

Newsletter

Friday 5th September 2025



St. Mary's Catholic
Primary School

Dear Families and Friends



Return to School

As I was driving to school yesterday morning, looking forward to welcoming all our children and families back, I was blessed with the sight of beautiful rainbow – rainbows always inspire me with hope. I was also struck with the parallels of what the staff team discussed in our INSET day on Wednesday - there is so much always to do to support the children in our school, but we take small, measured steps to help our children grow to be the best they can be. So as always, it has been so lovely to see the children back at school, excited to be with their friends and making new friends. Most children came through the gate on Thursday beaming and happy to say hello. Already, everyone has settled into their new classes and are ready to learn. We also have several new parents who have joined our school family – I know you will make them feel welcome. As a school family, let us continue to help each other to take the small steps, fill each other's cup and offer a helping hand.

Staffing update

Please remember that Miss Smith is now Mrs Worrall!

Mrs Bealing is having an operation on Tuesday and will be off school for several weeks – please keep her in your prayers as we wish her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, I am working to find suitable cover for her and will let you know who that is as soon as possible.



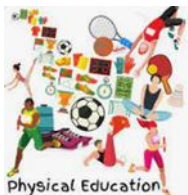
Celebration Assembly

Our first Celebration Assembly will be on Friday 12th September. We look forward to seeing you then - remember to be there at 2.45pm, so we can start at 2.50pm. Thank you.

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your child comes to school with appropriate school uniform – only in PE kit on PE days.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED. Can I also remind you that jewellery and nail varnish are not permitted.



PE lessons

Please can I remind you that on PE days, for health and safety, **children's hair should be tied back**, and they should not be wearing any earrings. If this cannot be avoided, please ensure your child wears (surgical) tape over their earrings.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
St Anthony's St Mark's	St Alban's St Mark's	St Francis St Anthony's	St Alban's St Francis

Everyone matters and is loved by God.

Governors

Our fantastic governors are looking to recruit a parent governor – if you are interested and would like to find out more, please email our Chairs of Governors, Ben Holdsworth or Deacon Mike via the school office, or our clerk Claire Silverlock clerk@olcs.uk



Snacks

Please remember that snacks should be fruit or vegetable – not crisps and chocolate for snack. Thank you for your understanding.

Attendance and punctuality

Our attendance is currently at **95.9%** which is already below our national target. Government departments track school attendance figures. We have a whole school attendance target which is 96.5%.



Please can I remind you that term time holidays are not authorised. Thank you again for working together with us in ensuring your child does not miss out on valuable education. Please check the NHS website for guidance. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

St Anthony – 100%

St Mark – 100%

St Francis – 88.9%

St Alban – 94.7%

Please remember that the bell rings at **8:45** and that is when the gates will be **closed**. Anyone arriving after that time will be marked late in the register. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. **Please email or phone the office to alert school for any absence or lateness.**

After school clubs

After school clubs, run by teachers, will start up again from **week beginning 15th September**. Clubs will be as follows:

Day	Clubs
Monday	Book Club - Miss Smith
Tuesday	Eco Club – Mrs Myatt
Wednesday	Prime Sports
Thursday	Board Games – Mrs Baldwin Football KS2 – Mr Young



The clubs run from 3:15 until 4:15pm

Do remember that we have **Breakfast Club** which starts at 8am (not before) every day and costs £2.75 per session.

Busy Bees After School Club has 3 sessions:

3:15 - 4:15pm - £4.00; 3:15 – 5:15pm - £8.50 and 3:15 – 6:00pm - £12.00 **Please ensure you book online and pay before any sessions, you won't be able to do this until 3rd September 2025.**

Please note that our **Pre-school** hourly rate is now **£5.50**.

Car share

I wonder whether any more of our parents would like to car share? It would save you money on fuel as well as alleviate pressures on the car park. If you are prepared to do so, please do let the office or Mrs Betts. Thank you

Free Online Learning for KS2

We work in partnership with [Atom Learning](#), the leading online Key Stage 2 learning platform, to provide children in Years 3-6 who are eligible for Pupil Premium with free Atom Home accounts. **Atom Home is normally £575.90 per year.** Atom Home provides Key Stage 2 learning resources, helping children build exam technique, subject mastery and academic confidence.



If your child is aged between 7 - 11 and has been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (please check with the school office if you are not sure), please fill in the form by clicking the link: [Access free KS2 learning](#) For other families, there is a five-day free trial of Atom available: <https://atomlearning.com/11-plus>

Music Tuition

For Key Stage 2 children who have arranged for music lessons with Mr Gassman – lessons will start at 9:00 on 16th September. If your child is in Year 3-6, he is offering:

BRASS -Trumpet/Cornet, Trombone & Tenor Horn

WOODWIND - Flute, Clarinet & Alto Sax (Yr4 to 6 only for sax - weight)

20 mins - £10

30 mins - £15

Groups 2-4 = 30 mins (**cost divided**)

