

St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter



11th June 2021



Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half term break, it was lovely to have all the children back on Tuesday. We have had a really good week at St Mary's.

Here are our Branches of Love pupils and St Mary's Citizens for this week. Well done to all of them.

Our Bike it Bear this week was Imogen B. Well done Imogen.



We are very excited at St Mary's as we have recently been reassessed for our Green Flag Award. I am very pleased to say that after the hard work by Mrs Gannon and the eco-committee pupils, we have regained our Green Flag Award status.

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The Eco-Schools Green Flag is international and recognised by organisations such as UNESCO. It is a symbol of a school's commitment to environmental education.

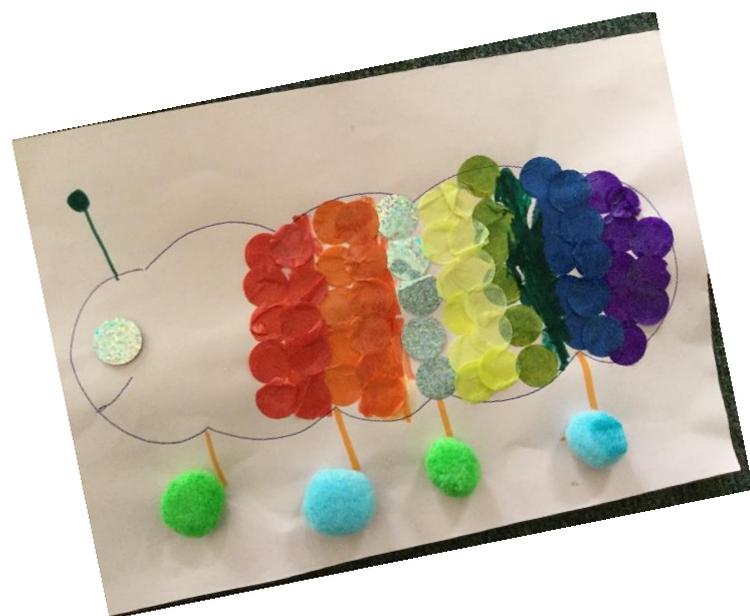
Working towards the award we have introduced, managed and completed environmental actions within our school and local community. We have been able to place our pupils at the heart of these environmental actions, which in turn, engages, motivates and empowers them to care for our planet now and throughout their lifetimes.

Our Year 4 team led the environmental review and chose priorities for our eco action plan. Their passion for the environment inspired us all to think deeply about our environment & how we could develop our projects at St Mary's. The projects that the children undertook were:

- Updating our bug hotel area
- Continuing our weekly 'bike it bear' competition and our walk to school registers
- Taking part in the big pedal to encourage more healthy and environmentally friendly ways of getting to school
- Running amazing 'Laudato Si' day, which we will do again next year
- Taking part in the Eyes of the World campaign for CAFOD

Coming up, we will be embarking on a litter project which year 4 will lead and we have done some fantastic

fundraising this year for our local charities as well as CAFOD. We will be putting our class eco bugs to work spreading the eco message around the school!



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On Thursday 8th July we will be having our alternative sports day. It is planned to have this day in class bubbles with lots of different sport activities. It will at the present time be pupils only. If the government guidelines change regarding numbers gathered together we will then relook at the risk assessment for this to see if parents could join us for some of the day but at the moment, it would be children only.

It will be a fun day & a celebration of sport & activities. More information to follow.



Swimming at St Mary's

Children in their classes will have visited the pool this week or early next week so that they know what they will be doing, when swimming starts.

We were hoping to start class & after school swimming from next Monday but an important water check has been delayed. This has to be carried out by an external company on behalf of Public Health England & checked in an external lab before we can allow the children into the water. This test is now being rescheduled to be carried out on Monday and will take a few days to come back. We therefore, hope that we can start swimming on Thursday next week (perhaps Wednesday if the test is quick). We will text parents to confirm which day the children will start as soon as we know.

Olympic Celebration Day – Thursday 8th July



Y3 & 4 will alternate when they swim/do PE so please continue to come in, in their

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PE kits on Tuesdays & Thursdays & bring their swim kit in every day, then we can be flexible.

Where possible, children are asked not to wear jewellery/earrings in the pool.

Swim Vouchers

Vouchers for after school swimming & summer lifeguard swimming will be available to buy or collect from the school office from Tuesday next week.

After school vouchers so that Reception children can swim on Tuesdays & Thursday 2.15-3.00pm & Year 1-4 can swim 3.15-4.30pm (Mon-Fri) **cost £10**.

If you are a qualified St Mary's lifeguard & wish your children to swim after school & during the summer holidays, the vouchers are **£20**.

Suncream & Water

As we are now in the summer and the weather is warm and sunny, please can children have suncream applied every day before school. Also, please remember water bottles – thank you.



St Mary's 'I love reading' challenge



At St Mary's we are starting our 'I love reading' challenge, which will run throughout the year. We are asking children to read at home each night during the week & for their reading records to be completed. Each time they read & complete the record, they will receive a raffle ticket in class to put into a weekly draw.

Each week, two winners from each class will be drawn and they will be able to choose a new book to take home & keep. We have some lovely books as prizes.

This term's super reading challenge

We are also setting our pupils a challenge of sending in a photo of them reading a book in an unusual place. Over the coming weeks, please send us your photos – we look forward to seeing them.

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Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

P. Fearn

Paula Fearn
Headteacher

The PTA's fundraising competition 'Pawsome Pets' is still running. We have had some great entries already. Please send your photo entries to sconway@stmarysdorchester.dorset.sch.uk and your entry fee of £2 or each entry can be paid via our justgiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stmarysdorchester?utm_term=vBJKwz7Rw

Thank you

Hot Lunches

If your child has hot lunches, please note that the Food Links Summer menu is live, don't forget to book hot lunches for the rest of the summer term.