St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Number

**Goodbye to Sister Margaret**

On Saturday 29th September the school hall was full with people from school and all three parishes who had gathered to say goodbye to Sister Margaret, to wish her well in her new role and to thank her for the many, many contributions she has made over the years to school and parish.

The parish offered Sister Margaret an apple tree which she has chosen to leave with us so it can be planted in our school grounds as a reminder of her work and kindness.

**Welcome to Charlie’s baby sister**

On Friday in our celebration assembly we got to see a photo of Charlie’s new baby sister Sophie. He is so very proud to be a big brother. Congratulations to the whole family. We look forward to meeting Sophie very soon.

**Running Track – Inspire Day**

On Wednesday 24th September we welcomed Will Tidball to open the school track. He is an 18 year old Devon Sports Champion who is now a member of the GB team for cycling. He spent the morning talking to Kestrel class and then shared a whole school assembly explaining how aiming high and resilience had got him to where he is now. The children were truly inspired by his journey which had success and challenge.

The all weather running track is already proving to be a huge success. Every child has time in the day to be active and make use of the track. Many of our youngest pupils last week were running a mile a day. Thank you so much to The PTFA for their financial support and to Mrs Burrough who was the driving force behind making it happen.

**Sports News**

**School Games Mark Gold Award**

We are very proud to announce that St Mary’s have been awarded the School Games Mark gold award for the third year in a row. The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

**Cross Country**

Well done to our cross country team who competed in the first Stockland Cross Country race of the season last Wednesday. We were blessed with glorious weather which helped make it a good first race of the season for our runners. We are looking forward to the whole team improving on their individual results in the next race on the 17th October. Thank you to the parents who drove the children to this event.

**Netball**

St Mary’s Raiders and St Mary’s All-stars have been competing in the Axe Valley Netball Tournament for the last 2 weeks. It is our last session on Tuesday 2nd October. We are reigning champions and with two more matches to go St Mary’s All-Stars remain unbeaten. Fingers crossed for a good performance on Tuesday after school. The children have enjoyed this competition and many of the children are now taking advantage of our netball club for children in KS2 on Wednesdays after school. Thank you to Mrs Davis for helping out for this tournament.

**Colyton Grammar Cross Country**

Good luck to the Year 3/4 and 5/6 cross country teams who compete at Colyton Grammar on Wednesday afternoon.

**Sports Clubs**

We have a fabulous range of sports clubs at St Mary’s for all the children. Please make use of these. Attending our sports clubs is fantastic way to have fun, build confidence, make new friends and get fit.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning and Daffodil Bulb Event**

Thank you for your support if you attended the coffee morning or sent your child in with money for our spring bulb project. In the next two weeks all children will plant a bulb so that when it flowers we will be able to talk to the children about the Marie Curie Charity and the vital work they do.

**PTFA**

The PTFA are looking for new members. After many events and much fund raising Danielle Martin has stepped down as chair. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Danielle for her amazing work in saying yes to so many fund raising and St Mary’s community events. The PTFA are a very supportive and proactive group who make so much difference to our school community. Please consider contributing practically to the group as well as by continuing to support their events.

**Harvest Festival**

We will hold a Harvest Festival Celebration in school next Wednesday 10th October at 10.00am. In our whole school assembly this week we will be talking about kindness and giving as well as thinking about those who are less fortunate.

We ask that children bring in tinned items for The Axminster Food Bank or make a financial contribution to be given to CAFOD. The Harvest Festival next week will be a short celebration. Parents are welcome to join us.

**Lunch Orders**

Please could you check with your child each week that what you are ordering is what they will actually eat. We have had increasing numbers of our younger children reporting that they don’t like the food that has been ordered. If you can look through the menu with them that would be appreciated.

**Volunteers**

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who offer a wide range of skills and support.

If you would like to find out about volunteer opportunities either to give something back or to develop your own skills in readiness for paid work then please do call in at the office to find out more.

**Music Lessons**

If your child has expressed an interest in wanting to have musical instrument lessons then please do speak to Mrs Burrough who can explain the options for your child.

**PARKING –** please be reminded that the car park is not to be used by parents at any time in the school day. Whilst we appreciate that this is not the most ideal situation but we ask that all parents respect this.

A reminder that for the safety of all the car park should also not be short cut into the school.

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Living, loving and learning with God

