



A great half term ended in style, with Laudato Si day on Thursday. The children celebrated the wonders of Harvest and spring with planting, singing, crafts and baking. Thanks to Mrs Coffin, they learned to use an apple press, reaping the rewards with a glass of fresh juice. They delighted in climbing a tractor and sitting inside - one of the many highlights of the day.

The St Mary's team hope you have a wonderful half term.

## School Updates

The GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Team facilitated participation in an annual rosary challenge last Friday. They helped Iceni, Maiden Castle and Anning Classes to pray the rosary thus joining one million children across the globe who, via Aid to the Church in Need, prayed the rosary for peace in our world. The chaplains did a fantastic, prayerful job.



## Classroom Updates

### Shire

As part of Year 1's science curriculum we have been investigating Owl Pellets. We dissected them and discovered all the little bones that were left over after the owl had digested its prey. All the children found this fascinating, we couldn't believe the pellet was furry and not at all like a human's pellets!

### Anning

Anning Class has had an amazing week!

Last Thursday we met the authors James Turner and Steve May at Manor Park School. They read from their new book Poo Crew Adventures - Journey to Pootopia and they taught us how to draw Ploppy. They were so entertaining and hilarious, we loved it!

We joined the Chaplains for the 'One Million Rosary' challenge on Friday, where children connect from around the world to pray for unity and peace. Mrs Williams was particularly impressed with Anning class, who were incredibly respectful.

We have enjoyed coding in ICT, designing an algorithm for a magician to make a rabbit disappear and reappear!

We have also been sharpening up our oracy skills by debating in class and sharing our points of view about lots of subjects including playtimes and who should choose what goes in our lunchboxes!

## Maiden Castle

Year 3 have had a great week. We have been practising adding 3 digit numbers, using the column method in maths and in English we have been looking at Skara Brae, to write a holiday brochure about it.

## Eco Schools

November is Cut Your Carbon month! Eco-Schools is challenging young people across the UK to take action on their carbon footprint. Every child from St Mary's will receive a challenge tick list to complete in November.

## Competitions

### Rotary Young Photographer Competition THEME – 'WONDERFUL WATER'

Our children have been invited to take part in a Rotary Young Photographer Competition. The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- experiment with photography
- use digital and/or traditional methods of photography
- demonstrate interpretation of the topic
- express personal ideas through the medium of photography

Task and rules: To produce one photograph based upon the theme, 'Wonderful Water'. Mobile Phones or cameras may be used. Each entrant MUST provide a brief sentence describing the relationship of the artwork to the theme. This can be submitted alongside the photograph. The name and age of the child must be recorded with the photograph. The photograph must be submitted via Digital Format and be at least 1500 pixel in size on the longest length. The entries and supporting information sent electronically MUST NOT EXCEED 15Mb per email sent. Please Note: Photographs which incorporate images of people under 18 years or vulnerable adults must be accompanied by consent forms for the use of those photographic images. Please submit your entry to the school office by **Wednesday 8th December 2024**

### Rotary Young Writer Competition THEME – 'WONDERFUL WATER'

Our children have been invited to take part in a Rotary Young Writer Competition. The competition aims to encourage young people to:

- be creative
- use their writing skills
- write with imagination and creativity

Task and rules: To produce a handwritten or typed story in prose or poem entitled 'Wonderful Water'. The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, as long as the piece relates to the theme and all entries must be legible. We are looking for original pieces, not copies, which match the theme of the competition. Competitors must not use any apps which produce any part of their submission, if detected the entry will be disqualified. Prose entries should be up to a maximum 550 words. Poetry entries should be up to a maximum of 40 lines. Entries that exceed these maximum numbers will be disqualified. No pictures and/or drawings are to be part of the entry.

Judges will consider: Imagination relative to the subject, the ability to engage interest, the ability to be consistent in the power of argument, relevance to the Theme. Please submit your entry to the school office by **Wednesday 8th December 2024 with the name and age of your child on the back.**



## Laudato Si Day

We had a wonderful day on Laudato Si Day. It was such a great day and it was so much fun for all. To make it all happen we had a lot of help from a lot of people. So, we would like to thank:



For the donation of bulbs and bark chips.



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For donating compost

Gareth Scott for donating weeding supplies and Laura Killian for the pots.

We would like to thank our St Mary's community for the donations of items for the food bank and yummy cakes. Mrs Coffin, for the apple press, which the children absolutely love and to John Deere tractors for lending us a real tractor for the day!

Thank you to everyone who came to help us bake, garden and press apples. We are so grateful for your time. Finally a huge thank you to the members of the PTA, especially Sophie Eversden and her team who helped to procure the donations and served cakes and apple juice at the end of the day.

















## Upcoming Events

Year Group	Event	Date
Whole School	Return to school	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Eco Schools - Cut your Carbon Month	November
Anning	Dorset Council Remembrance Service County Hall	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	School Photographs	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Scholastic book event	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	Bling your Bike to School	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
Whole School	PTFA Christmas Shop	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	Christmas Meal – Book via Local Food Links	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
Whole School	School closes for Christmas Holidays	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Christmas Holiday		
Whole School	Return to school	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January

After Half Term, Chaplains will be selling Poppies and accessories for a donation (£1 recommendation)

Have a good weekend. *P.Fearn*