

Newsletter

Friday 19th November 2021



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Parents

Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11th November, our pupil Gift team were superb as they represented the school at the War Memorial in St Gregory's churchyard – it was a very moving service with a haunting rendition of 'Last Post' being played.



Reading – the gateway to learning! It has been great seeing how much progress our youngest children have made with their phonics this term. I've had visits from several of them, keen to read to me! Alongside learning the skills for reading we are also developing a love of reading with weekly visits to our beautiful library. I look forward to hearing more readers.

Staffing update

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Teaching Assistant, Mrs Baldwin to our school. She starts on Monday 22nd and I'm sure she will soon feel part of the St Mary's school family. I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Ms Horton, who has been supporting children's learning in St Anthony's and St Mark's – she has been a super help. As many of you may already know, Mr Young and his partner are expecting a baby – which is due imminently. This means that at very short notice, Mr Young will start his two-week Paternity Leave. So as not to disrupt the learning of St Albans, Mrs Finch and myself will be teaching the class in his absence – something I'm very much looking forward to! I will let you know when this starts, as soon as possible.



Anti-Bullying Week

It was great to see so many children and staff wearing odd socks on Monday to launch our Anti-Bullying Week. This week has been strongly led by the School Council who met and agreed upon activities for all classes to undertake. The main theme this year has been 'One Kind Word' and all of the children have been thinking about how they play their part in showing kindness.

Children in Need

To support Children in Need, on Friday 19th November, we will be asking the children to come to school wearing (clean) pyjamas, a onesie or spotty clothes and bring a donation for Children in Need. Thank you in advance.





Visit from local MP

On Friday 5th November, we had a visit from Simon Hoare, Member of Parliament for North Dorset. He had a tour around the school and spoke to children in the different classes. We will invite him back in the Spring term for the children to ask him questions about British Values and his role in Westminster.

Colder weather

Please remind your children to bring their coats, hats and gloves etc. into school – we are still having children coming to school without coats. This is especially key when there are so many coughs and colds around.



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Please remember, that as we come into the season of coughs and colds, it is still imperative to get your child a **PCR** test if they have developed a **new** cough.

Government guidance:

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

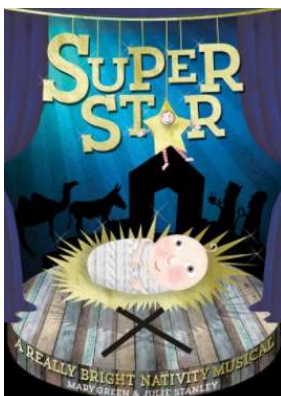
- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if you have symptoms

If you or your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, **even if they're mild**:

1. Get a **PCR test (test that is sent to a lab)** to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test. [Check if people you live with need to self-isolate.](#)

Get a PCR test to check if you have COVID-19 on <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



Christmas Nativity

Public Health Dorset and Dorset Council have requested that schools keep heightened restrictions in place until the end of November. As a result, we are unable to definitively agree on a date for our Christmas Nativity "Superstar" as we don't know if we will be able to perform to a live audience or create a virtual performance. Either way – we will be having one! Miss Fletcher will be sending out information in due course, so watch this space...

PTFA

Thank you for your donations for the Christmas Hamper Raffle. If you still have any items to donate, please send them to the office. The PTFA have also arranged for the book fair to come to school for a week starting on 7th December – this will be a perfect opportunity for some Christmas shopping! – more details to follow from the PTFA.



Rotary Shoebox Appeal – letter of thanks

On behalf of Gillingham Rotary Club, I write to thank you for your participation in this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were able to send off 299 shoeboxes, of which 21, well done, came from your good selves. Numbers were down disappointingly, possibly due to the Covid pandemic, but the quality of the contents of the boxes was noticeably improved.

Please pass on our gratitude to your pupils.



The breakdown is as follows:	Boys 1-3	11	Girls 1-3	11
	4-7	71	4-7	69
	8-11	43	8-11	53
	12-15	17	12-15	24

Once again the most popular age group is 4-7 for both boys and girls.

Our Rotary district which includes Hampshire, Dorset, South Wiltshire and the Channel Islands have sent off the shoeboxes which are now on the first leg of the journey to disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania.

We are grateful for your continued support in bringing some Christmas joy to some of the world's disadvantaged children.

With thanks for your generosity.

Rtn. Roland Martin (Shoebox Appeal Coordinator)

Open Days

If you know of any families who are looking for school places, please encourage them to come and visit!



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher - Mrs Sharon Betts
office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk Telephone: 01258 820417

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2022?
Do come and visit St Mary's – we look forward to showing you around our lovely school and seeing our fantastic children enjoying their learning.
Please telephone or e-mail to book a time and date.

Time: 9:30 am
Dates: 22nd November, 29th November, 6th December or 10th January 2022



The closing date for applications on 15th January 2022
Dorset School Admissions Contact:

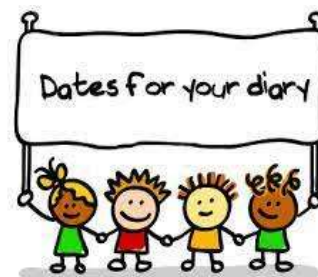
<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-school-place>
Please see St Mary's Catholic Primary School website for further information on our admissions policy. <https://www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/home>

Evidence of a negative lateral flow test will be required on a mobile or other portable device on the day.



Dates for your diary:

- Friday 19th November – Children in Need – PJs/Onesie/Spotty day
- Monday 22nd November 9:30 - Open day for Reception September 2022
- Monday 29th November 9:30 - Open day for Reception September 2022
- Monday 6th December 9:30 - Open day for Reception September 2022
- Tuesday 7th December – Book Fair
- Wednesday 8th December 9:30 - Whole School Mass in church
- Friday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 16th December – Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 16th December 2pm – Blessing of the Crib and carols in church
- Friday 17th December – last day of the Autumn term
- Tuesday 4th January 2022 – children return to school
- Thursday 6th January 9:30 - Whole School Mass in church
- Monday 10th January 9:30 - Open day for Reception September 2022



Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Betts
Headteacher



Please follow us on Twitter @stmarysmarnhull