



Friday 15th December 2023

# ST MARY'S NEWS

The latest news from St Mary's CE VC First School

## KEY DATES

**Mon 18th to Fri 29th Dec**  
Christmas Holidays

**Monday 1st January**  
Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 2nd January**  
First Day of Term

**Tuesday 9th January**  
Year 1 - T@SM Church visit

**Thursday 11th Jan - 5:30pm**  
Y4 Hook Court Info Evening

**Tuesday 16th January**  
In-Person Parents' Evening

**Thursday 18th January**  
Virtual Parents' Evening

**Tuesday 23rd January**  
Pantomime - Cinderella

**Monday 29th January - 9am**  
Ash Class Assembly

**Tuesday 30th January**  
Year 2 - T@SM Church visit

**Thursday 1st Feb - 5:15pm**  
Story Night Reading Workshop

**Tuesday 6th February**  
Safer Internet Day

**Thurs 8th Feb - 8:45-09:15am**  
Curriculum Open Morning

**Thursday 8th February**  
Last Day of Term

**Friday 9th February**  
INSET Day - school closed

**Mon 12th to Fri 16th February**  
Half Term - school closed

**Monday 19th February**  
First Day of Term

**P = Parents invited**

## Note from Mr Homer

We made it! Autumn Term has been a great success and, together, we have moved our school forward leaps and bounds. This term we have jumped headfirst into our new Maths and Wider curriculums, appointed new School Ambassadors and Year Four Leaders, welcome new staff into our lunchtime, support, finance and leadership teams, continued to improve our learning environments, raised a substantial amount of money for our school through grants and School Association events and had a jolly good laugh along the way!

In contrast, we have unfortunately had to say goodbye to three members of staff who have made the decision to move on from St Mary's. Mrs Simpson left us in November, Miss Dixon retired yesterday and Mrs Drysdale is leaving St Mary's today.

Mrs Drysdale has devoted herself to many roles including Deputy Headteacher, Subject Leader and Class Teacher of both Key Stage One and, more recently, Reception, throughout her eleven years at St Mary's. Mrs Drysdale has made an incredible impact on everybody at St Mary's and she will be greatly missed by all of us and her many former pupils. I am sure that you will join us in wishing Mrs Drysdale all the very best as she embarks on an Equine Assisted Learning training course.

Mrs Drysdale would like to say...

"It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to work at this wonderful school for a total of 11 years. Charminster will always have a special place in my heart and I wish the fabulous staff, pupils and families all the best for the future. Thank you for your kind wishes and incredible generosity. I wish you all a very merry Christmas!"

**We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!**

**We shall see you all on Tuesday 2nd January, 2024!**

## Calendar Alterations

I made a mistake on our previous newsletters and my cover letter for the recent progress reports. Parent Consultations will in fact take place on Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th January.

We have added a date to our calendar. On Thursday 1st February, we will be hosting a Story Night Reading Workshop from 17:15 to 18:00. Children are invited back to school in their PJ's to listen to bedtime stories whilst their parents attend our Reading Workshop. More details to follow.

We have made the decision to move the Curriculum Open Morning from the Monday to the Thursday of the final week or next half term, so this will now take place on Thursday 8th February from 08:45 to 09:15.



# Are you concerned about a pupil?

If you are worried about a child,  
you must share your concern without delay.



**Mick Homer**

Headteacher

**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Lisa Thornicroft**

Teacher & SENDCo

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**



**Karen Bennett**

Family Support Advisor

**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**

**Our Safeguarding Governor is Reverend Pene Kennedy**

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused,  
you can make a referral directly to:

**Dorset's Children's Advice and Duty Service on 01305 228866**

**In an emergency, or if you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm,  
call the police on 999.**

Click or scan this QR code  
to go straight to Dorset  
Council's website:

