

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Old Mill Lane
Marnhull
Sturminster Newton
Dorset DT10 1JX
Tel/Fax: 01258 820417
Email: office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk
www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School



Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are back in school this week with more children and it has been lovely to see lots of smiling faces. The children have quickly got used to the new routines of one way systems and spaced out desks. We have also been really impressed with the continued engagement with home learning. The children are showing that they are as enthusiastic and dedicated in week 11 as they were in week 1! Again, thank you for your support in this.

I am aware that some of the children (and parents) may be feeling disappointed that they can't attend school while others can. I would love to be able to have the whole of St Mary's back but unfortunately, we are not able to at the moment. If you would like your child to return to school and would be eligible to come back (Preschool, Reception, Year One, Year Six or Key worker family), please contact me.

This week's learning at both school and home:

News from Explorers

Our preschool children are enjoying the story 'Handa's Surprise'. They have discovered the animals that live in Africa and the fruits that grow there. They have decorated and played their own drums, beating out and copying rhythms. In addition to this they have been enjoying getting into the outdoor area, digging their own vegetable patch and creating small worlds from natural materials. Inside, our classroom is being transformed into an African jungle and the children have enjoyed creating and adding their own animals. The children in preschool have proved very adaptable to new



Everyone matters and is loved by God.

arrangements. They have learned new routines, accessed their own resource stations and responded well to hand washing while singing their favourite nursery rhymes.

News from St Anthony's and St Mark's Class

Children at home and school are enjoying our new theme Africa. Our story 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' has taken us to a village in Kenya. The children have responded to the story through drawing, writing and discussions. They have delved into the emotions in the story and have learnt some new wow words to describe their feelings. In Geography we have travelled using Google Earth to the continent of Africa and have begun our study of Kenya.

At school the children have taken full advantage of our new outdoor classroom. They have enjoyed taking their learning outside. At times, this is a tranquil spot for quiet reading while listening to the wind chimes and at others a spot to run and let off steam. We have been delighted to find that all three of our school bird boxes are occupied! The baby sparrows in the outdoor classroom are super noisy and have interrupted our learning often. We have enjoyed watching the mummy bird busily flying to and fro to feed her babies. Children at home have also enjoyed investigating nature ranging from natural art to investigating moths!



Message from Mrs Yarwood

St Francis have been really busy both at home and at school. Our topic of Beauty and the Beast has led us to examining all the Living Things in our World for science and the beasts that are below our Earth - like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. We even tried to make our own tsunamis - which proved rather messy but tied in well with our Random act of Wildness for that day which was to squelch in the mud we had made! The 30 Days of Wildness Challenge for June run by the Wildlife Trust is proving a big hit as we try to tick off the challenge for each day. Our book, Charlotte's Web, for the last half of the term is



almost finished and we have enjoyed many different literacy and art activities related to it. Fun Fridays which are mostly free of screen time have led to lots of different activities including making funfair games to making up and solving maths riddles and thinking of the silliest day ever! Well



done to the all children for working so hard and to the parents for supporting them all so well.

News from Mrs Higgs:



During our first week's topic- 'From Farm to Fork'- we have had fun thinking about where our food comes from. This has included looking at our food at home and working out the food miles. We found avocados that were from Peru that had travelled 6000 miles and green beans from Egypt. Have you studied recently where your food has travelled from? With some of the children in



school, we have also thought about where pasta comes from and made our very own pasta by mixing the raw ingredients and rolling it through a pasta machine. The children have designed and made their own cereal boxes and learnt about and played a fair-trade game. Children at home have been working really hard and have sent in some lovely photos of their work too! Well done everybody!

If you would like to contact me directly for any reason please use cbtargett@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk and I will get back to you.

Many thanks,
Charlotte Targett
Headteacher

Everyone matters and is loved by God.

Everyone matters and is loved by God.