



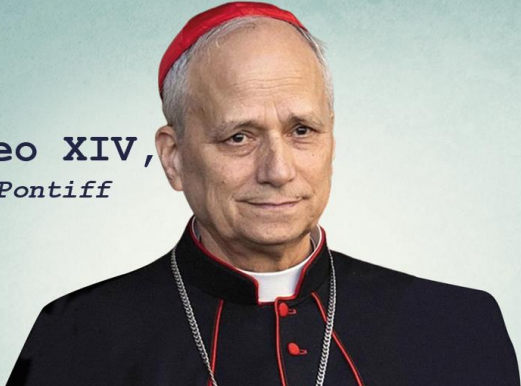
St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter



Attendance - 93.29%

Pope Leo XIV

At mass last Friday, we had a focus on Good Shepherd Sunday, so we were delighted to be able to celebrate the election of the new pope – Pope Leo XIV! A new shepherd for the Catholic Church across the world.



Pope Leo XIV,
the 267th Pontiff

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Faithful God,
You guide us on the path of life
and your goodness is our constant companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,
in his service of the Church.
Fill him with the power of your Spirit,
the peace of your presence
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,
in wisdom and humility,
and lead us, together with all God's people,
to embody your love for the world.
Amen.



Mass – The Good Shepherd

Thank you, as always, to all the children who contribute to make our masses such special occasions: the readers, the choir and those who bring up the offertory; Mr. Fawcett for such wonderful musical accompaniment, Mrs. de Leon (clicker extraordinaire); all the staff who rehearse the readers and set up the hall and of course the whole school who sing and respond with such enthusiasm. You would be most welcome to join us - our next mass will be on Friday 20th June - more details to follow.

80th Anniversary of VE Day



All the staff and pupils looked wonderful in their red, white and blue clothes to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day! Pupils learnt about the significance of this monumental day and how it was celebrated in May 1945 in a whole-school assembly and even learnt how to dance the 'Lambeth Walk' as people in 1945 would have done. Different activities took place in classes to commemorate this day, but the highlight for most people was our own street party held in the school car park; it was lovely to share this event with the staff and children of Little Birds, who also came to join in the street party. A big thank you to all those at Cumulus who provided us with special VE Day packed lunches and to their staff who came to help hand them out. Thanks must also go to: the Royal British Legion (Swanage Branch) for lending us some of their bunting and for providing special VE stickers for our pupils; and to one of our Y2 parents for lending us some bunting and flags – it all helped to create a wonderful VE Day atmosphere! All in all, a fabulous day during which we remembered all those who 'gave their today for our tomorrow' so that we can celebrate and enjoy the freedoms we have today.





Year 6 SATs Week

Stand
TALL
and be
PROUD.
Be
YOURSELF
you are
AMAZING.

We will be keeping Year 6 in our thoughts and prayers next week as they sit their SATs tests – we are looking forward to seeing them on Monday morning for breakfast. You have all worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of you.

Clifftop



Many thanks to year 6 who made some lovely VE decorations that were given to the residents of Clifftop.

Christian Aid Week



This week is Christian Aid Week – you may receive an envelope through your door as collectors distribute them across the town – if you would like to make a donation, there will be a collecting bucket in school where you can drop any envelopes off.

Choir News

On Saturday, some of our choir members – past and present pupils- travelled to Portsmouth Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong. It was a lovely day – the sun shone, and they sang beautifully – well done and thank you to Mr. Fawcett for creating this opportunity.



Reception

Reception had a lovely week at school. We have been linking our work on superheroes to people in our community that help us. We have been thinking about doctors, nurses and paramedics this week. We have created our own doctors' surgery, ambulance and even a vet surgery and have loved taking on lots of different medical roles in our play. We have been practising counting on and counting back in our maths lessons and have been playing board games to help us. Reception would love a visit from some community heroes (police, fire, paramedics etc.) in Swanage; if you are able to come in and visit us please let us know, thank you!



