



Friday 13th October 2023

# ST MARY'S NEWS

The latest news from St Mary's CE VC First School

## KEY DATES

- Monday 16th October**  
Curriculum Open Morning
- Tuesday 17th October**  
Flu Immunisations
- Tuesday 17th October**  
Year Two - T@SM Church visit
- Friday 20th October**  
Last Day of Term
- Mon 23rd to Fri 27th October**  
Half Term Holidays
- Monday 30th October**  
INSET Day – School Closed
- Tuesday 31st October**  
First Day of Term
- Mon 6th & Tues 7th November**  
Life Education Days
- Tues 7th November - 8:45-9:15**  
Life Ed. Parent Workshop
- Tuesday 7th November**  
Year Three - T@SM Church visit
- Wed 8th November - 2pm**  
Remembrance Service
- Monday 13th November - 9am**  
Linden Class Assembly
- Friday 17th November**  
Children in Need
- Monday 20th November**  
Spirituality Day
- Tuesday 28th November**  
Year R & 4 - T@SM Church visit
- Friday 1st December - 3-5pm**  
St Mary's Christmas Market
- Wed 6th December - 9:15am**  
Christmas Performance
- Thurs 7th December - 9:15am**  
Christmas Performance
- Thurs 7th December - 5:30pm**  
Christmas Performance
- Friday 8th December**  
Christmas Jumper Day

## Note from Mr Homer

Thank you to the huge amount of you who joined us to celebrate our Harvest Festival on Tuesday. It was so lovely to see our community coming together and sharing in song and prayer as we give thanks. Our youngest children, in Willow class, blew us away with their confidence as they sang 'Big, Red Combine Harvester' with our wonderful Oak Class, accompanied by Mrs Joy on piano! Year Two children showed off their fantastic still life and Giuseppe Arcimboldo inspired artwork, whilst our Year Three and Four children led us in prayer. Our new School Ambassadors stepped up to their new roles by reciting bible readings and Reverend Leila held the whole service together with her Haribo sweets!

All of the many donations of food will be given to Dorchester Food Bank which is located at The Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester. If you would like for us to make a referral for your family, to the foodbank, please contact either Mrs Bennett, Mrs Hayes or Mr Homer in confidence. If you have an urgent need for support, you can contact the foodbank yourself on 07554 983978.

Our next service which we will be inviting parents to will be our Christmas Service. This is due to take place in St Mary's Church on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th December.

On Tuesday, it was World Mental Health Day. We feel that this is a good time to remind our entire community that we are here to support you all. Mrs Bennett, our Family Support Advisor, is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and our Mental Health Lead, Miss Thornicroft, is contactable via the school office. If you, your child, or somebody else in the St Mary's family is in need of support, please speak with us in confidence and we will do all we can to listen, understand and support you.

I hope to see you all for our Curriculum Open Morning on Monday (see next page). Have a lovely weekend! Mr Homer



# CURRICULUM OPEN MORNING

On Monday morning, we invite all parents to come into school with their children from 08:30 until 09:15.

The purpose of this event is to allow you all to have a valuable insight into what our new curriculum offers to our children. You will be able to experience a small snapshot of school life for your child and also get to see their learning environment.

If you have multiple children in our school, please feel free to visit each classroom in turn. All St Mary's children must stay in their own classroom, so please do not take them around the school with you. There will be limited space in classrooms, so please avoid bringing pushchairs and siblings whenever possible. At 09:15, we will kindly ask the children to say their goodbyes to you as they will need to move to their first lesson of the day at 09:20.

If you cannot make this open morning please do not worry as we will be holding two more throughout the school year.

We hope to see you all here on Monday!



## Communication is Key!



St Mary's has used Tapestry for some time to communicate messages and learning updates directly from teachers to parents.

As we strive to move to a more consistent form of communication and look to save money across our school, we will be moving away from Tapestry for most of our year groups.

