



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'



Upcoming
dates

28th September
Harvest Festival
Mass 9.15am

2nd October
FOSM – Race
night

**5th October – 9th
October**
Isle of Wight
Residential (Y6)

16th October
Year 4 class mass
(in the church) at
9.15am parent
lunch at
11.50am.

23rd October
Curriculum Day –
school closed for
pupils.

**26th – 30th
October**
Half term
holidays-school
closed.

2nd November
Back to School

6th November
Year 6 sharing
assembly and
parent lunch

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you for your incredible generosity towards our Harvest collection. Once again, our school community has shown what it means to put our faith into action by thinking of and supporting those who may be in need.

We are delighted that our Harvest donations will be presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) on Monday 28th September. We know how grateful the SVP will be to receive your generous contributions and how much these donations will be appreciated by the people they support.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for our Harvest Mass on Monday 28th September at 9.15am.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a Catholic school community, to give thanks to God for all that we have and to celebrate the generosity and kindness shown by our families. We would be delighted to see you there.

There has also been a great deal of hard work taking place in school. One of our key priorities this year is ensuring that every part of the school day has pace, purpose and productivity.

The children are responding brilliantly to this. In particular, we have been working hard on our transitions. By this, we mean the way children move from one place or activity to another. We want our children to move quietly, sensibly and purposefully, so that they arrive calm, focused and ready to learn.

These small changes make a big difference. When transitions are smooth and purposeful, valuable learning time is protected and children understand that every minute of their school day matters.

We have already seen some wonderful improvements. The children are rising to our expectations and showing us that they can move around school calmly, settle quickly and approach their learning with a real sense of purpose.

We will continue to encourage all of our children to ask themselves: Am I ready? Am I focused? Am I making the most of my learning time?

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us. It is wonderful to see our children beginning the year with such enthusiasm and determination.

God bless,
Mrs Sharkey
Headteacher



Health and Safety

Fire Drill Update

Today, we completed a whole-school fire drill as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping everyone at St Mary's safe.

The children were fantastic and followed our key expectations brilliantly. We were calm, quick and quiet as we made our way safely out of the building and to our assembly point.

Regular fire drills are an important part of school life, helping children and staff to understand exactly what to do in the event of an emergency. Practising these procedures ensures that everyone can respond safely, calmly and confidently.

A big well done to all of our children for listening carefully and showing such maturity today.

Golden Book!

Congratulations to the following children who have been our most recent stars of the week. Well done!

Reception: Leo, Iggy, Zoey and Savannah

Year 1: Tadgh, Ailsa, Reilly, Jacob

Year 2: Aria, Teddy Kit and Patrick

Year 3: De'Jon, Layla, Leann and Gabi

Year 4: Leo, Kara, Aaron and Aurora

Year 5: Raphael, Willow, Fenna and Sonny

Year 6: Zac, Victoria, Arnor and Erin

Special mention for Reilly and Pearce for excellent sportsmanship (Mr. Johnson)

Today's winning house

St George!

572 points!

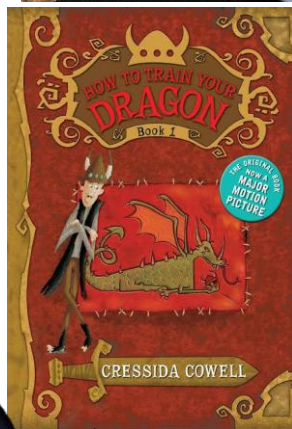
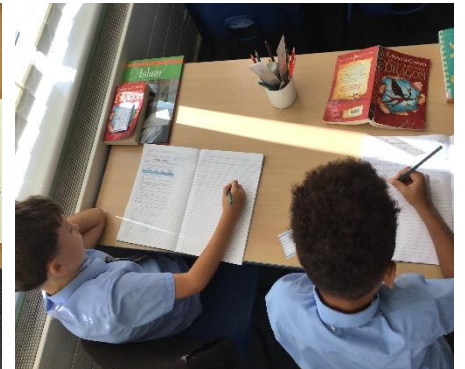
Homework Update:

As you would have read in the latest school letter, homework will no longer go home on Monday. From next week, **homework will go out on Friday to be returned to school on Wednesday.** This change will allow for more time to mark and reflect on the children's homework prior to setting the next homework task. We are also moving away from screen-based homework and moving towards more paper-based homework to reduce unnecessary screen time and help children develop a healthy balance between online and offline activities.

Spelling tests will no longer go home each week, spellings will be completed in class and children will have regular opportunities to practise these words throughout the week in context rather than as a stand-alone test. These changes are backed up by the latest education research. We hope these changes will be welcomed and we thank you for your support.

Spotlight on Year 4

We have been focusing on the text *How to Train your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. The class have really been enjoying this book and have been producing a range of writing linked with the book. Including setting and character descriptions, diary entries and instructions using fronted adverbials. We are also focusing on our handwriting, ensuring we are using correct letter formation to support with cursive handwriting.



In Maths, children have been learning a range of objectives linked with Number and Place Value up to 10,000.

We have been using place value counters and base 10s to support our learning when find 1, 10, 100, 1000 more or less of a given number and we have been learning to find missing numbers and estimating numbers on a number line using different strategies to support this.

St Thomas More class have been very busy with other subjects, in PE they have been learning all about invasion games; including defending and attacking using balls and working together as a team.

In Art, children have been focusing on the technique of drawing, thinking about tone and texture using light and dark pencil strokes to show shadow and highlighting.

In RE, we have been learning about God's covenant with Abraham and how that is reflected in Abraham's journey and his faith, love and trust in God.

In our Spanish lessons we have been retrieving numbers 0-31. We played Bingo to help us recall the number vocabulary 0-31. This will help us when we talk about our birthdays and other calendar events!

