

Friday 3rd October 2025



St Mary's, Swanage Newsletter



As you can see from the newsletter, we have had another busy week – it was lovely to see so many people at the open evening, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the Open Morning celebrating 90 years of St Mary's School – see below.

Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi

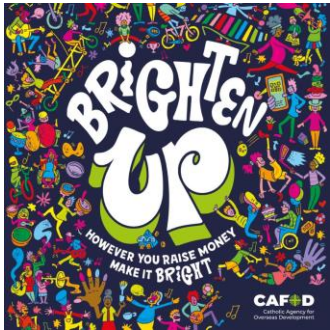


Today we celebrated mass together and as you can see from the photo below there seemed to be rather a lot of animals, birds, bugs and fish around school! Thank you so much for all your kind donations of food and cash. The food will be shared between Swanage Food bank and the Margaret Green Animal Shelter, and the £83.85 will also be donated to Margaret Green Animal Shelter based at Church Knowle.



Brighten up for Harvest

Advance notice – we will be celebrating Harvest on Monday 13th 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



90th Year Celebrations of St Mary’s RC School

The school first opened in 1935 and this year we will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary. There will be different events during the year, and we will be putting on an exhibition about the history of the school. If you have any photos or other memorabilia that you are happy to share you can bring it to the office or to the Open Morning. If you are happy for us to copy or photograph it, we can add it to our archive. 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 -you will have a chance to view the exhibition in the hall after school on Friday 17th October.



Fabulous Fundraisers

A big thank you to two fabulous fundraisers who have raised £26 for our partner school in Uganda. We are hoping the headteacher, Brother John, will be visiting us before Christmas. Keep an eye on the

newsletter for more information.



90th Anniversary Celebrations

Open Morning

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Saturday 18th October 2025

10:00 - 12:00

Everyone Welcome!

No need to book.

As part of our 90th birthday celebrations of the school, we are opening our doors to the community to allow you to see our exhibition about the history of the school and have a look around the building. If you are an ex pupil or member of staff or would just like to see around our wonderful school please do come along. There will be free refreshments available on the day.

We hope you will help us celebrate this chance to honour our past, celebrate the present and look forward to the future.

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Reception	We’ve had another busy and exciting week in Reception! We have been learning all about families, our homes and the people we love, sharing our own experiences and celebrating what makes us special. We have explored our emotions, thinking about how we feel, when we feel it and how we can recognise these feelings in ourselves and others. In maths we have been focusing on careful counting, making sure to count objects one by one and comparing groups to see who has more or fewer. What a wonderful week! 
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Year 1	Year 1 has had another busy week. We have started our new book in English- <i>Mrs Armitage on Wheels</i>. The children have been busy thinking about different items they could put on the bike to make it go faster. They also had to think about what they would add onto a bike if they were Mrs Armitage. In Maths, we have been thinking about more and less and have introduced crocodile hands to help with the symbols $<$, $>$, $=$. In RE, we have begun to learn the 'Our Father' prayer and we heard this when we all attended Mass on Friday morning for the first time. 
Year 2	 Year 2 has maintained their four-week streak of working hard – we hope this trend will continue! In Art, we completed our Gustav Klimt inspired paintings based on his mosaic, <i>The Tree of Life</i>. We are very proud of how everyone worked so diligently and carefully on their works of art. In English, we have followed Finn on his journey to where Ocean Meets Sky and have brainstormed words to describe one of the lands he visited – Library Islands – and will be writing a Captain's Log about this next week! In Maths, we have looked at different ways to partition two-digit numbers while in Geography we have focused on knowing exactly where the seven continents are on a map. In PE, we were practising our basketball skills and enjoyed this immensely! Well done, Team 2.7!
Year 3	Yet another busy week in Year 3, with lots of exciting learning occurring. In Maths, we have begun to look at number lines up to 1000. We have been looking for patterns and filling in the missing numbers. The children are adapting brilliantly to working with a range of larger numbers. In English this week, we have concluded our work on the 'Stone Age Boy'. We ended the topic by writing a character description about Om. The children tried super hard to make their descriptions as interesting as possible by using adjectives and similes. The children then drew a picture of Om which depicted all the physical features mentioned in their character description. We also completed a nature walk in RE where we practiced mindfulness and gave thanks for our surroundings. We then went on to learn about the image that God created. We explored our own image and completed a picture which showed our inner and outer selves, and we gave thanks for all the things that make us unique. We look forward to welcoming Year 3 back on Monday, for another fun-filled week.
Year 4	Year 4 has had another great week, working hard and enjoying their learning. We've finished our non-chronological reports on mountains, and the children have done a fantastic job presenting their facts clearly and confidently. In RE, we've been celebrating

	our local environment and thinking about why it's important to care for it. In Maths, we've been rounding numbers to the nearest 1,000, 100 and 10, and showing great progress. Our Geography lessons have focused on mountain climates and what life is like in those regions. We've also started netball in PE, learning the basic rules and practising passing and movement. Well done, Year 4!
Year 5	Year 5 has had a productive week full of learning across subjects. In Science, we explored the differences between reversible and irreversible changes, using examples to understand when materials can or cannot return to their original state. In Maths, our main focus has been rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, and 100,000. The children practised spotting patterns and applying their rounding skills to problem-solving. In History, we began learning about the Battle of Britain, discussing its importance and setting the stage for further exploration of World War II. In PE, the class continued to develop their netball skills while also working on their general fitness through a variety of fun activities. Next week, we will continue to build on these skills, exploring new challenges in maths, deepening our understanding of World War II in history, and taking part in more team-based activities in PE.
Year 6	Last Friday, we went to Langton Matravers Village Hall to watch a performance called 'The Soldier's Tale' by Stravinsky. The musicians and actors were really talented, and it was to support 'Planet Purbeck'. Some of us went to Budden's Activity Centre and we did three activities which involved teamwork and creativity. In Geography, we recapped physical and human features around the United Kingdom. We also planned a route for the 'Three Peaks Challenge'. Some of us went to The Purbeck School to play in a football tournament which we won!!!! 

Stars of the Week

 Stars of the Week!	Year 1: Sophie & Ethan Year 2: Evelyn & Jack Year 3: Cooper & Thea Year 4: Freyja & Grace Year 5: Aylish & Harrison Year 6: Zack & Ariana
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Useful Dates

13th Oct	Harvest – Non uniform day – Brightest Clothes more info to follow
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 14:00 Reception, Y1 & 2 Nativity
10th Dec	14:00 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