

Newsletter

Friday 21st March 2025



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Families and Friends

Lenten journey...

Last Friday, was a beautiful day of prayer, creativity and community. We began with a reflective Mass with Fr Cletus and Deacon Mike in church. The children sang beautifully, and parishioners were moved by their heartfelt participation.

The day included Lent prayer spaces, focusing on saying sorry, reflecting on God's forgiveness, being thankful for His blessings and making Lent promises to grow closer to Him. The day continued creatively with each child making clay crosses, symbolising our journey through Lent. As always, were blessed with the support from parishioners who joined us in making this day so special.



Everyone matters and is loved by God.



For Lent, the GIFT team have arranged for school to take part in CAFOD's The Big Lent Walk. We are walking nine laps of the track (a mile) each day as we are getting ready for Easter. We began walking on Ash Wednesday. We hope you can donate, so we can give the money to CAFOD to help fight global poverty. We will be walking in all weathers, so please ensure children bring coats on wet days.

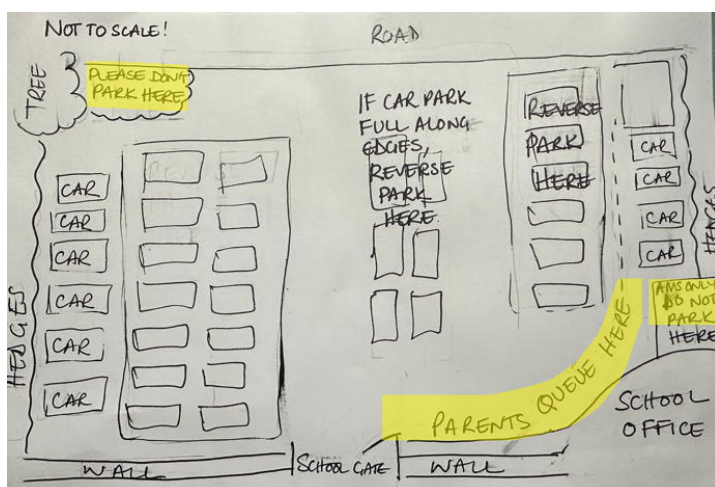
Mrs Myatt has created a just giving page through CAFOD so that we can collect donations. Here is a link to our page [JUST GIVING BIG LENT WALK](#). So far, we have raised £119. **Thank you for your support in this.**

Public Consultation - proposal to change the age range

Please see attached the public consultation going out regarding our proposal to extend our pre-school to 2 year olds. As you know, we have been trying to do this for some time. We are very excited about this, so please support us. Thank you.

Car park

Please can I ask you to be patient and respectful in and around the car park and the lanes, especially on busier days when there are no clubs. Please excuse my sketch, but hopefully this will give you an idea of where and where not to park. If you can reverse park into a space, this makes it easier for you to get out when leaving. Can I also remind you to join the queue when coming to pick up the children, this will make our lives a little less chaotic at the end of the day. Thank you again for your cooperation in this matter.



Celebration Assembly

We look forward to seeing you at Celebration Assembly today. Remember to be there at 2.45pm, so we can start at 2.50pm. Please do park in the playground if you are staying for the assembly. Thank you.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Attendance and punctuality

Government departments track school attendance figures. We have a whole school attendance target which is 96.5%. Our attendance is currently at **94.9%** which has remained the same since I last wrote to you but still **below** our national target. **Can I please remind you that term-time holidays are not permitted.**

Thank you again for working together with us in ensuring your child does not miss out on valuable education. Please check the NHS website for guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

St Anthony – 89.93%

St Mark – 95.06%

St Francis – 97%

St Alban – 95.25%

Although improving, **lateness is still an issue** for some. Please remember that the bell rings at **8:45** and that is when the gates will be closed. **There are STILL families consistently arriving after the bell.** It is unsettling for the children and disruptive to everyone. If this is you, and you know that you are often late, please make a greater effort to ensure you leave your house earlier or sign up for breakfast club. Anyone arriving after **8:45** will be marked **late** in the register. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Please email or phone the office to alert school for any absence or lateness. Can I also ask that you are prompt picking up your children at the end of the day. **We are often still waiting for children to be picked up at 3:25/3:30pm.**

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your child has appropriate school uniform, **which is labelled clearly**, including a warm coat. Please do not send your child to school wearing jewellery.



Winter Wear

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium grey long trousers or shorts • Red school sweatshirt with school logo • White button through shirt • Tie – red with blue stripes • Grey socks • Sensible black or dark brown shoes. No trainers or boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers • Red school sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo • White button through shirt • Tie – red with blue stripes • Sensible black or dark brown shoes. No trainers or boots

PE Kit

Please can I remind you that on PE days, for health and safety, children should not be wearing any earrings. If this cannot be avoided, please ensure your child wears (surgical) tape over their earrings. Can we also request that children in **KS2** wear long socks and bring shin pads for their PE days. **There are still several of the older pupils wearing PE Kit on non-PE days.**



Parents Evening

Please remember that parents' meetings are on: **Tuesday 1st April 4.30 – 6.30pm and Thursday 3rd April 3:30 – 5:30pm.**

Please contact teachers directly through **Class Dojo** requesting your preferential day and an hour slot, from which you will be allocated a 10-minute appointment.

Please note – after school clubs will not run that week.



After school clubs

Teacher led After School Clubs run from 3:15 until 4:15pm.

Day	Clubs
Monday	Book Club - Miss Smith
Tuesday	Eco Club – Mrs Myatt Football KS2 – Mr Young
Wednesday	Prime Sports KS2
Thursday	Choir – Mrs Baldwin

Please be prompt picking up your children at the end of their club. Thank you.

Do remember that we have **Breakfast Club** which starts at 8am every day and costs £2.75 per session.

Busy Bees After School Club has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £4.00

3:15 – 5:15pm - £8.50

3:15 – 6:00pm - £12.00

Pre-school hourly rate is £5.00.

Government funding (nursery vouchers) for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds can be claimed for a maximum of 15 or 30 hours (where eligible) per week over 38 weeks of the year.

Additional hours will be charged at £5.00 per hour.

Please can I remind you to book in advance using School Money – we understand if an emergency comes up, but we need to know numbers to ensure we have the correct staff ratios.

Please can I also remind you to pay when you make your booking. We understand that the cost of living is high, but it makes life more challenging if you end up in arrears. We don't want to turn away children, but we cannot accept your children until all outstanding payments are made. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.



Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March

Thank you for supporting our efforts in raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves. As it's Red Nose Day's 40th birthday, we are asking for a donation of £1 and the children can come to school in non-uniform, either wearing 80's fashion, comedy hair or dressed as a superhero. I look forward to seeing the children's efforts this year!

PTFA



Hopefully you all received our latest newsletter last week, with plans up until Easter. We will be planning the summer term at our next meeting.

We have one last tuck shop on Friday 28th March after school. Hopefully the children have enjoyed this over the half term, and we hope to see lots of you there again!

Our shed has arrived and as mentioned in the newsletter, if anyone has any unused but good condition storage boxes or storage racks that they don't mind donating to help furnish the inside of the shed, please let us know.

As always, if you have any suggestions or questions, please let us know at stmarysmarnhullptfa@gmail.com

Our next meeting is Tuesday 29th April in the hut at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!
The PTFA



Free Parent/ Carer session: 'An Introduction to Autism'



What is the session about?

The session was co-developed with parents of autistic children, a SENCo, Dorset Parent Carer Council and Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists from Dorset Council.

It will help you to:

- Understand what autism is and the impact it can have on children/young people
- Learn some practical strategies to support an autistic child/young person

Please note, this is a general information session so we won't be able to discuss individual children.

The session will be delivered by either an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher from Dorset Council

Who can attend?

Any parents / carers who:

- Have an autistic child
- Have a child undergoing an assessment for autism
- Are interested in learning more about autism

Where and when?

Dorchester Library and Learning Centre, Room 3, South Walks House, Charles Street, Dorchester, DT1 1EE Date: Thursday 22nd of May - 3:30pm - 5:00pm

The Mulberry Children's centre, 2 Newstead Road, Weymouth, DT4 8JE Date: Wednesday 11 June 2025 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Wimborne Children's Centre, Gordon Rd, Wimborne Minster, Wimborne, BH21 2AP Date: Wednesday 11 June 2025 1pm - 2.30pm

Blandford Children's Centre, Black Lane, Blandford Forum DT11 8SW Date: Thursday, May 22nd 1.30pm until 3pm

Wareham Family Hub, Worgret Rd, Wareham BH20 4PH - (Behind Purbeck School, beside the Leisure Centre) Date: Tuesday 24th June from 10-11.30am

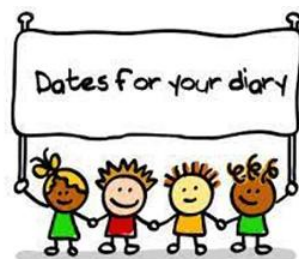
Bridport Family Hub, Skilling Hill Rd, Bridport DT6 5LA - (TRAINING ROOM 1) Date: Wednesday 11th June from 1.30pm - 3pm

Gillingham Primary School, Gillingham Police Station, 1 School Rd, Gillingham SP8 4QR -Date: to be confirmed

To book a place, please email elena.gillman@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 1st April – Parents evening 3:30 – 5:30pm
- Thursday 3rd April – Parents evening 4:30 – 6:30pm
- Friday 4th April – last day of Spring Term
- **Easter Holidays**
- Tuesday 22nd April - children return to school
- Friday 23rd May – break up for Half Term
- Monday 2nd June – INSET Day
- **Wednesday 11th June – Yogi Forest School**
- Tuesday 22nd July – break up for Summer Holidays



God Bless

Sharon Betts
Headteacher

Term Dates 2024-25		Half Term holidays	Inset Days
Autumn Term 03.09.24 – 20.12.24	Children start school Wednesday 4th September 2024 Children break up for Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December 2024	Children finish for half term on Friday 25th October 2024 and return to school on Tuesday 5th November 2024	03.09.24 04.11.24
Spring Term 06.01.25 – 04.04.25	Children start back at school Monday 6th January 2025 Children break up for Easter holidays on Friday 4th April 2025	Children finish for half term on Friday 14th February 2025 and return to school on Tuesday 25th February 2025	24.02.25
Summer Term 22.04.25 – 23.07.25	Children start back at school Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Children break up for Summer holidays on Tuesday 22nd July 2025	Children finish for half term on Friday 23rd May 2025 and return to school on Tuesday 3rd June 2025	02.06.25 23.07.25