

Newsletter

Friday 21st July 2023



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Families and Friends

We have reached the end of another school year and what a year!

The year started sombrely, as having not long celebrated the Queen's jubilee, we were soon to be celebrating her life as we marked the solemn occasion of her death. We then had the opportunity to come together for another street party in honour of the Coronation of King Charles. In terms of living history, our children will hopefully remember these significant events in the years to come.



This year has also been the first year where we have not been so restricted due to COVID and were able to open up to more of our school community. Something I look forward to continuing in our next year. I am very grateful to everyone in our school community who has supported our school during the year.



It was rewarding to finally have the super work of our school recognised by Ofsted in our recent inspection, and as I have said before, I am so very proud of our lovely school and I'm glad the inspectors saw how amazing our children and staff are.



The summer term is always a busy one, but with the support of our fabulous PTFA, we have been able to experience a range of special events. We had a sunny sports day where the children enjoyed earning points for their teams; and some work experience pupils from Gillingham High School ably supported us. This was followed by the PTFA Summer Fair, which gave the children an opportunity to 'soak the teacher' – rather refreshing on such a hot day!



In between continuing with our learning, creating artwork for the Marnhull Flower Show and rehearsing for our summer show, the children took some time out to learn some circus skills ranging from plate spinning to juggling! I was very impressed with their aptitude - we have some budding circus acts! It was great to have the opportunity to perform to our parents and grandparents. The fun didn't stop there! We then went on a whole school trip to Longleat Safari Park, which would support our science topics about living things including animals. Needless to say, we avoided the monkey enclosure! We had a great time there, despite the VERY heavy rain! Thank you to everyone who came with us – we couldn't have done it without you!



As you can see – we've had lots of exciting learning and events this year.

Have a lovely summer holiday with your children and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 4th September!

Sports Day

Thank you for joining us on our Sports Day – the children enjoyed their races and it was great to see so many families supporting them. It was such a lovely atmosphere with the PTFA Fun After Sports day events following on. Thank you to all who helped, looked after the stalls and spent lots of money!!



Whole School Mass

It was lovely to celebrate Mass with Fr Joseph, parents and parishioners yesterday to celebrate the end of year. As usual the children sang amazingly and were prayerful when they needed to be.



Pirates versus Mermaids – Summer Production

Thank you for coming to see the children performing the end of year summer production to you on Monday afternoon and Tuesday evening. As always, the children really do give it their all and pull it out of the bag on the day! Thank you



parents for your ingenuity with costumes! Thank you to Rebecca for face painting our fierce pirates and glamorous mermaids – not forgetting our under the sea creatures.



Year 6 Leavers



We had a lovely Leavers' Service on Wednesday, organised by Mr Young and led by Deacon Mike. It was lovely to see how grown up they are and hear what they loved about being a part of St Mary's. We say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils today and wish them every success in their new schools.

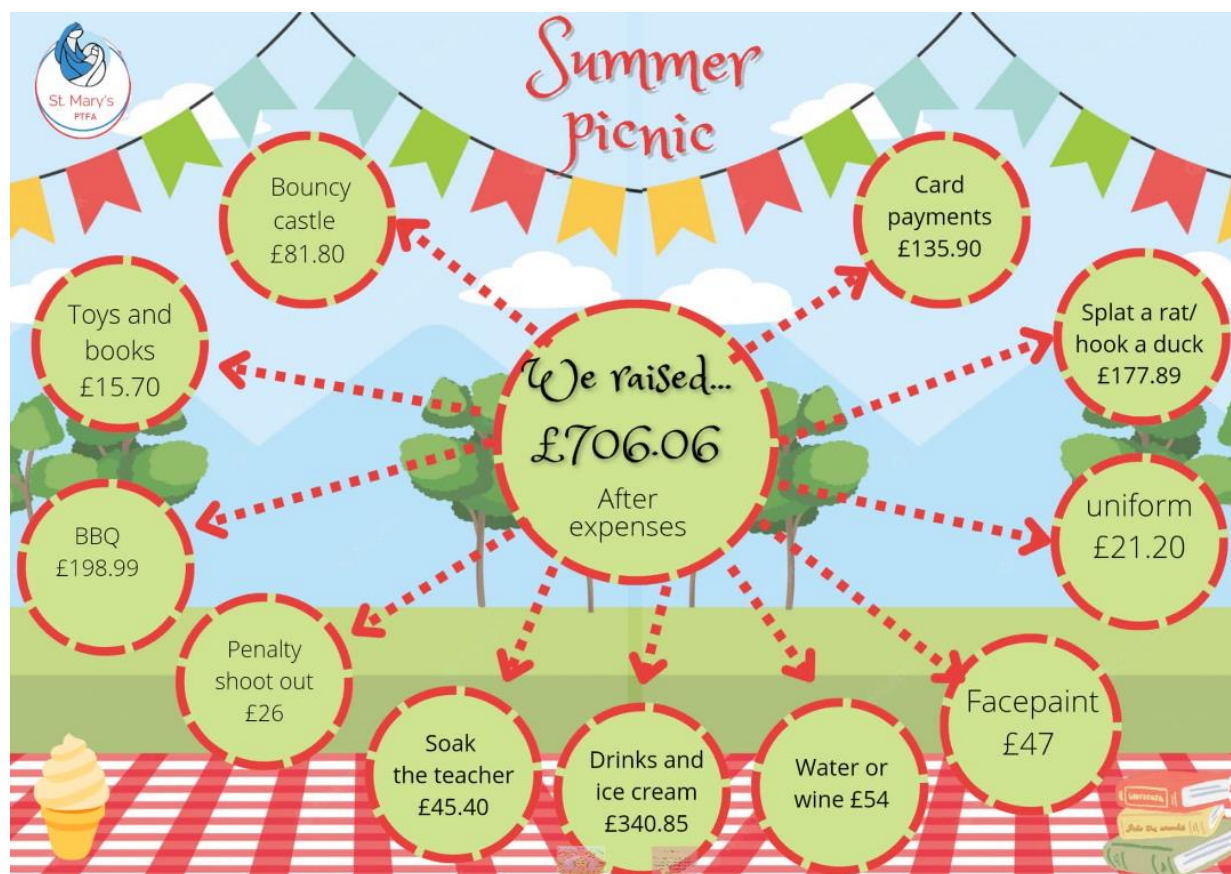
School Uniform

Please can I ask that at the start of the year, you ensure your child comes to school with appropriate school uniform – children can only wear PE hoodies and trainers on PE days. Please also make sure that your child is wearing school uniform shorts or, as the weather gets cooler, jogging bottoms.



News from the PTFA

The sun came out for Fun After Sports day and it was an amazing afternoon. We had a brilliant time and it was lovely to see so many parents and children staying to join in the fun. The ice creams and BBQ were a huge hit this year as well as the bouncy castle, which was donated by The British Legion. A huge thank you must also go to the teachers who took part in Soak the Teacher! We are so thrilled to let you know that it raised an amazing **£706.06!**



The Marnhull fest followed and we took the plants grown by Eco club as well as our Splat the Rat and Hook a Duck ... not sure the rat survived! Despite the rain, we had a lovely day helping to promote the school and man the gate.

As we come to the end of the year, we have some dates that you might be interested in for next term ...

- ★Tuesday 12th September: PTFA AGM
- ★Friday 22nd September: Donut Day
- ★Friday October 13th: Pre loved uniform sale
- ★Tuesday 7th November: Disco
- ★Thursday 9th November: Bag2School collection

ST MARY'S PTFA

Come and see what we have been up to this year, how we have spent some of the Funds, have a say in fundraising projects and vote in the PTFA team.

PTFA AGM

As part of our AGM we would like to propose becoming a registered charity next year.... come along to have your say!



Tuesday 12th September

7:30pm



The Crown, Marnhull

The 'official' bit should only take 30 minutes so a great opportunity to have a drink with other parents at the same time.

Without the AGM the PTFA is unable to run so it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

Please let us know if you are planning on coming or are interested in becoming part of the team!



This will be at The Crown and although there is the 'official' part to do so that the PTFA can continue running, it's also a chance to come and have a drink and a chat with other parents.

Please do let us know if you are planning on coming or would like to join the team.

Believe it or not, we also have festive plans and will share these in the first newsletter of next term.

THANK YOU!

*We would just like to say a huge thank you
to everyone who has given up their time to
help, donated, bought and supported our events
Have a lovely summer break!*



Reading – the gateway to learning!

We had visitors from Dorset libraries this week, who launched the Summer Reading challenge. This is a great way to get children to read during those long days of the holidays. They also have activities on during the week.



See link for details:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/summer-reading-challenge-2023>

Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Please share with parents and carers

Children aged 4-11 can get involved in this year's Summer Reading Challenge! This year's challenge, brought to you by Dorset Council library service, is starting on 1 July to 23 September 2023.

This year's challenge 'Ready, Set, Read!' is all about games and sports. Join our superstar team and their animal mascots as they use their skills to weave their way through a summer obstacle course.

Developed in collaboration with Youth Sport Trust, the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge celebrates play and participation with games and sports by keeping imaginations moving over the school holiday.

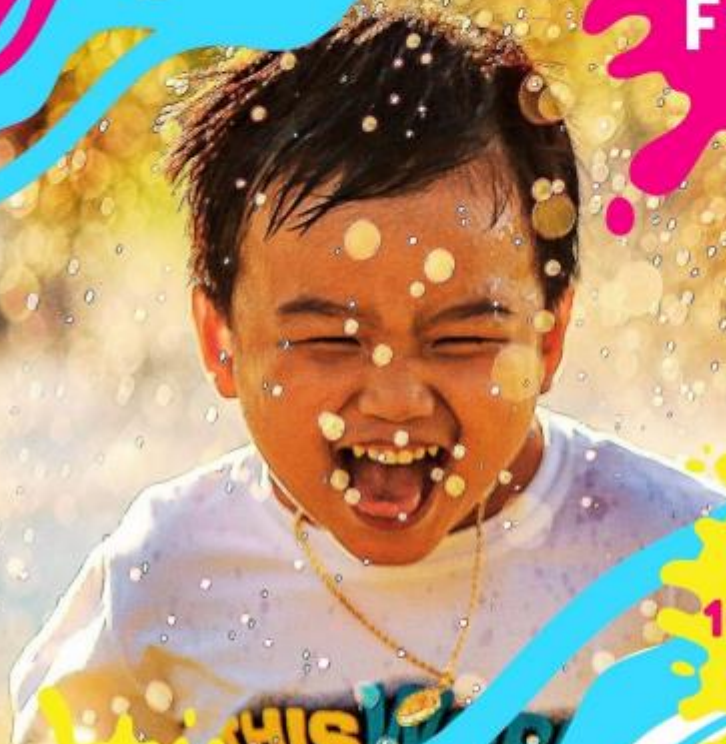
Look out for events and activities online and in your library this summer.

[How does the summer reading challenge work?](#)



Dorset
Council

Free Family Fun Day



**28th July
10am to 3pm
for 0 - 12's**

**At
RiversMeet
Gillingham
SP8 4HX**

- Bouncy castle & Didi cars
- Graffiti painting, crafts, sports
- Slip & Slide: bring swimsuit & towel
- Family swimming between 2-3pm.
Limited spaces, book on arrival
- Free children's lunch with a HAF code.
Scan QR code to apply

For details contact North Locality
northlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
01258 474036

CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES



See
link

for more details about what is on offer: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>



Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

If your child qualifies for free school meals, they will have a **healthy meal every school day**, and can get:

- access to **free holiday activities within the HAF Programme**
- **additional funding for their school** (Pupil Premium)
- **holiday food vouchers***

Even if your child automatically qualifies for universal infant free school meals, please still apply to access the above benefits.

All pupils approved for free school meals will remain eligible until they finish the school phase they are in on 31 March 2025.

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at **dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals** or email **freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**



For details of the HAF Programme, please visit **dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/haf-programme** or email **holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**



Scan here

*Funding for holiday food vouchers has been secured until at least March 2024.



Fire Safety

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service want your child to have a fun and safe summer. Please take a moment to discuss with your child how they can help keep themselves and others safe, especially as they become older and more independent and may be spending time outside with friends rather than family:



Reception and Key Stage 1 parents and carers

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service would like to wish you and your children a fun, enjoyable and safe summer.

Please remember to only use disposable BBQs in a safe location, and be aware of any High Fire Risk warnings which will increase the risk of using these, why not Bring a Picnic Instead.

If your child is staying away from home, make sure they know what to do if the smoke alarm sounds, especially at night.

If you are going to go near or in the water, make sure they understand how to stay safe, teach them how to "float to live"

Your child may enjoy watching these short videos from the firefighters:

[\(23\) Summer Safety Foundation and year 1 - YouTube](#)

[\(23\) Summer Safety Year 2 and 3 - YouTube](#)

We have lots of fun activities on our website [Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service | Education \(dwfire.org.uk\)](https://www.dwfire.org.uk) and stories and activities on our YouTube Channel [\(23\) DWFireRescue - YouTube](#) (look for the different playlists with "children" in the title.



Be Aware - Take Care Water Safety Quiz – for parents and carers to enter with younger children aged up to 7 years (or as appropriate depending on the needs of your child)

To help your child learn to be aware and take care whilst enjoying being in or near water follow this link to enter the quiz and prize draw <https://forms.office.com/e/jPCVnGHGjw>

Being near or playing in the water is something many of us enjoy, especially children. It is important that we all know how to enjoy being in or near the water safely.

If you care for any young children, take a few moments to take part in this water safety quiz with the children to help everyone learn how to stay safe.

Do they know how to "Float to live" if they find themselves in difficulty in the water?

Do you know what to do if someone is in difficulty in the water (Tell them to Float, Throw them something to hold on to and Call 999)

Every entry will receive a "Be Aware- Take Care"-Water Safety Certificate and one lucky prize draw winner will win:

- A VIP trip to a DWFRS fire station
- A RNLI World Drowning Prevention Day pin badge
- A Playmobil fireboat - to act out your own water rescues!

Key Stage 2 Parents and carers

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service would like to wish you and your children a fun, enjoyable and safe summer.

Please remember to only use disposable BBQs in a safe location, and be aware of any High Fire Risk warnings which will increase the risk of using these, why not Bring a Picnic Instead.

If your child is staying away from home, make sure they know what to do if the smoke alarm sounds, especially at night.

If you are going to go near or in the water, make sure they understand how to stay safe, teach them how to "float to live"

As your child may be more independent this summer, being out with friends maybe without adult supervision remind them about road safety, not playing with matches or lighters and how to stay safe near water.



Your child may enjoy these short videos from Firefighter Daphne

[\(23\) Summer Safety Year 2 and 3 - YouTube](#)

[\(23\) Summer Safety Years 4 5 and 6 - YouTube](#)

Think Firefighter -Water Safety Training – designed for children aged 8 -12 years (or as appropriate depending on the needs of your child)

Follow this link to enter <https://forms.office.com/e/7r6XZbKJb7>

Do you know how to Think -Act – Stay Safe like a firefighter?

Are you ready to take part in our Think Firefighter – Water Safety Training?

This summer enjoy the water safely.

Do you know the water safety code?

Stop and Think

Stay together

Float to Live

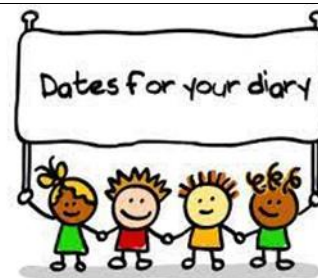
Call 999 in an emergency.

Every entry will receive a Think Firefighter-Water Safety Certificate and one lucky prize draw winner will win:

- A VIP trip to a DWFRS fire station
- A RNLI World Drowning Prevention Day pin badge
- A Lego City Beach Lifeguard Station and
- A Lego City Fire Rescue Boat – to act out your own water rescues!

Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 4th September 2023** – Children start Autumn Term
- **Tuesday 12th September: PTFA AGM**
- **Friday 22nd September: Donut Day**
- **Friday October 13th: Pre loved uniform sale**
- **Tuesday 7th November: Disco**
- **Thursday 9th November: Bag2School collection**



Term Dates 2023-24		Half Term holidays	Inset Days
Autumn Term 01.09.23 – 16.12.23	Children start school Monday 4th September 2023 Children break up for Christmas holidays on Friday 15th December 2023	Children finish for half term on Friday 20th October 2023 and return to school on Tuesday 31st October 2023	01.09.23 30.10.23
Spring Term 02.01.24 – 28.03.24	Children start back at school Wednesday 3rd January 2023 Children break up for Easter holidays on Thursday 28th March 2024	Children finish for half term on Friday 9th February 2024 and return to school on Tuesday 20th February 2024	02.01.24 19.02.24
Summer Term 15.04.24 – 23.07.24	Children start back at school Monday 15th April 2024 Children break up for Summer holidays on Tuesday 23rd July 2024	Children finish for half term on Friday 24th May 2024 and return to school on Tuesday 4th June 2024	03.06.24

God Bless

Sharon Betts
Headteacher