

Newsletter



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Families and Friends

Remembering is at the heart of Christian life. Today, we remember the sacrifice of the millions who gave their life so that others might live. We remember, and in remembering, honour them; in honouring them, we treasure the freedom they fought to preserve.



Members from our GIFT team are representing the school today at the Remembrance service at St Gregory's War Memorial.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week launches on **Monday 14th November with Odd Socks Day** and this year has a theme of 'Reaching Out'. This week has been strongly led by the School Council who met and agreed upon activities for all classes to undertake.

Children in Need

To support Children in Need, on **Friday 18th November**, we will be asking the children to come to school **wearing (clean) pyjamas, a onesie or spotty clothes** and bring a donation for Children in Need. Thank you in advance.



PTFA

The PTFA have lots to tell you which wouldn't all fit on here, so look out for their separate newsletter coming soon!



PE Kit

Please can I remind you again 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. Now would be a good time to introduce layers – joggers and shorts, depending on the weather. Can we also ask that children have a change of shoes for PE days as with the wet weather we've had lately, the field does get muddy!

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your child has appropriate school uniform – there has been an increase in trainers being worn. The PTFA are selling lots of pre-loved uniform – please speak to one of them. I would also remind you that children shouldn't be wearing any jewellery or nail varnish at school. Thank you.



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



Car park

I have unfortunately had some complaints about parents being verbally aggressive to each other regarding parking spaces. This is not acceptable. Please can I ask you to be patient and respectful, especially with new parents who have joined our school and may not be familiar with the routines. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Attendance

I am again asking for your support in improving whole school attendance and punctuality.

Government departments track school attendance figures. It is considered that attendance of 90% or below is persistent absence which will be closely monitored by school staff. Failing to improve on this 90% can lead to prosecution, which school want to help families avoid.

We have a whole school attendance target which is 96.5%. Currently, our attendance is well below that figure.

There are things you can do to improve your child's attendance and avoid falling into the persistent absence category:

- If your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them to school, contact the office to seek advice on 01258 820417
- **Avoid taking any holidays during term times**
- Keep up to date with what % attendance your child has so that you know if they are at risk of persistent absence (Mrs Beaumont can provide this for you)
- Speak to school staff with any concerns.
- Talk to your child about the importance of them being in school and let them know how important you feel it is.



The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil absence:

attendance % over a school year	Equal to number of days absent	Converted to approximate weeks of absence	Approximate number of lessons missed	School Concern Level
95%	9.5	2	47.5	Pupil can catch up and still succeed
90%	19	4	95	Poor attendance -we are concerned
80%	38	8	190	Very poor attendance – we are very concerned
70%	57	12	285	Serious concerns

So a child who has an absence % of 80% has missed 38 days of school and has missed 190 lessons.

Punctuality is also highly important. Pupils who arrive late to school are not only losing learning but also disrupting the learning of others as they arrive late for lessons. Pupils do not like being late into school and we witness how upsetting it can be for them. We want to prevent this.

The table below provides an example of the impact of lost learning through pupil lateness.

Number of minutes late per day over a school year	Approximate equivalent number of days lost learning
5	3
10	6.5
15	10
20	13

We want to help families get their child to school on time. Here are some things you can try:

- Have everything you/your child needs for school prepared the night before
- Ensure that your child goes to bed reasonably so they are not too tired to get up in the morning
- Ensure your child has a good night's sleep by minimising their use of devices at bed time.
- Have a consistent bedtime routine for your child
- Set an alarm to allow plenty of time for your morning routine in getting to school on time
- Bring your child to breakfast club (8am – 8.30am)

Thank you for your continued support, I hope we can make improvements to attendance and punctuality.



Busy Bees After School Club has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £3.50

3:15 – 5:00pm - £7.50

3:15 – 6:00pm - £10.00

Please use School Money to book your child in for any sessions, but note that you can't book through School Money on the day. Please note that children being picked up after 5pm, will be charged until 6pm. Thank you.

Please remember that we have Breakfast Club which starts at 8am every day and costs £2.50 per session.

After school clubs

After School Clubs run from 3:15 until 4:15pm

Day	Clubs
Monday	Lego – Mr Cato
Wednesday	Book Club - Miss Smith
Thursday	Eco Club – Mrs Myatt Football KS2 – Mr Young

Celebration Assembly

We are continuing to invite the parents of one class at a time to attend our Celebration Assembly. Please arrive at 2:50pm and park on the playground, so we can start at 2:55pm. Thank you.



Celebration Assembly - 2:55pm	Class
Friday 11 th November	St Mark's
Friday 18 th November	St Francis
Friday 25 th November	St Alban's



Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

8th December is Christmas Jumper Day. It is an annual event which takes place to raise money for the charity Save the Children. The day encourages everyone to see the world as we hope our children do: a colourful place, full of magic and happiness. To join in with Christmas Jumper Day 2022, the children can simply wear a Christmas jumper to school instead of their

normal school jumper. The recommended donation is £2. This year is even more special. The UK government has promised to give the same amount as you give. Every time you give £2 to Save the Children, they will also give £2. Our school Christmas lunch will be on the same day – the menu choices will be made available soon.

Consultation

Dorset are running the annual consultation on the School Admission Arrangements for 2024/2025 with effect from **Monday 7th November 2022** to **Sunday 18th December 2022**.



Details of the consultation will be available to view at [2024 to 2025 school admission policies - Dorset Council](#)

Responses must be submitted either in writing to School Admissions Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ or by email to schoolorganisation@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by **Sunday 18th December 2022**.

Upon the conclusion of the consultation period all responses will be considered carefully and a report will be presented to Dorset Council's Cabinet meeting on **Tuesday 28th February 2023**.

The key dates for the consultation are set out below:

Dorset LA consultation begins	7th November 2022
Dorset LA consultation ends	18th December 2022
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) determine 2024-2025 Admission Arrangements by:	28th February 2023
Own Admission Authorities (including Dorset LA) publish 2024-2025 Admission Arrangements by:	15th March 2023
Own Admission Authorities to send a copy of their 2024-2025 Admission Arrangements to Dorset Council by:	
Deadline for Objections to Office of the School's Adjudicator	15th May 2023

Relationships Education (RHSE)

Please see the information (on the next few pages) for our Life to the Full RHSE programme for the year. If you have any questions please ask your class teacher, or Mrs Myatt who is our RHSE Lead.

Information for
PARENTS



Module One: Created and Loved by God

explores the individual. Rooted in the teaching that we are made in the image and likeness of God, it helps children to develop an understanding of the importance of valuing themselves as the basis for personal relationships.



Early Years Foundation Stage:

- Our uniqueness in real terms
- Celebrating differences, talents and abilities
- Looking after and using our bodies
- The necessity of when and how to say sorry
- Jesus' forgiveness and growing up as God's plan for us



Key Stage One:

- We are uniquely made by a loving God
- We have differences and similarities
- Key information about staying physically healthy
- Understanding feelings and emotions, including strong feelings such as anger
- The cycle of life from birth to old age



Lower Key Stage Two:

- Understanding differences
- Respecting our bodies
- Puberty and changing bodies
- Strategies to support emotional wellbeing including practicing thankfulness
- The development of pupils' understanding of life before birth



Upper Key Stage Two:

- Appreciation of physical and emotional differences
- A more complex understanding of physical changes in girls' and boys' bodies
- Body image
- Strong emotional feelings
- The impact of the internet and social media on emotional well-being
- A more nuanced and scientific understanding of life in the womb and how babies are made
- Menstruation



Religious UNDERSTANDING



Story Sessions:

Each learning stage focuses on a different Gospel story, which is repeated in various ways over a week, giving rise to times of discussion, imaginative reflection and creative response, for example, in Key Stage One children will hear and reflect on the story of Jesus telling the little children to come to Him and through imaginative reflection will put themselves into the story to experience Jesus' call personally.

In Upper Key Stage Two, the story is that of Jesus calming the storm, and is used to reflect on how whatever might come their way through puberty and beyond, Jesus is with them and will help them.

Module Two: Created to Love Others

explores the individual's relationships with others. Building on the understanding that we have been created out of love and for love, this unit explores how we take this calling into our family, friendships and relationships, and teaches strategies for developing healthy relationships.



Early Years Foundation Stage:

Unit 2: Personal Relationships

- Different family/friend relationships
- Features of positive/negative behaviour in relationships
- The importance of saying sorry and forgiveness within relationships

Unit 3: Keeping Safe

- Practical ways to stay safe inside and out
- Staying safe around medicines
- People who help us in emergencies



Lower Key Stage Two:

Unit 2: Personal Relationships

- Different family structures
- Activities and strategies for developing healthy relationships with family and friends
- Techniques for managing thoughts, feelings and actions

Unit 3: Keeping Safe

- Online safety
- Teaching on bullying and abuse
- The effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- The crucial role of First Aid in emergency situations



Key Stage One:

Unit 2: Personal Relationships

- 'Special people' in their lives who they love and can trust
- Coping with various social situations and dilemmas
- The importance of saying sorry and forgiveness within relationship

Unit 3: Keeping Safe

- The risks of being online
- The difference between good and bad secrets
- Teaching on physical boundaries
- The effects of harmful substances
- Some basic First Aid



Upper Key Stage Two:

Unit 2: Personal Relationships

- Strategies for more complex experiences of relationships and conflict
- How to identify and respond to spoken and unspoken pressure
- The concept of consent
- Further teaching on how our thoughts and feelings impact on how we act

Unit 3: Keeping Safe

- Risks of sharing and chatting online
- A more complex understanding of different forms of abuse
- How drugs, alcohol and tobacco can negatively affect people's lifestyles
- Essential First Aid such as DR ABC and the recovery position



Religious UNDERSTANDING



At the start of each learning stage, we begin with a series of story sessions based on a key Gospel story which provides the religious foundation for the teaching that will follow. For example, through an imaginative retelling of the Prodigal Son, children deepen their understanding of the concept of sin and the importance of forgiveness in relationships.

Module Three: Created to Live in Community explores the individual's relationship with the wider world. Here we explore how human beings are relational by nature and are called to love others in the wider community through service, through dialogue and through working for the Common Good.



Early Years Foundation Stage:

- Children will learn that God is three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Know that they are loved and called to love others
- Learn about the different communities they are part of and the responsibilities they have to them



Key Stage One:

- Children understand that God is love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Learn that being made in His image means being called to be loved and to love others
- Learn about the various communities they belong to: home, school, parish, the wider community, the nation and the global community
- Know that God calls us to live in community with one another



Lower Key Stage Two:

- Children will develop a deeper understanding that God is love as shown by the Trinity
- Understand that the human family reflects the Holy Trinity in mutual charity and generosity
- Know that the Church family comprises of home, school and parish
- Catholic Social Teaching on what it means to work for the Common Good



Upper Key Stage Two:

- Children will know that God is Trinity – a communion of persons
- Learn that the Church is the body of Christ
- Develop a deeper and richer understanding of Catholic social teaching
- Learn how certain charities reach out to the wider community with love



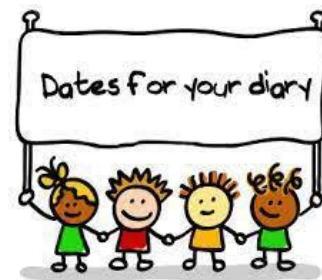
Religious UNDERSTANDING



In the first Unit, Religious Understanding, the sessions help children to develop a concept of the Trinity at a level appropriate for their learning stage. They learn about the creative circle of love between Father, Son and Spirit. Children will learn that just like the Trinity of God, we are made to love God and love others, and we are made to be loved by God and others. This extends not only to us, our families, our friends and our personal relationships, but also to the wider world.

Dates for your diary:

- **Monday 14th November – Odd Socks Day – Anti-Bullying Week**
- **Friday 18th November - BBC Children in Need**
- **Thursday 1st December – Advent Day of Faith**
- **Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December – Christmas Wreath Workshops**
- **Sunday 4th December - Christmas fair**
- **Thursday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Lunch**
- **Friday 16th December – last day of the Autumn term**
- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – children return to school**



Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Betts
Headteacher