



Friday 6th September 2024

# ST MARY'S NEWS

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

Welcome back! I hope that everybody had an enjoyable break. It has been lovely seeing all of you and the children this week and there has been a really positive buzz around the school. I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming our new families to St Mary's - welcome to the St Mary's family!

Throughout the break, we have had a number of projects completed in school. This includes a new outdoor space for Reception (paid for by our wonderful School Association!), a newly painted classroom, LED lights throughout the entire school and more secure fencing installed between the car park and the field. We have also been supported by Initio to replace every computer and tablet in the school with brand new devices. The team here have worked hard to revamp and relocate the library as well as create a new space in Maple classroom for our Breakfast and Afterschool clubs. It really has been another busy summer!

For those of you using Breakfast Club, please note that it now opens from 07:50 with last entry at 08:20. Both Breakfast Club and Stay & Play Club now take place in Maple Class which can be access through the playground.

Key dates for the year ahead will be coming out to you very soon. There are a few upcoming ones which you will need to be aware of:

- Tuesday 10th September - Individual photos taken by Fraser Portrait  
All children must be wearing uniform in the morning so Year Two will need to bring their PE kits in a bag ready to change into after their photo. Rest-assured, staff will help them if needed. Year Four have their first swimming lesson on Tuesday afternoon, so they must remember to bring their swimming gear, including goggles, hat and towel, in a bag with them.
- Friday 27th September @ 3:00pm - Cake Sale for Macmillan Cancer Support  
After school we will be holding a cake sale in support of Macmillan's Coffee Morning appeal. We will be asking for donations of cakes to be sent in that morning. Please bring some spare change with you at the end of the day to help us support this fantastic charity.
- Monday 30th September @ 2:30pm - Phonics Information Event for parents  
Prior to pick-up time, we will be hosting a Phonics Information event in the school hall for parents/carers of children who are learning Phonics at school. This is particularly targeted at our Reception and Year One parents, but all are welcome. Please enter via the main reception.
- Tuesday 8th October @ 2:15pm - Harvest Festival  
Our annual Harvest Festival will take place in our school hall, led by Reverend Leila. We will be asking children to bring in a non-perishable food item to donate. All parents are welcome to attend this service, but please remember that space is very limited in the hall.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Homer

Be the best that you can be. Shine God's love for all to see.

• Friendship • Joy • Service • Hope • Compassion • Courage •



# WE NEED YOU!

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR SNACK SHACK HELPERS AND A CHAIR FOR THE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

We need a new chair to volunteer to take the lead on our school association. To chair meetings, engage with headteacher, bring new ideas and enthusiasm!

We also need snack shack helpers to set up and sell sweets/ice creams on Fridays! If you can help between 2.50-3.10pm Please get in touch!

**APPLY NOW**

Contact us through St Mary's First School Facebook

## SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### WHAT WE ACHIEVED LAST SCHOOL YEAR;

- Fab Fridays
- Panto for the whole school
- Life education visits
- 3 x School discos
- Year 3 & 4 Trip to Ancient Technology Centre
- Year four leaver's hoodies
- Two new sheds built
- Party day bouncy castle
- Snack shack
- New reception area upgrades!
- Valentines & Christmas hamper draws
- Year four leader hats
- Year One outdoor area upgrades
- Colouring competition
- New playground enhancements and resources
- Mother's & Father's Day gifts
- New reception parent gifts to all children
- Christmas & Easter gifts to all children
- End of year Summer Dinner
- Family Fun Day
- ST MARY'S FIRST SCHOOL READATHON 2024
- St Mary's School Association

A huge thank you to every member of the School Association who worked tirelessly last year to raise a huge amount of money for our school and to provide the children with some wonderful events and memories.

They now need our support to boost their numbers and ensure that we have another successful year together.

Please get in touch with them if you can help, whether a lot or a little, every little helps!

## Wessex Schools Music Ensembles

Does your child play an instrument or enjoy singing?  
Join a Wessex Schools Music Ensemble!

We run several weekly cross-school groups:

### Wednesdays @ Thomas Hardy School

4-4:50pm Bandemonium  
(for wind/brass players grade 0-2)  
Stringalings  
(for violinists/cellists grade 0-2)

### Thursdays @ Prince of Wales School

3:45 - 4:30pm Skylarks Children's Choir  
(for years 2-4 who enjoy singing and would like to experience singing a range of songs in harmony.)

### Fridays @ Thomas Hardy School

4 - 4:50pm Nightingales Choir  
(for children from years 5-8 who are more advanced singers who enjoy singing in harmony.)

Ensembles cost £38 per term, but you are welcome to try a session for free without committing.

For more information and to apply:

<https://music.wessex.ac/general-information.html>  
<https://music.wessex.ac/apply-for-a-wessex-music-ensemble.html>

## Safeguarding Matters

# 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

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 on the QR code to go straight to Dorset Council's website:

