St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Number 14

**Our School Values**

Following lots of discussions with pupils we now have four values to support our school motto : Living, loving and learning with God.

These are:

Safe, Trust, Achievement and Resilience ; ( STAR ). We will continue to develop these further this term.

**Summer lunch and playtimes**

Now that we have had a glimpse of sunshine please be reminded that children do need sun hats and sun cream for the sunny days.

We continue to encourage children to drink water. All children have individual water bottles which they can access at any time in the day. Water is also freely available for all children at lunchtime.

**Healthy and Active**

We have all added a summer term focus on ways to be a bit more healthy. The news has been full of information about the sugar overload in products marketed just for children; drinks and breakfast cereal being especially sugar-loaded. All of our classes have been learning about ways to be healthy. We look forward to continuing this through the term and in to next term.

In the first instance we would like to ask all parents to ensure that their child has water and not juice in their daily water bottles.

**Year 6**

This week our year six pupils have been in school early to have a shared breakfast before they take the national tests in grammar, punctuation and spelling, reading and maths. They have been calm and focussed throughout. Thanks to parents for all their support with this.

Next week they will have three days on a residential activity in Torquay and then will return to begin a phase of focussed writing tasks which will continue until the end of June.

Next Friday in our celebration assembly Year 6 will receive their end of year sweatshirts so for the final half term they can wear these at school as they take their steps towards transition.

Please see the attached diary dates for the many events that will celebrate Year 6 achievements whilst they have been at St Mary’s. All parents are welcome to attend any of the events.

**Public Speaking**

To extend and develop the skills learned at school Year 5 and 6 have been given a homework task on the theme of Inspiring People. They were introduced to the skills of public speaking last term when they were visited by Mr Bannister, a Catenian, who shared some tips on how best to approach public speaking.

All pupils in Eagles will present to the class later next half term and ten of them will be shortlisted to present at the school finals. The Catenians have provided medals for all those taking part in the finals on Tuesday 10th July.

Eagles will be expected to prepare their own public speaking materials but will be supported in school in the coming weeks on the skills needed.

We hope that as many St Mary’s parents and families as possible will support this event by attending.

**Owl Class Poetry Performance**

To encourage the skills of presentation and performance Owl Class will be learning poetry which they will present to parents on Wednesday 27th June 2.45pm

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at this event.

**Attendance Counts**

Absence due to illness cannot be avoided. All other absence should be avoidable in order to protect the time your child is in school. As you know we have been working with the local authority Education Welfare Team to create a very clear practice for the different levels and types of absence. We are very keen to work with all parents to support and ensure that attendance is maintained wherever possible.

**Sports Activities**

We have a very full programme of sporting events this term for all pupils and in particular for our older pupils.

We have been delighted to hear Robin Class’s excitement about their swimming adventures and look forward to celebrating their achievements later this term.

Our programme of sporting events where pupils have the opportunity to compete against other schools is, for a relatively small school, extensive but it does rely on parents completing and returning forms and ensuring that pupils have the correct equipment for events. Thank to all of the parents who work to make these events a success. It is greatly appreciated.

**St Mary’s Talent**

The school council asked earlier in the year if we could have a St Mary’s Got Talent event. We have waited until we are a bit further along the school year to let them know this is going ahead. The school council will be holding auditions for individuals and groups of pupils who want to share their talents with us in a whole school afternoon performance at the end of term. Our school council will run this event…watch out Simon Cowell! Children can enter if they have a song to sing, jokes to tell, a dance to perform…. any and every talent will be valued.

**Future Plans**

You may be aware that school and PTFA have contributed together to create a running track which will be built around the boundary of the school to give us an all-weather one mile track. This will greatly support our healthy and active programme as we hope to have a range of activities for pupils to run a mile, a marathon and other distances throughout next year. We also intend to have some gardens planted around the running track. We look forward to sharing with you the ideas for this when we have our celebration afternoon on ……

**Pentecost Sunday 20th May**

In school children have been learning about Pentecost; the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is celebrated this coming Sunday. The Holy Spirit, very simply is extra gifts and power, helping each of us and all of us together to reach out to achieve more than we thought possible. To set new goals and go out and work to achieve them. Happy Pentecost to all.

**Dates for your diary**

Friday 18th May PTFA Party in the Field

Monday 21st May to 22nd May KS1 SATS

Monday 21st May to 23rd May Year 6 residential

Tuesday 22nd May Robin class swimming

Thursday 24th May PTFA Sponsored Bounce

Thursday 24th May HALF Year 6 Cooking challenge

Monday 28th May to 1st June Half Term

Monday 4th June Inset day

Tuesday 5th June Children return to school

 Robin Class trip to Seaton Wetlands

 East Devon Rounders final Year 5 and 6

Wednesday 6th June Year 5 and 6 Girls Kwik Cricket

 New Parents meeting

Thursday 7th June Class photos



