH
PRIORY LANE
DT6 3RW

Please email seb@beaconchurchbridport.co.uk
for film details



Half-term Cook-up

Pizza making

FREE

for all the family

Thursday 19th February 3.30-6pm

at Bridport Youth and Community Centre, Gundry Lane, DT6 3RL

All ages, cultures and backgrounds coming together to;

- enjoy preparing food and eating together*
- have your say with how the Cook-up project develops
- get involved in a community project
- have fun!



**PLUS
Arts and
crafts!**

**Drop in, or stay
for the whole time.
No need to bring anything.
Everyone Welcome!**

FREE (donations welcomed) All welcome!

*Let us know your dietary needs and we will try to cater for them

To arrange free transport to the Cook-up or for more information
please contact Kate or Eileen rippleworkshop.cic@gmail.com
07903 279713

Facebook @rippleworkshop
www.rippleworkshop.org



**Dorset
Council**

