

# St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



4th March 2024



## **Message from Mrs Terrey**

We are all very busy with learning and I have enjoyed teaching in Year 4 with lots of exciting work on electricity and circuits and Ancient Egypt. The children are welcoming Father Antony every Tuesday into school for liturgy with the whole school, developing ideas with the GIFT pupil team and working with children in their RE lessons. The GIFT team have been planning a special celebration for Mother's day which they would like to invite all Mums' to so that they can all show how special and important you are to them.

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>	
Last Day (Finish at 3.15pm)	28/03/2024
Back for Summer Term	15/04/2024
Forest School WILLOW CLASS (Y5)	Every Monday
iRock Sessions	Every Thursday
World Book Day (Dress up!)	08/03/2024
Mother's Day Celebration Assembly (whole school!) From 9.00am	11/03/2024
Whole School Science Week	W/C 11/03/2024
Life Education Visit Whole School	15/03/2024
Elm Class Dentist Visit	15/03/2024
Parents Evening Week (Tues/Thurs)	W/C 18/03/2024
Tennis Taster Day Whole School (Wear PE kit)	27/03/2024
Break the Rules Day & PTFA Tuck Shop	28/03/2024

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### Mother's day Celebration

The children are busy preparing for a special celebration for all their mums and special adults. This will be held on Monday the 11 th March in the Main school hall at 9.00am. Please sign in as you drop off and the celebration will be in the main hall. We hope to see lots of you there.

### Science Week

We are looking forward to an interesting week of Science from the 11 th of March. We have parent speakers for all classes focused upon lots of different aspects of science from nursing and physical health to music across the week, concluding with a visit from the Life Ed Van on Friday with sessions for each class. We are so grateful to all the parents who are giving up their time to share and inspire the children with science. The children have also been given an opportunity for their own learning in creating a science project to share and display to win a prize on Tuesday the 12th March- displays will be in the school for parents to look at after school.

### PTFA Events.

We are very lucky to have a committed and busy PTFA group who give up their freetime to organise events to support and provide special extras for all the children in school. They are organising a "Break the Rules Day"- more information to follow from them soon.. There are also further events planned for the Summer term. Many thanks to them and if you are interested in volunteering please do get in touch with them.

### Accelerated Reader Word Count so far...

Everyone is reading, reading, reading with our new school system. It is great to see everyone reading for pleasure and taking quizzes at school and at home. The top reader of words is Leyna in Year 6 who has read 159,678 words so far with Ridley being the top word reader in Year 2 with 9,650 words, Stanley in

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Year 3 who was read a huge total of 10,472 words with Oliva in Year 4 reading a whopping 22,362 words and Neve C in Year 5 reading a massive 32,684 words all since the start of AR 2 weeks ago. Well done to everyone!

We also had a massive donation of children's books from a former student which was great to add to our reading material- so that was greatly appreciated.

### **Forest School Sessions**

**Willow class Yr 5** have their sessions on a Monday afternoon for the next half term. They will need to have play clothes that will get dirty and suitable shoes that will get wet and muddy.

### **Early Help Worker Drop IN sessions.**

**Bethany Hobbs is the Link Early Help Worker for school. She will be offering slots and coffee with parents at school. She can offer family support and advice on situations that may be tricky for families such as sleep routines, challenging behaviour or anything that may be a challenge. If you would like to book a slot please email or call the office or drop in, in person and we can agree a time on Tuesday the 5th March from 2.00pm to 3.15pm.**

### ***ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE REQUESTS***

It is essential that children form good habits of regular attendance at school from an early age and that good attendance is maintained throughout their school career. St Mary & St Joseph's is committed to working together to ensure that there is a consistent approach to school attendance. It is a legal requirement that all children should attend their educational provision and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

St Mary and St Joseph's has agreed the following:

- It is important that pupils are in school on time. Time keeping is not only important in obtaining maximum benefit from education but is also a key skill for adult life. Lateness is monitored by the school and contributes to absence rates.
- St Mary & St Joseph's will monitor the attendance of our pupils and work closely with Dorset county council's School Attendance Service to support children whose attendance levels are causing concern.
- Whilst we understand that children do become ill on occasions, children who lose a lot of time at school can suffer in the long term from significant gaps in their learning. If a child's health continues to affect their education schools are obliged to make a referral to School Health to ensure that appropriate medical advice and support is provided.

- If a child is ill, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that they inform the school. St Mary & St Joseph's operates a targeted "First Day Call" system, which

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means if they have not received a message from you, they will contact you to ask why your child is not in school and when they are expected to return. If no contact is made then the Head teacher plus another staff member will complete a home visit.

- No leave of absence will be granted during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.
- We are therefore informing parents/carers that, should you wish to take your child out of school for any leave of absence, holidays or otherwise, the request will not be routinely granted. It is essential that any requests are made in writing in advance for the attention of the Head Teacher. Any absence which has not been authorised by St Mary & St Joseph's will be recorded as "unauthorised" and this has the potential to impact on your child's overall absence figure and could result in legal action.

St Mary & St Joseph's is committed to ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to thrive and achieve, and recognises that good attendance is central to this.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

<b><u>What does the attendance percentage really mean?</u></b>		
<b><u>Attendance %</u></b>	<b><u>Days Lost</u></b>	<b><u>Lessons Missed</u></b>
<b><u>100%</u></b>	<b><u>0 days</u></b>	<b><u>0 lessons</u></b>
<b><u>97%</u></b>	<b><u>1 Week</u></b>	<b><u>30 lessons</u></b>
<b><u>94%</u></b>	<b><u>2 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>60 lessons</u></b>
<b><u>90%</u></b>	<b><u>4 weeks</u></b>	<b><u>120 lessons</u></b>
<b><u>85%</u></b>	<b><u>6 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>180 lessons</u></b>
<b><u>80%</u></b>	<b><u>8 Weeks</u></b>	<b><u>240 lessons</u></b>

<b>Class/Year group</b>	<b>Current class attendance</b>	<b>Number of school lessons missed</b>
<b>ELM- EYFS/1</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>SYCAMORE-2</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>BEECH- 3</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>OAK</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>WILLOW</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>ROWAN</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>120</b>

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Headteacher

*S Terrey*

*Mrs Sarah Terrey*