



# ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY

## NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 12 - 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer term. I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and enjoyed your family time. We have had a fantastic start to the summer with lots to share with you already.

Our Inset day was training for all staff on Neurodiversity delivered by Lucy Brookes, specialist teacher linked to the school, from Dorset Council. We all found this an incredibly informative day which developed our knowledge and understanding of good autism practice, strategies and approaches that will support everyone. We have resources that we would like to share with you and will make available on the website shortly.

Last week was also National offer day for Reception families and we are delighted to be welcoming the children who will start with us in September. This is a very exciting time as we get to know the children and families and will be able to share all the different events that will happen this term as we get to know each other.

This week we found out we have been awarded £160 by Groves Garden centre as they celebrate 160 years in business. We are absolutely delighted to receive this sum that will really make a difference to our school grounds. Thank you Groves! I will work with the children to look at what they would like to buy to enhance our outside area.

Last week, you have received a letter from Brian Boyes, Initio Interim CEO confirming that I will be leaving St Mary's at the end of the summer term and the process to recruit a Headteacher for the next year has begun. I wanted to take this opportunity to personally share my enormous appreciation for the time I have spent here.

Being your Headteacher for this year has been both a privilege and a genuine pleasure. Working with St Mary's children, families, staff and community has been an absolute joy. I am immensely grateful for the strong partnership working and support I have received, and I will always cherish the great passion everyone holds for our Bridport community.

As we move through the summer term, I want to reassure you of my commitment to continuing to lead the school with all the important events that occur during this term and also work in partnership with colleagues as the process to recruit and handover the school to the next leader happens. As ever, this is a busy term and there is lots going on!

Wishing you a lovely sunny weekend,

*Katharine Anstey*

# THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

## Attendance

Everyday, Every lesson

This week our attendance is...

Reception - 92.41%

Year 1 - 94.8%

Year 2 - 96.55%

Year 3 - 97.5%

Year 4 - 95.37%

Year 5 - 96.9%

Year 6 - 95%

**Whole School - 95.52%**



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 27<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 5 Bikeability Course Level 1

**Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 28/29/30<sup>th</sup>** - Year 5 Bikeability Course Level 2

**Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday** - No School

**W/c 11<sup>th</sup> May** - Year 6 SATS week

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** - Year 5 Tamarisk Farm Trip

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** - School Disco

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** - School finishes for Half Term

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** - Children return to school

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** - Year 5 & 6 Quadkids at Colfox

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 2 Dance Workshop

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June** - Year 2 Quadkids at Colfox

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June** - Sports Day

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June** - 'St. Mary's Children's Food and Water Fair' 3.15-5pm

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** - Last day of term 3.15pm finish



## This week at St Mary's...

**Reception** have been reading Jasper's Beanstalk and talking about plants growing. The children have been noticing how the plants in the Reception outside are changing and soon will be doing some planting of their own!

**Year 1** have been learning about different types of weather and will be recording from next week. We hope it will stay sunny!

**Year 2** have been learning the features of a non chronological report ready to write their report independently about an animal of their choice next week.

**Year 3** have thoroughly enjoyed learning about soils and the layers in soil. Their investigations have lead to making a wormery. How exciting!

**Year 4** have been working incredibly hard on their times tables ready for the check in June. Keep going Year 4!

**Year 5** have been being using their knowledge of materials to investigate which are conductors and which are insulators when creating an electrical circuit. There were a few surprises in the results!

**Year 6** have been learning about how blood is pumped around the body and understanding pulse rates, considering how their pulse changes when undertaking different activities.

### Attendance

Congratulations Year 3 Amazing attendance of 97%!





## A message from Stem Club!

This term, a group of Year 3, 4, 5, and 6 children have been thoroughly enjoying their lunchtime STEM Club organised by Sixth Form students at Colfox! From exciting experiments to hands-on engineering challenges, the club has sparked curiosity and creativity in every session. The children have loved exploring science, technology, engineering, and maths in a fun and interactive way, working together to solve problems and think like real scientists.

It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm grow each week— building exploding volcanoes, making chemical reactions, shooting rockets in the air, creating sherbert and much more! A big thank you to everyone involved in making the STEM Club such a wonderful experience.

## Year 2 Multi skills event

Year 8 sports leaders at Colfox led a Yr 2 multi skills afternoon this week. The children completed an obstacale course, balancing course with rackets and ball and lots of other fun activities developing their agility and coordination. Miss Harrison was incredibly proud of how all the children participated showing our St Mary's values of Joy and friendship.

Well done Year 2!



## 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.

## Start of the school day

Gates open and the School starts at 8.40

We kindly ask that unless dropping off at Breakfast Club, children and families do not arrive before 8.30 as this is a busy time of day in the car park with cars moving and staff parking.

We are delighted that so many children are cycling and scooting to school but we need to ensure that the car park is a safe place as everyone arrives in school.

We ask that children who are walking and scooting ensure they remain on the pavements and painted pathways.

We ask politely that parents who are dropping off use the Football car park and not the school car park.

Thank you for your understanding

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We're excited to offer

# SINGING LESSONS

for Children at St Mary's School!

- 🎵 Increase their vocal ability
- 🎵 Build confidence in a supportive environment
- 🎵 Have fun while learning and performing
- 🎵 Learn to sing their favourite songs

Lessons for all ages & abilities!

Whether your child is just starting out  
or already loves to sing!

Cost: **£35** per half term

Creating a fun & inspiring space  
where every child can find their voice!

Kerrigan Lawrence 🎵

07972 298636

**FREE!**



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**@ Thomas Hardy School**  
**10am – 3pm**

**A day of music, drama and dance performances  
and workshops for all the family.**

Performances by orchestras, jazz bands, rock bands, choirs and individual young musicians from across the local schools.

Drama, musical theatre and dance performances by students from The Thomas Hardy School.

Workshops for all to take part in (sign-up in advance!)

"Come and Try" instrument sessions and music tech sessions

Ceilidh dance, Dance workshop, Big-sing workshop, Pre-school music, Samba workshop, Folk music workshop, Street band workshop, BBQ, refreshments and more!

**[music.wessex.ac](http://music.wessex.ac)**



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# ARE YOU ON THE HOUSING REGISTER?

## Affordable homes at Foundry Lea

- Affordable homes are beginning to be released on the new Foundry Lea development.
- To be eligible to apply you must be on Dorset Council's Housing Register.
- Registering may not provide you with an immediate housing solution but it is important to be ready when new homes become available.
- You can find out quickly if you qualify by checking Dorset Council's short online check [ [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/check-you-are-eligible-housing-register](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/check-you-are-eligible-housing-register) ].
- The check asks a few simple questions, eg, are you over 16, do you have a household income below £60,000pa, and have a local connection to Dorset, such as working or living in the area.
- If you are currently living in privately or socially rented accommodation you can still apply for the register.

**Further help is provided by Bridport Citizens' Advice and Bridport Library, South Street.**

- At Foundry Lea, there are also affordable Shared Ownership homes on offer.
- A shared ownership home allows you to buy a share of your home, while paying rent on the remaining share.
- To register your interest you need to contact the housing association direct. Abri is currently offering homes via: [ [www.abrihomes.co.uk/properties/foundrylea](http://www.abrihomes.co.uk/properties/foundrylea) ].

# GET ON THE REGISTER!