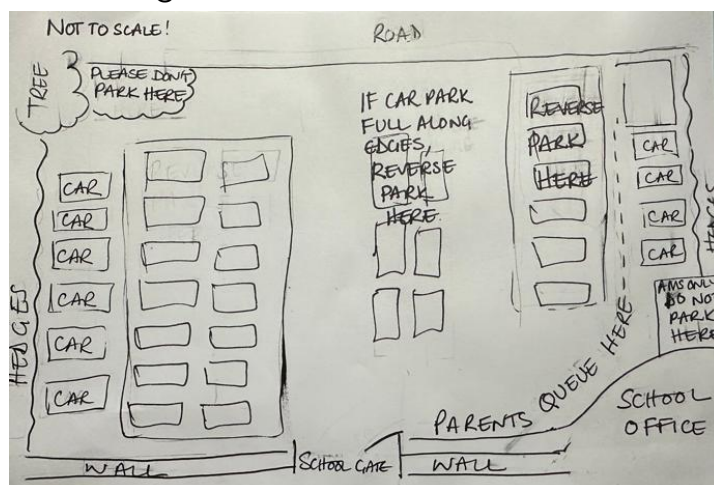
Instrument hire is normally £60 per year. but because Y5 and Y6 have done Musicianship Programme (Samba) in the last 12 months of completion they can get it for free for the first year. Mrs Gassman deals with the instruments at the warehouse as well.

For Y3 and Y4 pupils who would be interested, it's £30 for first year and then £60 per year for the main instruments. Please let your class teacher know if your child would like to take up music instrument lessons next year so we can arrange this with Mr Gassman.

Car park

Please can I ask you to be patient and respectful in and around the car park and the lanes, especially on busier days when there are no clubs. Please excuse my sketch, but hopefully this will give you an idea of where and where not to park. If you can reverse park into a space, this makes it easier for you to get out when leaving.

Can I also remind you to join the queue when coming to pick up the children, this will make our lives a little less chaotic at the end of the day. Thank you again for your cooperation in this matter.





Reading – the gateway to learning!

Please can I remind you of the importance of **hearing your children read at home** daily – or AT LEAST three times a week, even when they are in Y6!

Please record this in your child's reading record and ensure that they bring both their reading book and reading record to school every day. Please also record if they are reading other books from home or the local library! If

children can read fluently, they will enjoy their reading more and be able to access their learning more easily.

Reception September 2026 – Open Days

If you know of anyone who is looking for a place for their child in September 2026, please let them know about our open days, or to contact school to arrange an alternative visit...



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher - Mrs Sharon Betts

office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk Telephone: 01258 820417



Do you have a child due to start school in September 2026?

Do come and visit St Mary's on one of the mornings listed below. We look forward to showing you around our lovely school and seeing our fantastic children enjoying their learning.

Please telephone or email to book a date.

Time: 9:30 am

Dates: 2nd October, 8th October, 17th October 2025



The closing date for applications on 15th January 2026

Dorset School Admissions Contact: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-school-place>

Please see St Mary's Catholic Primary School website for further information on our admissions policy. <http://www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/web>

PTFA

A huge welcome to all our new parents this September. We are very much looking forward to meeting you through our events and activities across the year. Our first one is our AGM, which is not only a great opportunity to meet other parents and make friends, but is our opportunity to share our final accounts, vote the team in and discuss fundraising ideas for the year.

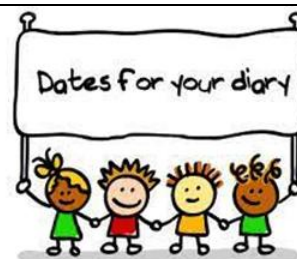


So come along, don't be shy and if you're planning on coming along, interested in being voted in to the team or take on our treasurer's role, please let Rachel Carrick know or email us at stmarysmarnhullptfa@gmail.com

Lastly, come and find us on Facebook or on Facebook messenger as we post regularly on both. Look forward to seeing you at our **AGM on Tuesday 16th September in the hut**. It would be lovely to see you there.

Dates for your diary:

- **Thursday 16th September – PTFA AGM**
- **Wednesday 15th October – Flu immunisations**
- **Friday 24th October - break up for half term**
- **Monday 3rd November – INSET Day**
- **Wednesday 5th November – Photos (portraits)**
- **Friday 8th November – Non-uniform day – wear colours (more information to come)**
- **Monday 10th – 13th November – Y6 Bikeability**
- **Friday 19th December – break up for Christmas**



God Bless

Sharon Betts
Headteacher

Term Dates 2025-26		Half Term holidays	Inset Days
Autumn Term 03.09.25 – 19.12.25	Children start school Thursday 4th September 2025 Children break up for Christmas holidays on Friday 19th December 2025	Children finish for half term on Friday 24th October 2025 and return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2025	03.09.25 03.11.25
Spring Term 05.01.26 – 27.03.26	Children start back at school Monday 5th January 2026 Children break up for Easter holidays on Friday 27th March 2026	Children finish for half term on Friday 13th February 2026 and return to school on Tuesday 24th February 2026	23.02.26
Summer Term 13.04.26 – 23.07.26	Children start back at school Monday 13th April 2026 Children break up for Summer holidays on Tuesday 21st July 2026	Children finish for half term on Friday 22nd May 2026 and return to school on Tuesday 2nd June 2026	01.06.26 22.07.26