

## IN BRIEF:

Half term starts on the 21st February and ends on the 25th with the 28th being an INSET day

Thank you to those parents who attended the phonics meeting with Miss Langdon recently. Working together really does make a difference...

Term dates for next year are available on our website...

Clubs start after half term and will build up through the summer term...

## DIARY DATES—MARCH

- 1 Cross Country Gryphon 3.30-5.30
- 2 Cross country Bucklers Mead 3.30-5.00
- 3 World Book Day—details to follow
- 8 Dodgeball Gryphon 3.30-4.20
- 10 Pupil photos (postponed from Autumn term)
- 15 Parents' evening
- Netball tournament 3.30-4.30
- 16 Parents' evening
- 17 Parents' evening
- 22 North Dorset Netball 3.00-4.00
- Football tournament Abbey 4.00-5.30
- 23 Football vs Trent
- 29 Netball and Football vs Abbey
- 30 Cross country Mudford Rec

## BA NEWS FEBRUARY 2022

### Mental Health Week

As part of our work on developing and maintaining good mental health, we have taken part in Mental Health week.

All week, we have been exploring how we can take care of ourselves and have been exploring strategies to help us when things don't go as planned.

We began the week with an assembly about Harold the Giraffe and his scarf which explored the acronym **SCARF**—safety, caring, achievement, resilience and friendship. We talked about how, just like a scarf can wrap around us, we can wrap those values around us in school as a way to support each other.

We ended the week with a 'wear your SCARF to school day' to remember the story. We showed off our scarves in a special assembly and Mrs Newton's class performed a SCARF rap! The children are also taking part in colouring and design competitions for the best scarf.



More pics on page 4...

### Internet Safety Day

Also during this week, it was annual internet safety day which we planned to incorporate as part of our mental health week. We know that children's mental health can be affected by what they see and hear online and it is important to address those issues as soon as children begin using social media and other online platforms.

From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

Please make sure you know your children's activity online—online content changes every day and it is really important to stay up to date.

This half term, our focus Christian value has been 'courage'. As a school we have been exploring this value in our Monday worship time and following it up throughout the week.

## Staffing news

As part of our collaboration with SAST, some of our staff have been tasked with supporting the development of curriculum areas in other schools. This is fantastic continuing professional development for our staff and a recognition of their strengths as leaders.

Mr Simpson will be lending his skills and expertise to support the strategic leadership of SEND in another SAST school as well as spending some time teaching there. Miss Mcfarlane will cover some afternoons in Mr Simpson's class as a result.

Mrs Morton has been working with another SAST school to develop science throughout their curriculum sharing the good practice we have at St Mary's.



Mrs Newton has been approached to join the SAST maths team to share her expertise and subject knowledge within SAST on the days she does not teach Year 1/2.

Miss Parker has been nominated for an apprentice award by Yeovil College which is a fantastic achievement for her. Miss Parker is a great addition to our team; enthusiastic, professional and committed.

We have said goodbye to Mrs Sarah Weale who has finished her Initial Teacher Training here at St Mary's and moved onto a different school. Mrs Weale fitted into our team immediately and was a delight to have working in Year 4/5. I wish Mrs Weale all the very best for the rest of her training. We look forward to welcoming a second trainee in the near future.

## World Book Day

World Book Day falls on the 3rd March this year. I sense there may be some dressing up as a book character! Look out for details which will be coming home soon...

## Science outreach project



Mrs Morton's class have been taking part in a Science outreach project with Sherborne Girls' School who been visiting on a Tuesday afternoon with the aim of 'developing scientific curiosity'. So far they have completed lessons on 'light', 'magnetism' and 'electricity' using advanced equipment. This way of collaborative working enables us to provide really high quality enrichment activities for our pupils. **See our website and overleaf for more pics...**

## Safeguarding

We are a closely knit community here at St Mary's which is great but consequently, it may be easy to forget that all our families have a right to privacy. If your child tells you something about other children within the school then please keep that information to yourself. We value everyone's right to privacy.

I am the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school and Mr Simpson is my Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Miss Langdon will soon be completing the DDSL training so she will also be acting as a safeguarding lead in my, or Mr Simpson's, absence.

## Parents' evening

Parents' evenings will be held on 15-17th March which you will be able to book soon.

You will receive instructions on how to book in advance and there will be a text beforehand to let you know when the booking system will be open. To book, please follow the link in the text which starts the process. Appointments will be booked on a first come, first served basis. We look forward to seeing you then!

## Parents' sharing mornings

Parent sharing mornings will recommence after half term on Fridays. These will take place from 8.45-5.55am and we would respectfully ask that classrooms are vacated by the bell so that the registers can be taken and lessons can start. We have really enjoyed looking at the feedback from the big questions—thank you!



## Covid19

We have had a high level of staff absence over the last week—please bear with us if some things are missed or we are unable to do the things we might normally. Hopefully when we return from the half term break, we will have some clarity from the Government regarding school operating procedures going forward. With luck, we will see normality; watch this space!

More science project pics...





More pics.....

