



St Mary's News

C.E. Middle School, Puddletown



🎄 Autumn 2023 - Merry Christmas 🎄

15th December 2023



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

Dear Parents/Carers,

If you follow our Facebook feed (you are missing out if you do not!), you will be aware of just how much has taken place at St Mary's this term; the fun, the excitement, the sheer breadth of opportunities and experiences that our students have engaged with is phenomenal. As well as everything you might expect to happen during a normal school day, we have had extra-curricular clubs such as Wild Art Club every Friday, Rock Club, football, netball, rugby, archery, table tennis, dance club, kick boxing to name but a few. Mrs Monro set up our exciting new our Reading Ambassadors programme which has involved the students in promoting a love of reading across the school. We danced the night away in October at the first School Association disco of the year. Then came Year 5's rainforest day when the school was transformed into a microcosm of the Amazon jungle. We have enjoyed multiple visiting authors and been inspired by professional musicians. Our Cyber Girls have won national accolades in GCHQ challenges and we have witnessed first-hand the power of the sea along the Jurassic Coast on geography field trips. Our students have been successful at London Fashion Week, national dance competitions, shooting competitions and at MotoX. They have experienced different cultures and traditions, including a Passover dinner in the school hall and so many of them turned up to show off their school on our fabulous open evening and open mornings.

Now Christmas is near and the the final week of term continues at pace with the terrifically successful School Association Christmas Market, carol competitions and the Royal Navy bringing Santa to St Mary's in a very impressive Merlin helicopter!

Alongside the festive frenzy are our Christmas church carol services which as well as allowing us to enjoy the talents of our wonderful choir and instrumentalists, offered us a valuable opportunity to reflect on some of the deeper meanings of the season. Two of our core values at St Mary's are kindness and equality. Christmas is indeed the season of kindness and good will but it is also a time that can expose inequality; something that our students are fully committed to tackling.

In September, our pupils and their families donated a van-load of food and other products for Dorchester Food Bank as part of our harvest festival celebrations. Wear it Pink Day in October raised £1,290 for Breast Cancer NOW! And over 50 of our Year 8 students are making a real difference in our community as part of the Young Leaders Award. Projects include helping at local care homes, running beach cleans, volunteering for the RSPCA, encouraging families to donate over 200 chocolate advent calendars for Dorset Foodbank and running a Christmas shoebox appeal for a local charity, Heart Response... 55 shoeboxes were donated! And this week, two students, Ben and Louis S, served lunches at Puddletown Lunch Club's Christmas lunch. The community spirit at St Mary's is terrific and we are extremely proud of all our students for their ongoing commitment to helping others, something that feels particularly significant at this time of year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your valued support during 2023, and wish you a relaxing Christmas break.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from everyone at St Mary's CE Middle School.

Dr Ennion
Head of School



The pupils who have done exceptionally well...

Year 5

Pippa J—5YM
Alfie G—5AL
Poppy T—5FE

Year 6

Florence M—6WG
Brooke H—6ST

Year 7

Oakley B—7OC

Year 8

Eloise J—8BH
Ellie C—8BH
Harry N—8RW

Date for your diary...A letter went home this week regarding the SATS Parents Information evening which will take place on Thursday 18th January 2024, 6.00pm.



Recently there have been several incidents related to the misuse of WhatsApp. As a school we want to inform

you that these incidents are involving several children in Year 5 being part of chat groups, and, in the latest incident, being exposed to particularly unpleasant language.

WhatsApp is a chat application which can be used on a mobile phone or tablet and it lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one-to-one and group conversations.

This letter is to make you aware that your child may be using WhatsApp without your knowledge and you should be mindful that the minimum age for WhatsApp is 16 or over.

We are continuing to investigate this latest incident. In the meantime, we ask that you carefully monitor what your child is viewing online, and that they are reminded that they must tell you if they receive anything inappropriate from any application.





Huge well done to **ASH** house for
winning overall this term



Well done to all of our St Mary's students for a great Autumn term

Citizenship Awards

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| Georgie R-S 5AL | Aggie W 5MO | Alice C 5FE | Holliday B 5YD |
| Oliver B 6DW | Dotty W 6ST | William F 6WG | Esme M 6SC |
| Elodie P 7CS | Lily B 7EH | Mia L 7MO | Betty E 7OC |
| William S 8BH | Milly B 8MA | Amelia M 8OD | Bethany J 8RW |

Progress –Whole School

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Ben C 5MO | Skylar Y 6ST | Gwen M 7BG | Jemima S 8BH |
|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|

Year 5 Core Subject Awards

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| English Progress | Olivia A 5MO | English Attainment | Emily M 5YM |
| Maths Progress | Jacob A 5YM | Maths Attainment | Connor M 5FE |
| Science Progress | Albie C 5FE | Science Attainment | Isabelle M 5AL |

Year 6 Core Subject Awards

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| English Progress | George M 6ST | English Attainment | Gwen P –W 6SC |
| Maths Progress | Phoebe P 6DW | Maths Attainment | Adam N 6ST |
| Science Progress | Joey B 6WG | Science Attainment | Robbie A 6DW |

Year 7 Core Subject Awards

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| English Progress | Finley F 7OC | English Attainment | Sophia K 7CS |
| Maths Progress | Jane F 7MO | Maths Attainment | Darcie M-H 7OC |
| Science Progress | Elliot L 7MO | Science Attainment | Lauren C 7OC |

Year 8 Core Subject Awards

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|
| English Progress | Zach H 8MA | English Attainment | Poppy T 8OD |
| Maths Progress | Faye H 8RW | Maths Attainment | Sofia A-H 8RW |
| Science Progress | Leah J 8BH | Science Attainment | Bethany J 8RW |

Congratulations to you all!



How to Make a Christmas Everyday Potion by Charlie G 5FE



Have you ever wanted it to be Christmas every day? If you do, you should make this potion. If you want to make the potion, you should drink it on Christmas at midnight. If you dare to drink it before midnight on Christmas Eve, you will get rid of Christmas! You should only drink this if you LOVE Christmas. If you hate Christmas and drink it, nothing will happen.

Ingredients

To make this potion you will need 11 ingredients:

- 10 gingerbread men- freshly baked and well decorated.
- 1 chocolate advent calendar (It doesn't matter which you choose).
- 5 candy canes (red and white ones will work best).
- 2 fully decorated Christmas trees (brought from Lapland).
- 10mg of Santa's hair.
- 1 Christmas pudding.
- A lighter.
- A big, black cauldron.
- A beaker made of glass.
- 4 Christmas cookies (you can buy them at your local shop).
- 40 litres of hot chocolate

Method

1. First get your big, black cauldron and pour all of the hot chocolate in.
 2. Once you've done that, chop up the Christmas trees but not the decorations into 1 metre pieces.
 3. Next put the decorations and the piece of the Christmas trees in the pot.
 4. When you've done that, put all 10 gingerbread men into the cauldron.
 5. After you have done that, get the light and the Christmas pudding. Light the Christmas pudding on fire and quickly throw it in the pot.
 6. Next, put the Christmas cookies in the cauldron and the candy canes.
- Finally, put the advent calendar in (with all the doors shut) and stir for ten minutes. Once you've done that, pour 100 ml of the potion in the beaker and there you have it, a Christmas everyday potion.

The **NEW Spring Term 2024 Sports Clubs** list will go live ahead of arriving back into school on 2nd January.

All clubs will commence from **Monday 8th January 2024**. Please see attached list, to sign up, please email clubs@stmaryscemiddle.uk

Kickboxing starts **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.



Pupils in the news. Faye in Year 8 has been making bird feeders by mixing all the ingredients, threading some string through the pots and then filling them with the mixture. Faye left them to set, once set she cut the pots off and then hung them on trees in the school grounds.



Date for your diary. On Tuesday 9th and 23rd January at 9.30 -10.30, the NHS Mental Health Support Teams in Schools are running a 2 part parent workshop focusing on anxiety. This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support their child with anxiety or worries. The sessions cover theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support children with managing worries. It also explores parental wellbeing and the importance of this when supporting their child.

If you would like to attend please contact Lisa Povey : lpovey@stmaryscemiddle.uk by Wednesday 3rd January 2024 so we are aware of numbers for the event. We look forward to seeing you, Mrs King and Mrs Ross

Last week we were delighted to have a visit from David Clegg (Associate Director at WSP) who came to give a careers talk to pupils on civil engineering. The pupils were really engaged and interested in the different projects he worked on such as the Halley VI Antarctic Research Station. There are some fantastic opportunities for our pupils to find out more click on this link <https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/how-to-become-a-civil-engineer/11-15s-studying-at-school>

<https://www.ice.org.uk/quest>



Parents Evening Dates 2024

Subject Evening (VIRTUAL) – Tuesday 12th March 2024
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



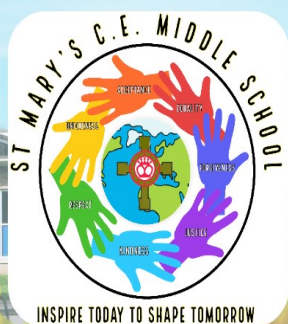
Term dates for the next Academic year (2024)

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



OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 4th January 2024

9:30 – 11:00am



Thursday 11th January 2024

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 Thursday 4th January or Thursday 11th January 9:30am – 11:00am. These open mornings will include a tour of the school and the chance to meet some of the staff.



For the latest news, follow us on Facebook.



PRIVATE FOSTERING

What is private fostering?

Private fostering is an arrangement whereby a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if the child has a disability) is placed for 28 days or more in the care of someone who is not the child's parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sister, brother or step-parent. In a private fostering arrangement, the parent retains Parental Responsibility.

It is essential that the local authority are notified if a child is living with someone who is not their parent or a 'connected person' for longer than 28 days.

The local authority need to be satisfied that the placement is suitable and the child is safe. To be defined as 'private fostering', the child must be living with that person for longer than 28 days and this should be continuous, but can include occasional short breaks.

More information can be found by following the link below:

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/private-fostering/>

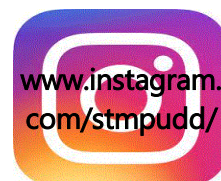


Reminder... The new Local Food Links Spring 2024 Menu is now live, please do not forget to order your child's lunches ahead of returning to school on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. (Menu attached).



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

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



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