



St Mary's News

Friday 14th January 2022

Spring 1

Dear all

Happy New Year! I hope your year has started off well and your family stayed well over the Christmas break.

We have had a wonderful start to this term with good attendance and very positive behaviour for learning from the children. Currently our attendance figures are as follows:

<i>Shell: 98%</i>	<i>Seagull: 98%</i>	<i>Hotham: 94%</i>
<i>Starfish: 91%</i>	<i>Marine: 96%</i>	<i>Regis: 94%</i>
<i>Beach: 98%</i>	<i>Craigweil: 96%</i>	<i>Wheatland: 96%</i>
<i>Ocean: 93%</i>	<i>Blake: 93%</i>	

Well done to Shell and Seagull class for setting a good example. We understand that current Covid rules mean that sometimes your child is off unavoidably so a big thank you for following those rules too. Please remember that the school bell rings at 8.40 am each morning and the registers are taken soon afterwards.

The children have made a wonderful start to their new learning journeys and the teachers will shortly be sending out their curriculum newsletters. Please see below for a taster of the topic your child's class will be following. Bognor Library is open until 6pm every weekday and until 5pm on Saturday so you can stock-up on information books to support your child's learning. Talking of reading, we are very excited about introducing our new phonics scheme, *Essential Letters and Sounds*, to Early Years and key stage one in the next few weeks. You will notice a change in the books your child brings home to read and we will be holding some parent information sessions to explain how it will work. **Please note that the school will be closed on Monday 24th January for a staff phonics training day.**

Applications for a place in Early Years for 2022 close this week and we are looking forward to welcoming new children to our newly refurbished Early Years' playground in September. We are very proud of our current Early Years children who have started joining us in whole school assembly. Their behaviour and singing is wonderful and we are delighted to have them in school.

It is great to see so many children from St Mary's at 11am Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows on Sunday. The new time seems to suit families and on the first Sunday of each month there is a band playing hymns the children will recognise from school – do join us if you can! The first Mass of the school year was led by Blake class last Friday and was a joyful event with enthusiastic singing and confident reading from the children. We hope that St Mary's will play a bigger part in Sunday Masses in the next few months so watch this space!

I hope you have a relaxing weekend and look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes, Mr Edgington, Headteacher.

Our 2021 Poppy Appeal raised an amazing £300.48 for the Royal British Legion. Well done everyone!

Spring Term Topics

EYFS - This term Early Years continue to follow their interests in their child-initiated learning. Current fascinations are maps, dinosaurs and perhaps the possibility of building a space rocket if we can find a big enough box!

As we begin to introduce a few more directed tasks into our day, we have decided to focus on a different book each week. Our exciting books for this half term are: "Happy Birthday Hugless Douglas" by David Melling. "How many legs?" by Kes Gray, "The Magic Paintbrush" by Julia Donaldson and the "Ten little ..." series by Mike Brownlow and Simon Rickerty.

KS1 – This term our topic is Explorers. We will be learning about significant people such as Christopher Columbus, Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake! We will also be creating our very own personal timelines, linking these with important events that have happened in the past. We also have an exciting 'in-house' trip in a few weeks' time. The Wonder dome Planetarium will be visiting to allow the children to learn and explore the Galaxy in more detail and discover more about Neil Armstrong's landing on the Moon. It will be a great day filled with adventures and fun!

Lower KS2 - This term year 3/4 will be learning about lots of different amazing inventors and engineers during the Victorian period. We will spend time looking at local inventors and some of the amazing inventions and creations within our local area.

Upper KS2 - The Year 5 and 6 topic for the Spring term is '**Earth Matters**' through which we will explore the amazing world in which we live. We will look at two books - The Rhythm of the Rain by Grahame Baker-Smith and Song of the Dolphin Boy by Elizabeth Laird - which subtly focus on processes in our natural world like the Water Cycle as well as some of the threats faced by animals such as dolphins.

We will draw attention to our unique local habitats and environments such as Pagham and Sidlesham, hopefully involving talks and/or visits that will help us learn about some of the things that have been put in place to prevent too much coastal erosion.

HOUSE POINTS UPDATE

ST FRANCIS
408

ST CATHERINE
365

ST BERNADETTE
273

ST JOHN BOSCO
272

In September, lots of our pupils bravely auditioned for the 'Jack and the Beanstalk' pantomime to be a 'Juve' or 'Baby Bean' dancer.



They also all attend The Art of Dance. The auditions were friendly but challenging.

We are delighted that the following pupils all got to take part in the professional Panto and unbelievably, the Juves did approx. 24 shows in total over the Christmas break!

They were:

Juves -Eva, Lucia and Twyla

Baby Beans - Evie, Isla, Cienna, Tabitha and Florence.

What a fantastic experience for them all, helping their confidence to grow. Well done everyone!