



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a week full of exciting experiences for the children here at St Mary's this week. On Monday morning, alongside welcoming back the children, an amazing range of fascinating invertebrates from all over the world descended on our school as the children in KS1 enjoyed a visit from 'Bugfest' as part of class topic work. Within the session, children learnt about the amazing invertebrates and even got a chance to handle them. Children were quickly engaged by the leader and his appropriate sense of humour, and those of a nervous nature were fast to find their courage and face their own creepy crawly fears including Mrs Churchill who held a tarantula!



KS2 also enjoyed a trip to the Octagon Theatre on Tuesday to see a fascinating Orchestral Performance performed by the BBC Concert Orchestra. Throughout the narrated performance, children got to listen to and enjoy ten pieces of powerful classical music and learnt about various composers and musical terms. The children also worked alongside the orchestra to compose a piece of music on the theme of 'space'.



We apologise for the many dates we are sharing with you in this week's newsletter. This is often the case at this busy time of year. Please refer to the 'Important Dates' section at the end for a breakdown of all the events and experiences taking place.

Mystery at Magpie Manor

Rehearsals are now underway for our KS2 End of Term Production which will take place in Thorncombe Village Hall at 1.30pm and 6pm on Friday 12th July. A dress rehearsal for the school and parents with small children will be held at 1.30pm on Thursday 11th July.

Most children will need one simple costume for the performance and are hoping to be able to re-use some costumes from Buggy Malone several years ago. If your child needs to find a costume, we will ensure you are aware of this next week.

Swimming

We are delighted that swimming sessions will commence at school next week just in time for the better weather, hopefully. Children in Pippin Class will aim to swim every day from 1pm until 2pm and Orchard Class will aim to swim at least 3 times a week within morning sessions. As swimming is weather permitting, we would like all children to bring in swimming kits each day. We are committed to swimming as much as possible with the children however some sessions may be missed due to play rehearsals and trips particularly in Key Stage Two.

Unfortunately at this stage, we are unable to accommodate Little Pips swimming within school however family keys are available from the school office should you wish to purchase one. Thank you for your understanding.

Sports Day

Sports Day will take place on Monday 15th July at 1.30pm and will be led by Ben McCaffrey from Sporting Chance. We are hoping to involve children in a mixture of running, throwing and jumping events which the children will prepare for within lessons. All parents, carers and friends are welcome to attend the event and the PFA will be serving refreshments afterwards.

Year Two Transition Arrangements

We will be inviting children in Year 2 to join Orchard Class for some short transition sessions within the next few weeks. We hope these will suitably prepare the children for their move into Key Stage Two in September. Within the sessions we will undertake some teambuilding and art activities as well as discussing routines and answering questions from the children. The trip to 'Treetops' taking place on Tuesday next week, will also give children the chance for years 3,4 and 5 next year to work alongside each other. Other transition dates will include:

- Wednesday 3rd July 1-2pm
- Wednesday 10th July 1-3pm

We will also plan opportunities for the Year 2 children to work alongside the current year 3 and 4 children when Upper Key Stage Two visit Cardiff from the 17th-19th July.

As always, please do come and talk to us and share any questions you may have linked to transition. The Orchard Class Team are really looking forward to welcoming such an eager, enthusiastic group of children into class in September!

Year 5 and 6

If you are a parent of a child in year 5 and 6, please make sure you have received a letter today regarding the Sex and Relationship Education sessions which will be taking place within the last week of term. Further details about the sessions are shared within the letter.

Important Dates

Tuesday 25 th June	Y2,3 and 4 to The Tunnel Treetops activity centre
Wednesday 26 th June	"Wicked Wednesday" family breakfast
Thursday 27 th June	Orchard Class visit to Swisstulle, South Chard
Friday 28 th June	PFA Non Uniform Day – please donate a raffle or tombola prize!
Wednesday 3 rd July	School music performance – details to be confirmed
Thursday 4 th July	Mini Marines camp Y6 – details to be confirmed
Saturday 6 th July	PFA School Fete
Monday 8 th /Tuesday 9 th July	Beaminster School Y6 transition days
Thursday 11 th July 1.30pm	Mystery at Magpie Manor –Dress Rehearsal
Friday 12 th July 1.30pm and 6pm	Mystery at Magpie Manor Performances
Friday 12 th July 8pm	Quiz in aid of the PFA – Thorncombe Sports and Social Club
Monday 15 th July	Sports Day 1.30-3pm to be followed by PFA refreshments
Wednesday 17 th -Friday 19 th July	Y 5 and 6 Cardiff Residential Trip
Tuesday 23 rd July	Leavers Celebration Assembly School breaks up 3pm

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kind Regards

Miss Smith