

Newsletter



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Friday 21st October 2022

Dear Families and Friends

We've reached half way through the Autumn term and it feels like the first half term of 2022 has flown by! As we draw to the end of the first half of the Autumn term, we are enjoying the beautiful autumnal colours the season brings us. The children been collecting leaves and using branches to build dens at playtimes. Children and staff (Mr Cato, Miss Hunter and Mrs Sanda) who joined us this year have quickly become part of our St Mary's family. When I was showing a prospective parent around school the other day, the children were keen to share why they loved our school: "It's a lovely school. Everyone is so kind. The teachers make learning fun."



Thinking of others

Well done to Sarah who donated her lovely long locks to the Little Princess Trust.



Well done to our GIFT team who organised our Harvest collection for both Blandford and Gillingham Food banks. They decided to collect boxes of cereal as they felt that giving people the opportunity to start the day with a nourishing breakfast would be a good way to support others. We collected 60 boxes of cereal!



Our GIFT Team are looking forward to leading our Harvest Liturgy today at school at 9:15am. Parents and Carers have been invited to stay to celebrate with us.

October the Month of the Rosary

The children were each very fortunate to receive a small Rosary and a How to Pray the Rosary card today from the Catenian Rosary Group. I hope the children will enjoy praying with it.



PE Kit

Please can I remind you again that on PE days, for health and safety, children should not be wearing any earrings. If this cannot be avoided, please ensure your child wears (surgical) tape over their earrings. Now would be a good time to introduce layers – joggers and shorts, depending on the weather.

Music Tuition

As Dorset Music Service (DMS) are changing the way they teach musical instruments, we now have an opportunity to book Mr Dave Gassmann (who is a former pupil of our school!) for brass or woodwind instrument lessons. These can be booked through DMS or via him privately (dgassmann.music@hotmail.com). The instrument hire is 50% off for the first year £60 to £30.



Visit DMS website (<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/dorset-music-service/dorset-music-service>) and click on instrument hire, fill in the form (yes for musicianship continuation) and he will deal with the paperwork/online payment forms.

Instrument tuition on offer - for Years 3-6:

BRASS -Trumpet/Cornet & Trombone

WOODWIND - Flute, Clarinet & Alto Sax (Yr5/6 only for Sax due to the weight of the instrument)

Costs:

20 mins - £10

30 mins - £15

Groups 3-6 = 30 mins



Busy Bees After School Club has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £3.50

3:15 - 5:00pm - £7.50

3:15 - 6:00pm - £10.00

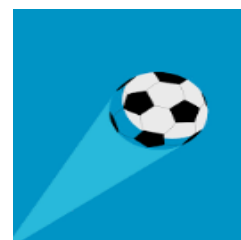
Please use School Money to book your child in for any sessions, but note that you can't book through School Money on the day. Please note that children being picked up after 5pm, will be charged until 6pm. Thank you.

Please remember that we have Breakfast Club which starts at 8am every day and costs £2.50 per session.

After school clubs

After School Clubs will restart again after the half term break, from week beginning **7th November**. The clubs run from 3:15 until 4:15pm

Day	Clubs
Monday	Lego – Mr Cato
Wednesday	Book Club - Miss Smith
Thursday	Eco Club – Mrs Myatt Football KS2 – Mr Young



Football Tournament

Well done to the children who took part in a recent football tournament for local schools. Unfortunately, they were faced with some of the larger schools who were able to take more than one team of entirely Y6! However, as usual, our children did us proud with their excellent behaviour and good manners. Thank you for representing St Mary's so positively!

Celebration Assembly

We are continuing to invite the parents of one class at a time to attend our Celebration Assembly. Please arrive at 2:50pm and park on the playground, so we can start at 2:55pm. Thank you.



Celebration Assembly - 2:55pm	Class
Friday 11 th November	St Mark's
Friday 18 th November	St Francis
Friday 25 th November	St Alban's

PTFA

The PTFA have lots to tell you, so look out for their separate newsletter coming soon!



October Half Term 2022

Half Term Activities

Dorset Safer Schools and Communities Teams have made this video about keeping safe at Halloween and Bonfire

Night. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVN3kl6vu48>

There are some ideas on the Primary Times website for activities to do during the half term holiday. <https://www.primarytimes.co.uk/dorset/listings>

Junior Fun Tennis Coaching at Marnhull Tennis Club

Fun and energetic sessions with games, technique and fitness for youngsters run by our LTA accredited coach Graham Howell.

October: Mon 24th, Tues 25th and Weds 26th - book for one or more sessions

3 groups:

- Starters (5 to 7/8 yrs) 9:00 to 10:00 am
- Inters (8 to 11/12 yrs) 10:00 to 11:30
- Seniors, with some experience, (11/12 to 14 yrs) 11:30 to 1:00 pm

Age flexibility, if by experience/ability your child would be more suited to a different session, do call to discuss.



Fees: Starters group (1 hour), non-members £8 (members £6); Inters and Seniors group (1.5 hours), non-members £10 (members £8) - We are offering free places to refugee children.

Payment request and details will be provided on completion of the sessions.

For further information and to book places (please advise child's name, age and group wanted) contact John Seear at johnseear@hotmail.com or call 01258 269743

Gillingham Library

SENsational Story and Play



Join us for a fun session of sensory play, stories and rhymes.

Come and explore your local library whilst spending time with other parents and carers who have young children with additional needs. Join us for a story and chat with other families and relax with your children sharing a range of sensory toys. You can also borrow books to enjoy at home.



For 0 - 5 year olds and their parents/carers. Siblings are welcome.

Saturday 22nd of October
and every third Saturday of the month
10.30am - 11.00am

Gillingham Library
Chantry Fields, Gillingham SP8 4UA

Please book in advance via Gillingham Library.
For information 01747 822180



dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries

Fun with Fossils

A free half term activity for families.
Hands on - Sort, match, identify and draw fossils. How old was it? What did the animal look like? Two drop in sessions.



GANG
GILLINGHAM ACTION FOR NATURE GROUP

Gillingham Library

Tuesday 25 October
10:00am - 12:00noon and 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

For more information ☎ 01747 822180

@DorsetLibraries f DorsetLibraries



dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries

Please see the flyer for a 'Slightly-spooky playable family theatre mystery', 'The Midnight Mission' hosted in Gillingham Library this half term. Organised by Artsreach, this show is suitable for children aged 6years + on Wednesday 26th October at 11am. Tickets are £6 for adults, £5 for a child and £20 for a family.

THE MIDNIGHT MISSION!

"Crackles with energy...majorly memorable entertainment." ★★★★★
Dino Lantini, Get Your Goats On

**Slightly-spooky
playable family theatre
mystery**

6+ www.braveolddrama.co.uk

Something's going bump in the night!
Agents Dali & Kahlo of top-secret global creative agency Company of International Artists, receive a code red call which means only one thing: ART IN PERIL! They're going to need the sharpest agents to crack this case. Will you join the team?

You'll travel to Villa Diodati on the banks of Lake Geneva, where you will work against the clock, and sometimes even against logic itself, as you chase leads, decipher clues and interview suspects.

What's your theory, agents? Can it all be explained logically or is it, just maybe, a little bit supernatural? Does the old caretaker know more than he's letting on? And just what is behind Lord Byron's portrait?

Featuring a broad streak of quirky comedy, family-friendly spoof horror and inspired by the literary history of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, The Midnight Mission' is a slightly-spooky playable family theatre show.

Artsreach
GILLINGHAM LIBRARY
Wed 26 October, 11am
£6, £5 (ul8s), £20 (fam 4 - max 2 adults) on door, if available, or in advance from **Gillingham Library:**
01747 822180 or artsreach.co.uk
SUITABLE FOR 6+
Supported by Arts Council England & Dorset Council
www.lighthousepool.co.uk

Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot OX11 7NE
Friday 26th October, 7pm
£12.50, £11.25 Concessions, £10 Members
Box Office: 01235 515144
www.cornerstone-arts.org

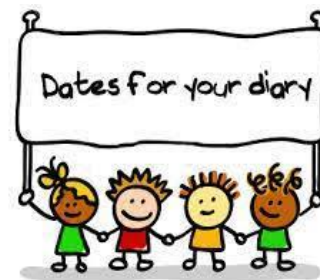
Chats Palace, London E9 6DF
Saturday 5th November, 11am & 2pm
All Tickets £7, Box Office: 020 8535 0227
www.chatspalace.com

The Wardrobe Theatre, Bristol BS2 0DF
Sunday 6th November, 11am & 2pm
All Tickets £6, Box Office: 0117 906 0344
www.thewardrotheatre.com

This show is best suited to those aged 6+

Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 31st October – INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 1st November – children return to school**
- **Tuesday 1st November – Whole School Mass in Church**
- **Thursday 3rd November – School Photos (individual)**
- **Friday 11th November - Flu Immunisations Rec-Y6**
- **Friday 18th November - BBC Children in Need**
- **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Wreath Workshops**
- **Sunday 4th December - Christmas fair**



I hope you all have a good rest and safe holiday. I look forward to seeing you all in November!

Sharon Betts
Headteacher



**Blandford, Gillingham,
Sherborne, Shaftesbury,
Sturminster Newton**

**Be a
Super Hero
Volunteer**

We need volunteers to help with:

- Parent and child groups at all our bases
- Welcoming visitors and administration support at Blandford Children's Centre.

We offer you the opportunity to:

- Learn new skills
- Meet people and make new friends



We're a great bunch, so come and join us for how ever long you can spare. Full training is provided and DBS checks will be required.

For more details and an information pack, please contact
01258 474036 or email
northlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk





Scouts

Stalbridge Scout Group Fireworks Display

Saturday 5th November 2022

Stalbridge Playing Fields DT10 2RA

Gates open 6pm - Display starts 7pm

Tickets available from
Stalbridge Murco Garage / Dike & Sons kiosk
Also available on the gate

Adult £5 Child £4

Family (2 adults, 2 children) £15

BBQ, Refreshments & Stalbridge Primary PTA stall

CASH ONLY