

**Peace be with you**

**May Celebration with PTFA fund raiser with Stay and Play**

We enjoyed a very special community day on Friday 24th May to end the celebrations for the Month of May. In the morning parishioners, who have been praying for our children and children across the world, shared a lovely celebration with us. This ended with tea and cake on the field whilst the whole school had an extra playtime and made the most of the play equipment and bouncy castle which was in place for our PTFA event.

Throughout the day class by class, children took part in the sponsored event and then after school our stay and play event was a great success with families enjoying some sunshine and a rest as children had access to all of the play equipment.

Thank you to all of the parents who supported these events. The PTFA are delighted to report that over £850.00 was raised.

**Year 6 step to secondary**

Year 6 are now sporting their leaver’s hoodies; the sign that they are in their last half term at St Mary’s. We continue to work with each of them to ensure that they have as many skills as possible for their next step and that this half term is a positive and worthwhile time for them. Please note the dates in the diary for end of year 6 events in June and July.

**DD Memorial - Let us all be peacemakers**

We discussed the DD landings anniversary last week making links with our remembrance work in November when we reflected on the importance of working to be peacemakers to honour those who had fought for our freedoms.

Last half term Robin and Woodpecker Class made a handprints heart in recognition of the many positive friendships they enjoy.

As a school we do enjoy many calm and positive playtimes but learning to get on with each other at all times is an important experience for our children. This half term year 4 and year 5 will be taking part in a project to develop skills to resolve others disagreements and restore peace. Next year some of our older children will work as part of the restorative team to help others quickly restore peace.

**Pentecost**

We have been celebrating Pentecost this week. The day marks the final gift of The Holy Spirit. Robin class shared with us their beautiful hats decorated in The Holy Spirit and during our assembly shared with the rest of the school how the wind blew through the disciples by waving bright ribbons which were then shared with the whole school. It was a very joyous event spreading a warm and happy community spirit.

**Play Leaders Training**

Year 4 and 5 are preparing to become our new leaders for September. They took part in a day of play leading to develop their skills in listening and thinking about the needs of others and how to plan and manage play activities for our younger pupils. All Year 5 pupils will be play leaders and buddies in September.

**Bikeability-Year 5**

Bikeability for the year 5 children starts next week. Please could you make sure you bring in your child’s bike and helmet from Monday 17th June to Thursday 20th June. We can store the bikes in the school hall if you wish to save you bringing them in each day. Please could the children wear comfortable jogging bottoms/trousers along with their P.E kit tops/hoodys to school for these four days. They will also needs water proofs and gloves.

**Car Park Safety**

Please be reminded that parents **are not** to access the car park for normal dropping off and pick up. This includes the two spaces on the outside near the road. We appreciate that the majority of parents do make alternative arrangements but it has been noted that some parents are beginning to return to using the car park.

If you are dropping off your child before school to access clubs then please ensure their safety at all times. Last week two incidents were reported by teachers where children jumped quickly out of cars and ran through the car park in front of or behind moving cars.

**Pupil Premium**

If a parent is in receipt of Universal Credit they should register their child for pupil premium. This helps us as a school as we will receive an additional sum of money into the school. An additional benefit to parents in key stage two is that you will not need to pay for school lunches. If you think you may be eligible to apply for this fund please do so as it is of great benefit to the school.

Applications can be made on the Devon schools website. The link is below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/new-starter-pupil-premium>

The funds we receive for pupil premium are used to impact on those children registered as pupil premium. Our funding decisions are explained in our Pupil Premium Strategy which is on the school website. This makes it clear that we do not allocate funds to individual children but in order to promote their skills and to give all pupils access to every aspect of school life we do work closely with individual parents on ways to support their child, which may include funding that directly benefits that child.

[http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk/website/pupil\_premium\_strategy\_2018\_to\_1 review\_1\_/391781](http://www.stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk/website/pupil_premium_strategy_2018_to_1%20review_1_/391781)

**Sports Success**

**Cricket**

Congratulations to our boys and girls cricket teams who competed at the East Devon Kwik Cricket tournaments at Ottery St Mary Cricket Club.  The boys teams competed well and both teams did well in the group round with one of the teams winning through to the semi-finals.  It was noted by other schools in particular how our younger team competed so well.  During the girls event we witnessed outstanding leadership from Abi in year 6 who showed the St Mary’s values throughout the day.   The girls showed improvement throughout the day and there were some very committed performances.

**Netball Training**

Wednesday saw our first netball training session for children in year 4 and 5 at Axe Valley in preparation for the Axe Valley netball tournament in September.  During the session the sports leaders led the children in a variety of drills.  Our children worked hard and showed a good attitude throughout. If your child would like to join in next Wednesday, it is not too late. Just let the office know.

**Athletics**

On Tuesday 18th June we are looking forward to taking Robins to an athletic event at Axe Valley.

**Tennis Club**

Tennis club has now started on a Monday evening from 3:30pm to 4:30pm for children from years 4 to 6.  Please encourage your child to take up this opportunity.

**SPORTS DAY**

Weather permitting we are looking forward to sports day on **Friday 28th June.**  If you have a gazebo that you could lend to school, please could you let the office know?  If it is a sunny day, we would like the children to sit in shade. We will also need help on the day so if you are able to help in anyway, please let the office know.

**MUSIC UPDATE**

Choir and orchestra are both working hard towards their performances coming up this term.  Choir are making a wonderful sound.  Music Seeds is truly an amazing club for our younger children and the hall is full of the magic of music on Thursday mornings.  Music Seeds will also be performing at the music evening at school.

A few dates for your diary...

Tuesday 25th June 6pm - Music Evening at school

Thursday 27th June 12:30pm - Lunchtime concert Minster Church

Saturday 6th July - Dalwood Music Day.

**Djembe**

After very successful whole class violin, viola and cello whole class tuition, Kestrels and Owls are now having whole class djembe lessons and will continue to do so for the rest of the term.

**Taking Up An Instrument**

Mrs Burrough will be preparing a Musical Opportunities Leaflet so you can see what music opportunities St Mary’s offers if you would like your child to start learning an instrument in September.

**PLANETARIUM**

Science Inspire Day.

Pupils had a stellar experience at school on Wednesday! Space Odyssey brought an inflatable dome with a planetarium inside transforming the school hall into a piece of space. Each class was treated to an inspirational visit inside the planetarium dome. The technology enabled pupils to take off with the Apollo Space Craft and land on the moon, compare the size of planets, see our solar system inside our galaxy and even look at our Galaxy from the outside looking in! The visit wetted pupils appetites for learning more about space, maybe a future career in the space program awaits one of our pupils. Photos of the day can be seen on our website.

Thank you to Mrs Hurford for organising this event and the PTFA for funding it.

Diary Dates

Monday 17th June-Year 5s Bik ability week.

Friday 21st June-Owl Class to Forest Farm

Monday 24th June-Eagles Class Orienteering Trip

Tuesday 25th June 6pm-Music Concert (choir/orchestra and music seeds)

Thursday 27th June-Lunchtime music concert at The Minster choir and orchestra

Friday 28th June-Sports Day

Thursday 4th July-Year 6 transition day to Axe Valley

Friday 5th July-Non uniform day-bring a bottle for fete

Friday 5th July-PTFA Summer Fete

Saturday 6th July-Dalwood music festival

Monday 8th July( afternoon)- class production (all year 5s and 6s)

Tuesday 9th July (evening)- class production (all year 5s and 6s)

Wednesday 10th July (evening)- class production (all 5s and 6s)

Friday 12th July-Reserve wet weather sports day

Friday 12th July –**ALL CLUBS FINISH**

Tuesday 16th July-Reports out to parents/carers

Tuesday 16th July-Kestrels Forest farm

Tuesday 16th July-Eagle Class open afternoon 3pm

Wednesday 17th July-Friday 19th July Year 6 residential to Heatree

Monday 22nd July 10am End of term Leavers Mass

Tuesday 23rd July 9.30am Year 6 Leavers assembly

Tuesday 23rd July-Last day of term

Children return to school on Wednesday 4th September