



# St Mary's News

C.E. Middle School, Puddletown



## Autumn 2023 - Kindness

## 22nd September 2023



Dear Parent/Carers,

I would like to thank staff, parents and pupils for an excellent start to the new school year at St Mary's. The pupils have been outstanding and have continued to adjust impressively to a new school (Year 5) and to their new year groups. The school is now back in full swing with the start of a wide menu of extra-curricular opportunities, from sports clubs and music lessons to chess and Warhammer clubs. We encourage all our pupils to take full advantage and to get involved with something new!

I am delighted to report that thanks to the generosity of new volunteers, the School Association remains in safe hands and will undoubtedly thrive for the foreseeable future under the leadership of our new chairs, Briony Hosford and Marie Chappell. On behalf of the school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee, Chrissy Hancock, Charlie Langlands and Nicky Ling for all they have done to support our pupils over the years. Their contribution and impact have been immeasurable.

Finally, the details of our Open Evening and Open Mornings for all parents of Year 4 children, and other prospective new parents, are out! Please spread the word and take a moment to visit the school website to jump aboard Mr Bingham's drone for an amazing virtual tour of St Mary's!

**Dr T Ennion**  
**Headteacher**

### *The pupils who have done exceptionally well...*

#### **Year 5**

- Noah H—5MO
- Jasmine B—5AL
- Oliver B—5FE
- Darcy W—5MO
- Naye C— 5YM
- Kayla W—5MO

#### **Year 6**

- Thomas N—6SC
- Hayden B—6DW
- Ethan P—6WG

#### **Year 7**

- Joseph C—7MO

#### **Year 8**

- Ruby B—8OD

### *Huge thanks St Mary's*

for your wonderful kind donations for the Harvest Festival, these are going to be delivered to the Dorchester Foodbank by Dr Ennion!

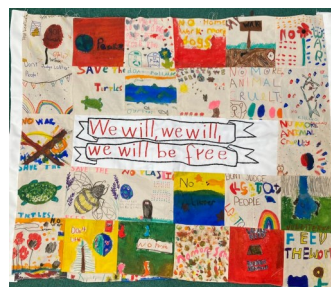


*History with Mr Aspinall...* To compliment their local history topic about the legacy of the Tolpuddle Martyrs in July, our Year 6s produced their own protest banners reminiscent of the actual banners carried by 100,000 supporters from across the country who marched to London on 21st April, 1834. This led to the Martyrs being pardoned.

The children considered what good causes were important to them and produced their own messages about topics such as plastic pollution and climate change. Over the summer, a local artist sewed the individual squares together to create four large banners (the other two are now on display in the Tolpuddle Chapel building). We would like to thank Tolpuddle Chapel curator Kathy Osborne for her informative presentation and support of this project. The children were fascinated to discover the significant impact that the Tolpuddle labourers' story had locally, nationally and globally. The Tolpuddle Martyrs' sacrifice is remembered as part of the founding of the modern trade union movement- a reminder of how hard ordinary working people had to fight for basic fairness at work and in society.

*God is our guide! No swords we draw.  
We kindle not war's battle fires:  
By reason, union, justice, law,  
We claim the birthright of our sires:  
We raise the watchword Liberty:  
We will, we will, we will be free!*

**Words of George Loveless 1834**



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



# OPEN MORNINGS

Wednesday 22nd November

9:30 – 11:00am



Thursday 23rd November

9:30 – 11:00am

Parents of Year 4 children – come and see our wonderful school in action! We are offering two Open Mornings on either Wednesday 22 November or Thursday 23 November, 9:30am – 11:00am. These open mornings will include a tour of the school and the chance to meet some of the staff.



*Check out the school Facebook page and website to view Mr Bingham's virtual tour of St Mary's!*

**Year 8...**Excitement levels were high for the first geography field trip of the year. Year 8 travelled to Swanage in order to look at land use and tourism within the town, as well as view the stunning coastal landforms including Old Harry Rocks from the unique perspective of a high-speed rib ride. On the Monday, students enjoyed being blasted out of Swanage Bay to look at limestone caves, chalk stacks and stumps as well view the impact of the coastal defences on the landscape.

Students spent time completing a field sketch on top of Peveril Down and then ventured into the town to complete visitor questionnaires asking them what they attracted them to come to Swanage. The remaining time was spent purchasing multiple ice creams of every flavour imaginable.

Despite the Mediterranean conditions for the first two weeks of September, unfortunately, the Atlantic Ocean had woken up and was funneling low pressure systems across the UK (wet and windy weather) meaning that on the Tuesday despite Phil from Pierhead Watersports best efforts we were unable to go out on the rib. *Mr Mitchem*



### Free School Meals

If your child qualifies for free school meals, not only will they receive a healthy meal on every school day, they will also be entitled to the following:-

*\*access to free holiday clubs*

*\*extra money for St Mary's Middle School towards more teachers and activities*

It is easy to find out if you qualify - complete the confidential checker at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals) or telephone 01305 221090



### Date for your Diary...

Thursday 19th October, 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Get your dancing shoes at the ready St Mary's!

More information to follow!

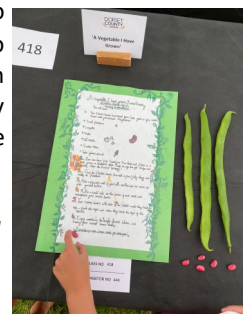


On the last day of this half term - **Friday 20th October**, we are celebrating Wear it Pink Day, raising money for Breast Cancer NOW! All St Mary's students are invited to come in to school in home clothes, with either a hint, a splash or a whole outfit of pink, in return for a £1 donation. On Monday 9th October, I will be launching the 5p challenge where each tutor group is invited to raise as much money in 5ps as possible to try to win some of my famous chocolate brownies and a non uniform day for the tutor group. Do start collecting your 5ps and planning your pink day outfit! *Miss Foot*



**Congratulations** to Willow N (5MO) who entered her homegrown Runner Beans at the County Show in the 8-12 age group...she only came first!

**Super achievement Willow!**



**CHANGE OF DATE...**In consultation with SLT and the Year 6 team the date of the March Mocks SATs has been moved forward to 5th February 2024. This is to give staff more time to address any weaknesses that arise in the tests. The October Mock SATs will remain on the 2nd October.

**Y6 SATs**

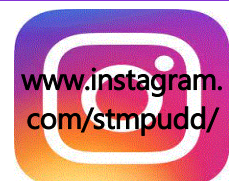
### Year 8 Upper School Applications Deadline 31st October 2023

Year 8 Parents can now apply for an Upper School place for September 2024 by visiting [www.dorsetforyou/schooladmissions](http://www.dorsetforyou/schooladmissions)



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[www.instagram.com/stmpudd/](https://www.instagram.com/stmpudd/)

If any further information is required please visit our website at [www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk)