

Friday 26th September 2025



St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter



It has been a busy week in school and as you can see below we have some exciting activities going on for the whole school! Please keep saving and sending in your Fairtrade wrappers and brush off your animal outfits for our celebration for the Feast of St Francis – your donations are always gratefully received by both Swanage Foodbank and Margaret Green Animal Rescue.

Fairtrade Competition for Fairtrade Fortnight

**Fairtrade Packaging/
Wrapper
Competition**

This Fairtrade Fortnight We are going to have a competition in school to see how many Fairtrade products people use

Please send in as many empty packets, jars, labels etc. from Fairtrade items. Each class will collect them up and then at the end of the 2 weeks we will sort them and there will be 2 prizes up for grabs:

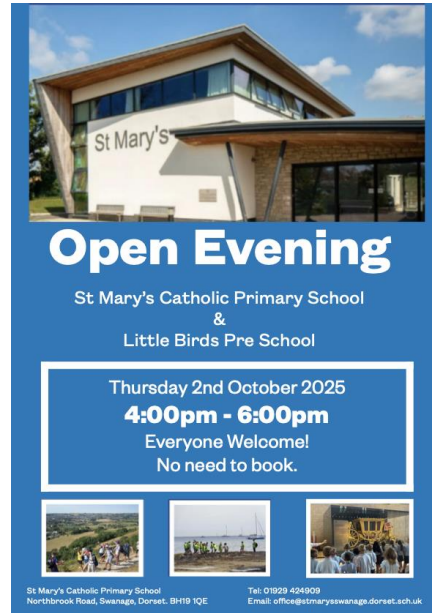
- The class with the most Fairtrade items
- The class with the widest range of items.
- Each winning class will have a non-uniform day.

So, please keep any wrappers for Fairtrade products that you already use or maybe try out something new that has been fairly traded and start collecting.



2nd October 4:00 – 6:00

Next week, we are holding an open evening at school. Although it is primarily for new and prospective parents, it is also a chance for you to come and have a look around the school building. We will also be serving refreshments in the hall.



Internet Safety

We know that many of our pupils are using social media and messaging apps which are not age appropriate and can be the cause of many safety concerns. All social media apps including Discord, WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok have an age limit of 13.

Information to help keep your children safe can be found on the NSPCC website, and weekly Wake Up Wednesday updates are provided on the school social media stories. Mr. Frame and Mrs. Nash are able to advise on internet safety matters – do ask!

Mass and Non Uniform Day – The Feast of St Francis of Assisi - Friday 3rd October 9am

We will be celebrating Mass for the Feast of St Francis next Friday. We are also asking everyone to come dressed as an animal, bird, bug, fish etc. We would also be grateful if children could bring a cash donation or some kind of pet food that we will then split between Swanage Food Bank and Margaret Green in Church Knowle.

Friday 3rd October- St Francis of Assisi – Feast Day- 4th October

Patron Saint of Animals and the Environment.

Mass @ 9am in the school hall.

Swanage Food Bank

Margaret Green Animal Rescue





DON'T FORGET
Come to school dressed as an animal – bring a donation of either money or pet food.

Brighten up for Harvest

Advance notice – we will be celebrating Harvest on Monday 17th October when we will be wearing our brightest clothes and bringing in donations for our local foodbank or CAFOD and finding out more about how a water-tank project in Ethiopia can help build a better world.

90 Year Celebrations

The school first opened in 1935. This year we will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary. There will be different events over the year but we will be putting on an exhibition about the history of the school. You will have a chance to view the exhibition in the hall after school on Friday 17th October. On the morning of Saturday 18th October, we will be having an open morning for the whole community to come and look around the exhibition and the school.

Mass dates this term

Mass dates this half

Friday 3rd October – Feast of St Francis

**Friday 17th October -
Celebration of 90 years of St Mary's**

Friday 7th November - Remembrance

Friday 5th December - Advent 2

Friday 19th December - Advent 4

Mass is at 9am in the school hall- you are most welcome to join us.







Attendance

We are looking to have a real focus on attendance this year. Attendance is closely linked to attainment in school. We are changing our policy to be more dynamic and will be notifying you if your child's attendance drops below 90%.

[Attendance Policy](#)

[DfE Information on School Attendance](#)

This week at school

Reception	This week in Reception, we have enjoyed reading <i>Elmer</i> and thinking about kindness and celebrating differences. On Wellie Wednesday we had lots of fun outdoors playing parachute games together. We also learnt about Fairtrade through the story of '<i>Pablo the Super Banana</i>', which helped us to understand how food travels around the world. In phonics, we have been working hard on learning new sounds, the children are doing so brilliantly. It's been a joyful week full of discovery, play and learning!   
Year 1	Year 1 had another amazing week. We have finished our book '<i>Rosie's Walk</i>' in English, and the children had to think of a new setting and a new animal to go on a walk. In Maths, we have been counting forward and backwards from 10. In RE, we have continued thinking about God's wonderful world and the things that we love in the world that God has created. On Monday, the children had a busy day with Rob, learning how to safely ride their bikes; they all did an amazing job. As part of 'Fairtrade Fortnight', we have been looking at where fairtrade chocolate comes from: the children had a go at trying some fairtrade chocolate and designing their own bar.

	
Year 2	 We have had a fabulous week in Year 2! The children, as ever, have worked incredibly hard. The highlight of the week was Wednesday when all the children had an amazing session with Rob (from <i>Rob Doyle's Cycle Training</i>) focusing on how to ride their bike (without stabilisers!) safely and correctly. Each child should be very proud as they all listened carefully to Rob's coaching and tried their best. It was a fantastic sight to see them all zooming (safely!) around the playground at the end of each session! Thank you, Rob! In English, we have started reading our class text and found out more about the two main characters, Grandpa and Finn. In RE, we have thought about how Noah is a symbol of hope and made a finger-print painting of a rainbow before writing how we can share hope with others on post-its; these were then placed on the rainbow. In Art, we have found out about another European artist, Vincent Van Gogh, and enjoyed looking at the many different paintings he created. We were inspired to each make our own textured sunflower using crepe paper, tissue paper and lentils that were then placed together to form a whole-class collage in the style of Van Gogh's <i>Sunflowers</i>. Keep up the brilliant work, Team 2.7!
Year 3	It has been another wonderful week in Year 3. The children have all been working hard and it is lovely to see that progress is already being made. The children all really enjoyed their cycling course, and it was great to see the improvement that they made over the half-day session. In our English lessons, we have been thinking about story mountains and really getting to grips with the different parts of a story. The class then used this knowledge to plan their own version of our class text, <i>'The Stone Age Boy'</i>. There were some imaginative ideas such as 'Rainforest Boy', 'Ice Boy' and 'Outer Space Boy'. We cannot wait to share our completed stories with our friends next week. In Maths, we have been continuing to learn about part whole models and partitioning. The class are definitely growing in confidence with their skills relating to this topic. In our art lesson we learnt about Stone Age cave paintings. The children then had a go at completing their own cave painting using black paper and chalk. These will be displayed around the classroom. Keep up the amazing work, Year 3!
Year 4	Year 4 has had a fantastic week, full of creativity, teamwork and thoughtful learning.

	On Wednesday, the children took part in a singing workshop with Year 3. It was a great opportunity to build confidence and enjoy making music together. The children sang with enthusiasm and supported one another brilliantly. In English, we continued reading <i>The Firework-Maker's Daughter</i> and created wanted posters for Rambashi the pirate. The children used imaginative language and eye-catching designs to bring their ideas to life. In PE, we focused on football skills. Pupils practised dribbling, passing and working as a team in small games. It was great to see their energy and determination throughout the sessions. In Maths, we explored number lines to strengthen our understanding of place value. The children worked carefully and showed excellent problem-solving skills. In RE, we learned about the story of Abraham and Isaac. The children reflected on the themes of trust and faith and shared thoughtful responses during class discussions. Well done to all of Year 4 for their hard work and positive attitude.
Year 5	Year 5 has had a very productive week!  History We enjoyed writing newspaper articles about Britain at War 1939. The children worked hard to include eye-catching headlines, key facts, and quotes – hopefully you will spot some of their wonderful work on display soon.  PE In PE, we played mini football matches, putting our teamwork and skills into practice. Many children also took part in cycling sessions with Rob, showing great progress and confidence.  Topic Our learning about Fairtrade helped us to understand how important it is for farmers and workers to receive a fair price for their goods. The children had thoughtful discussions about how their choices can make a difference. A brilliant week of learning – well done, Year 5! 🌟
Year 6	This week in RE, we have learnt about the 10 Commandments and how they help us to live a better life. In DT, we have researched Fairtrade products to help with our amazing pastries which will be included in a recipe book and given to the shops in Swanage. In PE, we did athletic time trials so that children could be selected for a club after school and Zack managed to absolutely smash the long jump record! In English, we have continued to read <i>'Children of the Quicksands'</i> and have written another chapter all by ourselves. By Year 6

Stars of the Week



Year 1: Anabel & Rafe
Year 2: Lola, Amira & Delilah
Year 3: Ezmay & Zac
Year 4: Charlie To. & Imogen
Year 5: Annmariya & Frank
Year 6: Max F. & Holly

Useful Dates

2nd Oct	Open evening at the school 4:00 – 6:00pm
3rd Oct	Mass – St Francis
3rd Oct	Non uniform day – Dress as an animal
17th Oct	90 th anniversary of the school exhibition – parents invited to view after school
18th Oct	Open morning – 90 th anniversary of the school exhibition of the whole community
24th Oct	INSET Day
25th Oct – 2nd Nov	Half Term
3rd Nov	INSET Day
4th Nov	Back to School
7th Nov	Mass - Remembrance
WB 17th Nov	Book Week
20th Nov	Bedtime stories
21st Nov	Mass – Christ The King
20th Dec – 4th Jan	Christmas Holidays
5th Dec	Mass - Advent
9th Dec	10:00 and 2:00 Reception, Y1 & 2 Nativity
10th Dec	2:00 Reception, Y1 & 2 Nativity
11th Dec	Y3 & 4 Christmas Concert
16th Dec	Y5 & 6 Carol Service
19th Dec Mass	Advent
14th – 22nd Feb	Half Term
23rd Feb	INSET Day
28th Mar – 12th Apr	Easter Holidays
23rd May – 31st May	Half Term
1st Jun	INSET Day
23rd Jul – 1st Sep	Summer Holiday
2nd Sep 2026	INSET Day