Only Reception (Willow) class will now be using Tapestry and this will only be used to share elements of their Early Years learning journey. At the end of their Reception year, children's Tapestry accounts will be made inactive.

Email will now replace Tapestry for all children beyond Reception and will be used in Reception to communicate messages.



Some of you will have become used to communicating and receiving positive alerts linked to your child's achievements via Class Dojo, of late.

We have reviewed our use of Class Dojo and whilst we love the ability to send positive alerts to parents' phones, the integrated communication tool was similar to instant messaging and therefore became unmanageable and difficult to monitor.

We have, therefore, decided to move to a new app called 'Marvellous Me'. This will enable parents to receive instant alerts in their app when 'thumbs ups' or 'badges' are virtually awarded to the children in school. Lots more details and guides will follow shortly, along with your log in details!



We have set up class email addresses to act as our main method of communication between parents and teachers.

The class email addresses are as follows:

[willow@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:willow@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)  
[oak@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:oak@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)  
[beech@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:beech@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)  
[maple@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:maple@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)  
[linden@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:linden@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)  
[ash@charminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:ash@charminster.dorset.sch.uk)

We ask that these are used when you need to make direct contact with your child's class team about something concerning your child or you wish to send images of home learning. Please note that these email addresses are unlikely to be monitored until after school hours, so please use the office address for any urgent messages.



Our school attendance for this academic year is currently:

**97%**

*Last week's winners were...*



## This Week's Awards for Growing and Flourishing





# ST MARY'S SCHOOL CHARMINSTER

1ST  DEC

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

3-5PM



SANTA SLOTS ARE FOR ST MARYS  
CHILDREN & SIBLINGS ONLY



SANTA

BRATWURSTS

MULLED WINE

CHILDREN'S CAROLS - CRAFT - GAMES - RAFFLE - STALLS

St Mary's CE VC First School



**SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**AGM**

Annual General Meeting

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Stay informed and get involved**

When: 7pm Tuesday 7th November

Where: Charminster School, West Hill,  
Charminster, DT2 9RD.





# This week at St Mary's

## This week in Willow...

...we have been exploring all things that make autumn. We have been on a woody welly walk and found lots of evidence of Autumn such as crispy, colourful leaves, conkers and acorns. We have scooped out pumpkin seeds and counted how many in a large pumpkin and how many in a small pumpkin so we could see which had more and fewer. We have been using lots of natural objects to practise using the language more and fewer. We also took part in our first Harvest Festival performance and all of the grown-ups were very proud of how our we all performed. Well done Willow class!



## This week in Oak...

...we have had a busy week! We have been creating our own version of Kandinsky's Concentric circles in Art and we have been learning all about question marks and how to use them with a little help from Kung fu punctuation! In maths we have been looking at part-whole models and in History we had fun boogying to a bit of rock and roll!



## This week in Beech...

...we have used our mountain of knowledge on Mary Anning to start writing our own biographies of Mary's life. We researched some facts and organised our thoughts into clear sections ready to write next week. We have also been working on making our own still life compositions which we designed and then drew. We look forward to showing you our skills on Monday!



## This week in Maple...



## This week in Linden...

...it was our turn to go on a school trip to New Barn Field Centre! Luckily, the rain stayed away for the majority of the day, enabling us to explore a range of Stone Aged skills.



## Recently in Ash...

...in Science we have been focussing on naming the different parts of the skeleton. We used model skeletons and x rays to help us. 'Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones'





# Are you concerned about a pupil?

If you are worried about a child,  
you must share your concern without delay.



**Mick Homer**

Headteacher

**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Lisa Thornicroft**

Teacher & SENDCo

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Karen Bennett**

Family Support Advisor

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**

**Our Safeguarding Governor is Reverend Pene Kennedy**

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused,  
you can make a referral directly to:

**Dorset's Children's Advice and Duty Service on 01305 228866**

**In an emergency, or if you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm,  
call the police on 999.**

Click or scan this QR code  
to go straight to Dorset  
Council's website:

