



St Mary's Catholic First School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



10th January 2020

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you had a good Christmas and are getting back into the swing of the New Year. The children have been positive and hard-working during their first week back.

This week Year 4 started their rehearsals for their DASP Concert which is taking place on Tuesday 3rd March, the times are yet to be confirmed but it is usually around 6.00 pm. Year 4 parents, please put the date in your diary, more information will follow.

Mr Daley our DASP PE specialist was working with our Year 3 class and a small group of children from various classes on Wednesday. He will be working with Year 4 next Wednesday so if they could bring in their PE kits on this day as well as Tuesday and Thursday, that would be great.

Thank you to the Year 1 parents who joined us yesterday afternoon for a briefing on how to work with the Read, Write Inc books that are coming home with their children. If any Reception or Year 1 parents have any questions about how best to use these books and were unable to make the briefing, please speak to your child's Class Teacher.

Our first after school clubs start next week with Archery on Wednesday and Gymnastics on Thursday. The other after school clubs start the following week. If you would like your child to take part in a club, please return the reply slip with payment to the school office.

Kidszone - half term & Inset day bookings

Our Kidszone provision will be open during the February half term (17th-21st Feb) and for the Staff Training Day on Monday 24th February. If you would like to book your child into Kidszone during this time, please use the booking form attached to the Newsletter email or email Kidszone on kidszone.office@googlemail.com

For session times and costs, please also see the booking form attached to the Newsletter email.



Pupil Premium information

For information, Pupil Premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools to help all pupils reach their full potential regardless of their background or financial situation. The grant is paid directly to the school and is used to improve the attainment of those children who are eligible. This can be awarded when families are in receipt of certain benefits. Pupil Premium families are entitled to claim for an annual school Clothing Allowance, help with trip costs, Free School Meals and Milk.

Pupils may be eligible for funding if:

- They are registered for Free School Meals, or have been registered at any point in the past 6 years
- They are currently in Local Authority Care or have been for more than one day
- They have left Local Authority Care as a result of adoption, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order
- They have one or more parent serving in the Armed Forces.

Who qualifies for free school meals?

Your child qualifies for free school meals as long as you receive any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit; this is as long as you're not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' payment (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: this is as long as your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Applying for Pupil Premium funding?

Go to [Dorsetforyou.gov.uk](https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk) and search for Free School Meals or use the link below

- <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

Upcoming Dates

Please see our upcoming dates

Wednesday 15 th January	DASP PE Specialist running PE session with Year 4
Wednesday 15 th January	Archery after school club begins
Thursday 16 th January	Gymnastics after school club begins
Wednesday 22 nd January	Year 3 Sparkle Workshop
Wednesday 22 nd January	DASP PE Specialist running PE session with Year 3
Thursday 23 rd January	Road Safety sessions for all classes by Dorset Police
Tuesday 28 th January	Mass at St Mary's – 9.00 am – families welcome
Friday 31 st January	PTA cake sale at pick up time (Y1 parents kindly donating cakes)
Mon 3 rd & Tues 4 th Feb	Life Education Bus (Haycorns and all Year Groups)
Tuesday 4 th February	Parent's Evening 2.30-5.00 pm (first of two evenings) – information to follow
Wednesday 5 th February	Parent's Evening 3.40-6.00 pm (second of two evenings) – information to follow
Thursday 6 th February	School Nurse drop-in Session 8.45 am
Thursday 6 th February	Reception Class – National Measurement Session
Monday 10 th February	Author Laura James visiting St Mary's
Monday 10 th February	Reception Class Dance Festival – 1.45 pm at Damers First School
Friday 14 th February	Children finish for half term holiday
Monday 24 th February	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 25 th February	Children return from half term break
Friday 28 th February	PTA cake sale at pick up time (Reception parents kindly donating cakes)
Tuesday 3 rd March	Year 4 DASP Concert at Thomas Hardye School – (evening) parents invited – information to follow
Friday 27 th March	St Mary's Easter BINGO – early evening family event

Yours Sincerely

P. Fearn

Mrs Paula Fearn
Head Teacher