



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter

Friday 19th September



I have been delighted to be approached by many families with offers of help this week. As a new head teacher I suspect it would be very easy to fall into the trap of referring to the school as "my" school. Of course, it isn't: it is "our" school. We all want the same thing for the children in our care and a school like ours is most successful when families, the Church and school staff all work together. The offers to help with PTA activities, to paint in school, to assemble flat pack for our book exchange, to link with national and international community projects and to find people who can talk to the children about their careers are a clear sign of how much you all value what we offer the children. If any of you are keen gardeners I would be delighted to hear from you...

Please could I ask that parents and carers continue to read with their children at home? For children to become fluent readers they need a number of skills. In order to read quickly enough to be fluent, the children must have a mental link between what is written down and what sounds make up the words. In academic terms, this is called "orthographical mapping". In school, this relates to learning phonics and decoding words. The more the children practise the more their brains are able to make these links. Once the children can read quickly, they need to be able to read written information so that it sounds like natural, spoken speech. You might see this called "prosody". This could involve using intonation or perhaps making different characters sound different. It doesn't matter how old your child is, practising phonics and reading at home are an excellent way to give them a chance to be successful at school and beyond.

Pool news

We have officially closed the Pool, Thank you to all our parent helpers the Lifeguards the chemical team and parents who helped clean and maintain the pool area.

Without this support we could not keep using our wonderful pool facility. What a great summer we had and we know that our children and families made the most of the pool.

Maurward Class

Our Early Bird activities this week are: Threading cotton reels onto laces, using loose parts to create a face, simple jigsaw puzzles, cutting along the line, and copying handwriting patterns in sparkly sand. We are really good at finding our activities and completing them independently and then working together to tidy up at the end of the session.



Shire Class

Shire Class has been sharing their thoughts about creation and our wonderful planet. They then created some colourful paintings to express these ideas artistically. Here are a few of their beautiful paintings.



Anning

Anning class conducted a Science investigation on Tuesday. They looked at how their bodies changed when they exercised. They recorded their findings which included increased heart rates, dry mouths and tired legs!

In maths this week children learned to play a Tens and Units game that only requires one dice and a piece of paper and pen. I am sure they will love to play along at home. There is a "Nice and Nasty" version too. Ask your child how to play.



A very big congratulations Milo Beckingham in Anning class who has been chosen as the winner of Local Food Links' *Wonka-Tastic* competition, which was held over the summer holidays.

We're incredibly proud of his creativity and hard work earned him the Golden Ticket – a fantastic achievement!

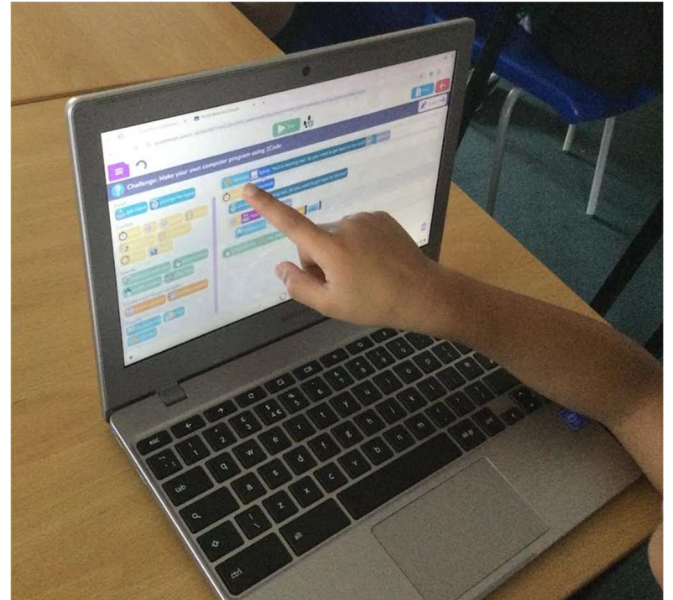
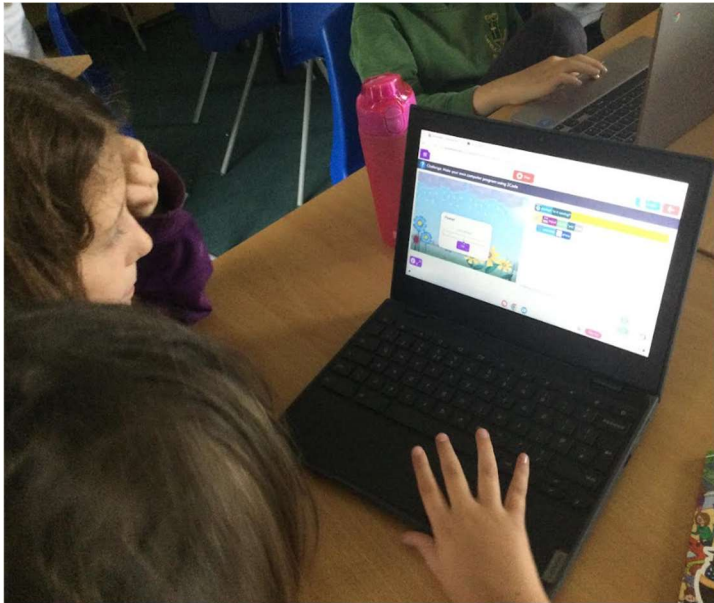


Maiden Castle

In year 3 we have been making clay volcanoes and making them erupt with vinegar, bicarbonate of soda and red food dye. This is part of our geography topic.

Iceni

In year 4, we have been very busy learning how to use If statements in coding this week.



Can you help us with a new eco project this year? Our plan is to create an exciting new growing area in our grounds with a large greenhouse and raised beds. This will be a wonderful opportunity to teach our children gardening skills and how to grow fruit and vegetables all year round.

This is a big project, therefore we need some help to make it happen and would like you to join us by being part of our working party.

If you have building, landscaping, gardening or design skills, or if you can assist our fundraising team, please get in touch by contacting the school office as we would love to hear from you.

Thank you very much for your support.

Year Group	Event	Date
Anning	Lulworth Castle trip-Packed Lunch option available on local food Links	Tuesday 7th October
Shire and Anning	Meet the Author –Simon Philip at Manor Park school. pm	Wednesday 15th October
Maiden and Icen	Meet The Author-Chris Smith at Manor Park school. pm	Thursday 16th October
Whole School	Parents Meeting	Monday 20th October
Whole School	Parents Meeting	Wednesday 22nd October
Whole School	Children break up for half term	Thursday 23rd October
Whole school	Children return after half term.	Monday 3^d November
Whole School	Local MP Edward Morello-School Visit	Thursday 27th November
Whole School	Meet The Donkey-PTA	Monday 1st December
Shire/Anning/ Maiden Castle/ Iceni	Christmas Story Night 5pm -6pm	Friday 5TH December
Shire, Anning, Maiden castle. Iceni	Nativity	Monday 15th December
Shire, Anning, Maiden castle. Iceni	Nativity	Tuesday 16th December
EYFS	Nativity	Wednesday 17th December

Have a good weekend. **S. Thomas**