



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY

NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 12 - March 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful end to a busy half term we have had. This week has been an incredibly joyous week. Thank you to everyone who was able to join our **Easter service** in St Mary's church on Tuesday. I know you will agree with me that the service was a wonderful celebration of Spring and Easter joy. The children's poetry and singing performances were passionate, energetic and a truly uplifting.

Yesterday was an equally exciting day with our **St Mary's Has Got Talent** afternoon. The buzz and excitement of being part of a performance or enjoying the show was fantastic (including Mr Gawen in his gold jacket!). The show displayed the incredible talents of our St Mary's children with singing, dancing, magic tricks, puppet shows, gymnastics and so much more! Well done to everyone who took part and made the show such a success.

Today we have enjoyed the St Mary's Church Flourish team working with us to deliver the '**Easter in a box**' labyrinth event in school. This creative, hands on experience has given children the time to think and share their responses to the message of joy, hope and love. I am sure the children will enjoy sharing what happened with you at home.

Attendance - As you know this is a priority for all schools and I would like to thank you for your support to ensure that children are in school every day, on time and holidays are not taken during the school term. Due to our November flu illness our whole school attendance is slightly below national average, however we are steadily improving and your support over the summer term will ensure that we reach our DFE target attendance of 95.8%.

There are many preparations underway for next term, so please make a note of the key dates below. We especially need support for the PTA Summer Fayre. Even if you can only spare a small amount of time please contact the PTA team to offer your help.

Wishing everyone a happy, fun and family filled break,

Katharine Anstey

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Attendance

Everyday, Every lesson

This week our attendance is...

Reception - 98%

Year 1 - 91.2%

Year 2 - 96.33%

Year 3 - 96.79%

Year 4 - 92.69%

Year 5 - 97.59%

Year 6 - 90%

Whole School - 94.85%



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

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

Thursday 16th April - Year 4 Theatre Workshop

Tuesday 21st April - KS1 Multiskills Festival at Colfox

Friday 24th April - NHS Reception Measurements

Monday 27th April - Year 5 Bikeability Course Level 1

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 28/29/30th - Year 5 Bikeability Course Level 2

W/c 11th May - Yr 6 SATS week

Thursday 21st May - School Disco TBC

Friday 22nd May - School finishes for Half Term

Monday 1st June - Children return to school

Thursday 18th June - Sports Day

Wednesday 24th June - 'St. Mary's Children's Food and Water Fair'. 3.15-5pm

Wednesday 22nd July - Last day of term 3.15pm finish



This week at St Mary's...

Reception have been learning about odd and even numbers and doubling numbers. Can you double all the numbers up to 10?

Year 1 have been learning to estimate amounts. Great thinking skills!

Year 2 have been learning about fractions in particular halves and quarters of shapes and amounts.

Year 3 have learnt about Volcanoes around the world. Do we have Volcanoes in this country?

Year 4 have been learning about fractions and converting mixed numbers to improper fractions.

Year 5 have been using their knowledge of coordinates and understanding the lines of longitude and latitude

Year 6 have been learning about angles, along a straight line and missing angles

Attendance

Congratulations Reception and Year 6 Amazing attendance of 98%!





A message from the Edible Garden Team!

Dear Supporter

The St. Mary's Children's Food and Water Fair this year is on Wednesday 24th June in the school garden, held straight after school 3.00 – 5.00 but also setting up in the morning or afternoon (but not from 12 – 1.00). This year it will continue be based on an international project with Arts Based learning, about Seeds of Hope <https://unesco.org.uk/projects/associated-schools-network> .

I am writing on behalf of the Edible Garden group at St. Mary's school. Home in Bridport, Opera Circus and Sustainable Bridport are supporting this annual fair through funding from both Ernest Hecht and Dorset West LAG.

The school is very close to the river Brit and near to the river basin's ending in the sea at West Bay. We have known for some time we needed to adapt to extreme rainfall. In 2025 we Installed a large pond and French trench with the help of Daryl Chambers and the BTC; this was to mitigate the Brit river breaching it's banks and possibly flooding our Edible Garden beds and polytunnels; it was also for wildlife, which we have been advised will rapidly be colonised if set up right - this happens with pond water, surrounding reeds, stones, sand, gravel and a dead hedge. The garden team are now building this with experts at hand. We will soon buddy the space with nature. It will be a habitat to encourage invertebrates, amphibians and mammals into our school grounds.

During storm Chandra, in January, the river did burst its banks, flooded the football pitch and poured into the school's two poly tunnels and beds. Food plants had to be destroyed but it has all recovered. Thank goodness we had some defences and a marvellous new natural resource for the children too.

At our well-known Food Fair this year everything will focus on this water project including kids working with a visiting scientist, creations done with Arts based learning at Tamerisk farm and the following the exciting new National Curriculum covering nature, biodiversity, environment and climate change. We hope to have Dorset Wildlife, Brit Valley basin and Natural Landscape represented. The Mayor, and Town Cryer will be invited. There will be a formal element when children will perform, and speeches given. We want this to be a special occasion as it is so important in allowing the Edible Garden to thrive.

Please let me know if you can come.

Do you want to have a stall representing our theme this year?

Are you one of our very kind Local food outlets or cooking groups that can give snacks?

A formal invitation will come nearer the time.



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.

Walking and cycling to school safety tips

Did you know...

Children who walk to school are healthier, fitter, and more independent and have a greater understanding of road safety skills and arrive at school more relaxed and ready to learn

With the weather getting better many families will want to take advantage of this and walk, cycle or scoot to school. Dorset council have some helpful advice for families. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Younger children should always be kept in the sight of adults.



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PRICES:

STANDARD DAY - £22

TIMES:

STANDARD - 8:30AM - 3:30PM

2026 Dates:

TUESDAY 7TH APRIL
WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL
THURSDAY 9TH APRIL
FRIDAY 10TH APRIL

SALWAY ASH PRIMARY SCHOOL
1 SILVERDALE
SALWAY ASH, BRIDPORT
DT6 5JE

BOOKING LINK - <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2026/04/07/salway-ash-holiday-camps-easter-holidays-2026>

More Information: james@primary-sports.co.uk / 07415293798

AFTER SCHOOL ART CLUB

MONDAYS
4 til 5.15pm

St Michael's
Bridport
DT6 3RR
for
5-11yo

it's
really
fun!

more info

www.oopswow.co.uk/events

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St Mary's, Bridport: Newsletter Spring 2

The Year 1 class got straight into Forest School this half term with an exploration of shapes in nature. Seeing the circles in the cross section of a cut branch and the triangles in a forked stick served as inspiration for the mazes and racetracks the class went on to make.

These young students also made admirable attempts at tying reef knots to aid their den building. The results held up well in the strong spring winds!

We also searched for minibeasts (worms being by far the most abundant creature), played games (the favourite being Sharkie Sharkie/Cross The River) and had a great campfire, during which we learnt how to behave safely around fire (as well as enjoying some snacks)!

Some small groups of students built a "dead hedge" in the Forest School area during their lunch breaks. In so doing, they; tidied the area by using up the broken branches on the ground; created habitat for small mammals and nesting birds; and made a barrier between zones of the woodland. Please follow this link for more information on dead hedges:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-dead-hedge-for-wildlife>

Even as the weather warms (finally!), please do send your children in with long trousers and long sleeve tops. This helps prevent stings, scrapes and scratches.



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

EXPLORE LEARN GROW