



St Mary's News

C.E. Middle School, Puddletown



Autumn 2023 - Dedication

8th September 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is an honour to be Head of School at St Mary's and to work with a team of dedicated, exceptional staff and such enthusiastic, diligent youngsters. I have been made to feel so welcome by everyone, which has confirmed my thoughts as a parent of children at the school just how lucky our pupils are to be part of such a nurturing, caring school community. I have enjoyed an exciting first full week at St Mary's! Monday was filled by the buzz of our new Year 5s, followed by Years 6, 7 and 8 returning on Tuesday. The tutors have done a fabulous job suppressing those first day nerves and supporting the pupils smoothly into the new school year. St Mary's is once again bustling with the excitement of catching up with friends, new learning and the plethora of terrific opportunities that make the school what it is. We encourage every pupil to get involved and take advantage.

In other news, lots was going on at St Mary's while many of us were off on our summer holidays. Thirty pupils attended our Summer School that ran in the first week of the holiday thanks to Mrs Doak. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities, from swimming to table tennis and cookery. While the summer school was taking place the site team was supervising a big upgrade of the school's lighting, continuing our switch to eco-friendly LEDs, along with the installation of very smart new windows and doors along the corridor next to the hall.

Please be aware that we have changed our school uniform policy slightly to allow pupils to wear all-black 'training style' school shoes. The aim is to offer parents greater flexibility with uniform purchase and to fit more closely with the policy on shoes at Thomas Hardy School. I would like to stress, however, that these shoes must be completely black with no visible logos, stripes etc (please see the pictures in this newsletter for further guidance).

We are all looking forward to welcoming prospective new pupils and families to St Mary's for our big Open Evening on Tuesday 21 November, 6-8pm. This is an important event for the school and we would be very grateful if you would spread the word far and wide. Look out for Mr Bingham's promo film launching very soon!

The school has been very busy this week at drop-off time in the morning. Can I please remind parents to leave the school site promptly after dropping off their child to ease congestion in the car park area. And, for new parents, please remember Puddletown's unofficial one-way system! Please approach the school using New Street and leave via Coombe Road. This is very important to keeping the traffic moving around the school, including the school buses!

Finally, the St Mary's School Association is desperate for new members. As many parents will be aware, the Association does a tremendous job raising much-needed funds for the school that are used directly to provide a wealth of opportunities for our pupils. The Association is also the driving force behind highly successful events such as the school discos. Owing to a lack of volunteers the Association is now unfortunately at serious risk of folding. We invite anyone who is interested in supporting the St Mary's School Association to come along to the AGM at the school at 6:30pm on Monday 11 September.

Thank you for your support and very best wishes for a happy and successful term.

Dr T Ennion
Headteacher

Respect, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Justice, Uniqueness, Equality, Honesty, Kindness

Term dates for the next Academic year (2023 - 2024)

20th October 2023 - End of half -term for pupils
30 October 2023 - **INSET DAY**
31st October 2023 - Start of 2nd half-term for pupils
15th December 2023 - End of autumn term

Spring Term

2nd January 2024 - Start of spring term
8th February 2024 - End of half-term for pupils
9th February 2024 - **INSET DAY**
19th February 2024 - Start of 2nd spring half -term
29th March 2024 - End of spring term

Summer Term

15th April 2024 - Start of summer term
6th May 2024 - Mayday bank holiday
24th May 2024 - End of half-term
3rd June 2024 - Start of 2nd summer half-term
19th July 2024 - End of summer term for pupils



ACADEMIC
DATES

Parents Evening Dates 2023/2024

Meet the Tutor Evening (IN SCHOOL) – Thursday 5th October 2023
4.00pm-7.00pm

Subject Evening (VIRTUAL) – Thursday 30th November 2023
4.00pm-7.00pm

Subject Evening (VIRTUAL) – Thursday 14th March 2024
4.00pm-7.00pm

Parents Evening (Tutor Only – IN SCHOOL) Thursday 11th July 2024
4.00pm-7.00pm

Year 8 Upper School Applications

Deadline 31st October 2023

Year 8 Parents can now apply for an Upper School Place for September 2024 by visiting www.dorsetforyou/schooladmissions



INSPIRE TODAY TO SHAPE TOMORROW

OPEN EVENING



Tuesday 21st
November



6-8pm

Examples of Acceptable Footwear which can be worn..



*Polite reminder, as per the school website, only black or grey socks are to be worn as part of the uniform, please **NO** white socks for all boys and girls!*

PE...pupils should please wear their long blue socks during the lesson but are welcome to put back on their white socks for normal lessons and also for comfort!

<https://www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk/page/?>



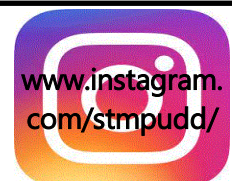
Individual School Photographs will be taking place next **Friday, 15th September**. All pupils to wear full school uniform. Those that have PE, please bring your kit to change into.

FRASER
POSTALWAYS



Keep up to date on what is going on in school...Follow us on Facebook...

<https://www.facebook.com/SMCEMIDPUDD>



www.instagram.com/stmpudd/

If any further information is required please visit our website at www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk