

# Newsletter



St. Mary's Catholic  
Primary School

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents

## Return to School

The new academic year at St Mary's has started well with a host of enthusiastic children and staff bursting through the gates every morning. As new Headteacher, I have been made to feel very welcome by the staff, children and parents and as a result, I already feel part of the St Mary's family. After a couple of busy weeks getting into new routines, everyone is now firmly settled in their new classes, ready to learn. It has been wonderful to once again see the playground full and hear all the children. They have settled in really well.



## Out of This World!

Our overarching theme this term is 'Out of This World' – from our youngest children starting to think about themselves and their families, realising their families were all different but they were all very special to our oldest children exploring our solar system, designing their own eco-friendly planets as well as testing out new robotic designs suitable for the exploration of Mars. As a way of 'launching' the theme, all of the children also had great fun exploring the Dorset Science Dome, which visited the school on Thursday – thank you to the PTFA who kindly subsidised the cost of this event!

## Parents Evening

We will be having live, face to face parents' meetings on:

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – 5 - 7pm**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 3:30 – 5:30pm**

Please contact teachers directly through **Class**

**Dojo** requesting your preferential day and an hour slot, from which you will be allocated a 10 minute appointment. The meetings will take place in classrooms, but please note that Miss Smith will be situated in Mr Young's classroom as well. The teachers are very excited to speak to you about how your child is settling in and what their learning focus will be.



Parents Evening





### Coats

As the weather is now becoming more autumnal, please remember to send your child in to school with a coat, so they can still play outside comfortably – even in a light drizzle.

### Start and end of day

As you are well aware, due to COVID 19, it was decided to stagger the start and end of days to help with social distancing. This has also helped ease traffic congestion; however the children are missing half an hour of curriculum time each day, which added up over time (2.5 hours x 40 weeks) is 100 hours or 20 school days. Clearly, this cannot be sustained as it is not fair on your children who have already lost out on so much schooling due to lockdowns. Therefore, from the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> September, we are looking to reduce this lost learning time by changing the times – more information on this to follow when we have worked out the finer details, hoping to make it as painless as possible! If you have any helpful suggestions, please let us know. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in this matter.



### PTFA

As mentioned above, the PTFA have kindly donated funds to support our wider curriculum, which is greatly appreciated by the children. It would be great to reinstate our PTFA, so if you are interested, please do let Mrs Betts know either at the school gate or via the school office.

[office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) It would be great to hold some community events and at the same time, be able to raise more funds for our children. If we could try to have an event once a term, then it should be manageable.



### Governors

Our fantastic governors are looking to recruit a parent governor – if you are interested and would like to find out more, please email our Chair of Governors, Nick Chambers via the school office.



### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Oscar in Y4 who won local Estate Agents' colouring/art competition run across social media. Not only did he win some exciting goodies, but he also won £125 for our school! Well done, Oscar and thank you!

## CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day

### **Go Green** Family Fast Day meal

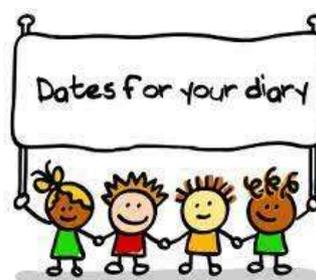
On Friday 1 October, please support CAFOD's Climate Crisis

Appeal (in line with government guidance) by making a donation and eating a simple, planet friendly meal in solidarity with people like Ivanilde.

[www.cafod.org.uk/fastday](http://www.cafod.org.uk/fastday) By doing this, we can show that we are ready to step up and act as guardians of creation, something the children are continuing to work on following the fantastic work they did in the summer term. Please could we also ask for donations for the local Foodbank, to support our brothers and sisters, locally. Please send your child in to school with items of long life food and your donation for CAFOD, alternatively, you could donate online via School Money.

### Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September – proposed change to start/end of day time start**
- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September – parents' meetings**
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September – parents' meetings**
- **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Whole School Mass in church tbc**
- **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October - CAFOD Harvest Day**
- **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Operation Shoebox Appeal - shoeboxes to the office**
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – break up for half term**
- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – children return to school**



**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO DATE OF END OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22 – DUE TO EXTRA Bank Holiday, the last day of school for the Summer term will be Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022.**

Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Betts  
Headteacher