St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



**Winter weather procedures**:

On Friday last week, as you are aware we had to shut the school due to snow and ice. We are a little more sheltered in the South West but please be reminded that if there were any further school closures this winter, we would post this information on the **school website** by 7.30 am. <http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk/website>

We would also notify Devon local authority and the information would appear on their school closure website. <https://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure>

We will always endeavour to keep school open, however, the safety of our children and families would be our priority.

**Orchestra Experience – Music really is alive at St Mary’s**

We have had some new musicians joining our orchestra and choir. Children find it a rewarding and worthwhile experience and they have lots of opportunities to represent our school. This week the orchestra travelled to Exeter during the school day to work with The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and then to perform in an evening concert. What an experience!

**After school clubs**

We have additional after school activities this term. It has been wonderful to see so many more children giving these a go. Thank you to parents for your organisation and well done to so many of our children for living our values. If your child hasn’t signed up for anything then consider talking to their teacher about activities that might work for them.

**Gum shields**

After half term all children in Owls, Kestrels and Eagles will be taking part in quick sticks for P.E. As such all children will need to have **shin pads and a gum shield** to take part. We now have gum shields for sale in the school office for £1.50 for you to buy if you need one.

**Rights and Respect Award**

We have registered and working to achieve the UNICEF Rights and Respect Silver Award by the end of the school year. To move this forward we are setting up a steering group made up of pupils, staff, governors and we would love parents to contribute. Please have a look on the website or ask Miss Bray for information about joining this group. <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools>

**Daily Mile Going Strong**

All of our pupils are now taking part in a daily 15 min run around the running track. It is lovely to see the children challenging themselves and so many of them adding in extra laps during break times.

**Class Mass**

Father Anthony has scheduled class masses this term to work with each class group and give them an opportunity to ask the many questions so many want to know about the mass. Kestrel Class are this week.

**Bishop Visit**

A reminder that Bishop Mark will be in Axminster to say mass and celebrate Confirmation this coming Sunday. Following mass there will be a shared lunch for the three parishes.

**Thursday Parish Coffee and Cake**

Last week was the first of the parish coffee and cake events at 9.00am. Please do consider dropping in with other parents and their little ones. All are welcome.

**Home Reading and Skills Practice**

All children are asked to read at home. This support in giving children encouragement to read, enjoy books and practice their reading and comprehension skills really makes a difference to their success. This and other skills such as spelling and times tables are important ways to make a huge difference to your child’s learning journey.

Joining the library, accessing fun games to practice skills, celebrating and rewarding your child’s hard work will all develop their achievement and their self belief.

If you have any questions or concerns about home tasks then please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s class teacher.

**Forest school**

Forest school is will be starting for Woodpeckers after half term. We will send out further details before we break up.

**BBC 2 500 words**

The 500 words competition opened today. Please check out the site and consider encouraging your child to enter.

[**https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/50pnqLfDywb9CFxjNvth5l0/about-500-words**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/50pnqLfDywb9CFxjNvth5l0/about-500-words)

**Parent Consultations – your support and knowledge counts**

Year 6 will have parent consultations on Monday 11th February. Letters were sent home yesterday in your child’s book bag.

All other year groups will have parent consultations at the end of the Spring term. Details will be shared after half term.

These are opportunities to see and hear the progress your child is making as well as their strengths and areas of development.

Please remember that if you have any questions at any other time you are very welcome to speak to teachers at the end of the school day or make appointments to speak with them.

As we continue to move forward in all areas of our school life we all strive to be the best we can be and couldn’t do what we do without your on going support so please always know that the door is always open to hear from you.