Year 1

Year 1 has had another busy week. On Wednesday, we went on a school trip to Studland. The children had to find clues to find some treasure. During the treasure hunt, the children had the opportunity to build some bug hotels and to roll down the sand dunes. We enjoyed our VE day celebrations on Thursday- this included making some hats for our

street party and listening to wartime music. In RE, the children enjoyed looking back on all the stories we have learnt throughout our time in Year 1, and they got the opportunity to share their favourite ones.



Year 2

It may have been a short week, but Year 2 has completed a great deal of work reflecting their brilliant, can-do attitude! We completed our science module looking at materials by carrying out a science experiment to ascertain whether different types of paper absorb water at the same rate. We worked just as scientists would by thinking about an experiment that we could do to find out

the answer and how to make sure it was a fair test. We drew diagrams and made predictions on the result and enjoyed timing the different rates of absorption with stopwatches. In Art, we completed our artwork inspired by Paul Klee using cool and warm colours; the pictures look wonderful on display in the school corridor. In Maths, we finished looking at volume and capacity while in PE, we have started preparing for Sports Day! Great fun was had celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and we all looked resplendent in our red, white and blue clothes. Well done, Year 2!



Year 3

What a fantastic start to the week we had in Year 3! The children joined the whole school for a special assembly to mark VE Day, gaining a meaningful understanding of this important historic event. On Thursday, we celebrated in style with a range of themed activities. The children looked brilliant in their red, white, and blue outfits, and the tea party was a joyful and patriotic occasion filled with smiles, bunting, and respectful reflection.

In the classroom, our budding writers impressed us with detailed character descriptions, using powerful descriptive devices to bring their characters to life. In Maths, we continued

	<p>to strengthen our multiplication skills, using times tables knowledge to solve 2-digit by 1-digit calculations with growing confidence.</p> <p>It's been a busy and enriching week for Year 3, and we're incredibly proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been. Well done, everyone!</p>
Year 4	
Year 5	<p>Year 5 has been looking back at decimals this week and how to add them and take them away using written methods. We have been playing mini-tennis and cricket in PE and have enjoyed playing some different sports.</p> <p>VE day was special; we worked very hard to learn some morse code and produce some excellent bunting for display. We all enjoyed eating our lunch together at the street party at the front of the school.</p>
Year 6	<p>Year 6 has worked extremely hard all week. In History, we have learnt about Ancient Mayan housing and considered whether we would rather live in a Viking longhouse or a Mayan 'naah'. In Science, we investigated classification of animals; expanding our knowledge of different groups that animals can be sorted into. We even had a go at becoming 'taxonomists' ourselves and took on the challenge of trying to classify the duck-billed platypus! On VE Day, we created some colourful bunting for Clifftop Care Home and composed a piece of music using the drums in Music, focusing on repetition with call and response.</p> <div data-bbox="295 978 583 1268" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="945 982 1528 1268" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="295 1302 800 1583" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="800 1268 1450 1583" data-label="Image"> </div>

The Sports Report

Another fantastic week of sport during which St Mary's held on to their title of County Champions at netball; this is the **fourth** year in a row that we have won this title! Being one of twenty schools to qualify meant that the competition was fierce, but we played extremely well to win 6 of our 7 matches and drew the other one, leaving us as competition winners. The children worked extremely hard to produce these excellent results in blistering heat.

Handball: we qualified for the County Handball final with an impressive performance at the Purbeck School in which we won all of our six matches. We are looking forward to the final in June.

St Mary's Stars



Reception:

Year 1: *Harry & Poppy*

Year 2: *Sophia-Star & Rosa*

Year 3: *Freyja & Jenson*

Year 4: *Lily & Anne Mariya*

Year 5: *Megan & Lydia*

Whole Class Stars

Year 1: For their brilliant behaviour on their class trip to Studland.

Year 6: For their hard work in preparing for next week's SATs tests.