

HELLO & WELCOME



AT A GLANCE

**INCLUSIVE EXCITING
EDUCATION OPEN TO ALL**

**SCHOOL DAY
8.30AM - 3PM**

PRE-SCHOOL - YEAR 6

BREAKFAST CLUB

**VARIETY OF AFTER SCHOOL
CLUBS INCLUDING SPORTS,
DRAMA, ART AND
SKATEBOARDING**

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's is a one form entry Catholic school in a beautiful setting with seaviews from our fields!

We have a wonderful grounds where the children have fun during their learning and play including our newly developed forest school area which is enjoyed by all year groups!

The children participate in a vibrant curriculum delivered by committed staff who encourage the children to be successful and the best version of themselves.

Our children take pride in being leaders and although we are always sad to say goodbye, we know they are ready for new adventures armed with courage, tenacity and a positive mindset with great leadership skills.

STARTING SCHOOL FIRST THINGS FIRST

St Mary's Catholic Primary School has its own admissions authority. A copy of the this policy can be found on our school website <https://www.stmaryspri.iow.sch.uk/admissions/> and that of the IOW Council website: <https://www.iowight.com/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/School-Admissions/Admissions-Policies>

Children join us from Year R, which is the Reception part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. We do have our own pre-school, which children from the age of 2 can attend. Children also come to us from a variety of pre-school settings and we make contact with these prior to the children starting school. Our Induction programme includes inviting the children to welcome sessions before they start school in September. Our Learning Team will make contact with the pre-schools and will arrange to speak with the parents. This enables the team to have a good understanding of the needs of the children. By the time the children start at school in September we aim to already have a clear picture of how we can support their learning journey and for the family to feel part of the school community.

Parents are reminded that when applying for a place at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, two forms need to be completed. The first is the IOW Council application form which can be completed online. In addition to this is the school's supplementary information form (SIF). This is available from the school and should be returned to the school. Failure to complete both forms means that the applications cannot be processed effectively.

SCHOOL READY

There are often anxieties expressed by parents as to whether their child is school ready. It is helpful if the children can dress themselves and are used to going to the toilet by themselves. However we have a very experienced Reception Learning team who are able to manage a range of children's abilities and experiences. Please talk to us and share any concerns or worries that you have. We are here to support families and children as they take this big step.



OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

WELCOME TO ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Executive Head: Mrs M Sanderson
Head of School: Mrs S Broome
Site Manager: Mr J Robjant

Tel: 01983 562000

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

MRS SANDERSON, EXECUTIVE HEAD

The decision on where your child will start their formal educational journey can be daunting. I hope that you find the information here helpful to get a sense of the purpose of the school and its values as a community. We are proud of our school. Our children are valued and cared for by wonderful Learning Teams consisting of teachers and learning support assistants (LSAs).

Our school Mission is to Live, Love, Believe. This mission is threaded throughout the school experience for the children and their work as learners and as ambassadors. However if you do have questions please ring or visit the school as we are always willing to answer any questions that you may have. As a school we value the relationships we develop with our families knowing that a strong partnership between us enables the children who we both cherish, to have the best learning opportunities available to them.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Live, Love, Believe

CURRICULUM

LEARNING

The school develops the National Curriculum and engages with the children with a variety of learning journeys so that they are excited by their curriculum. The curriculum is supported through school trips, including to the Tower of London, Mayflower Theatre and Winchester Science Centre.

The staff are focussed on ensuring that the needs of all children are catered for and our SEND offer makes clear what the school already has in place for children with additional needs.



CHALLENGES

The learning at St Mary's is driven through the journeys that challenge the children to improve their key skills. The Learning Teams enable the pupils to grow and experience learning in a variety of ways so the pupils are confident and resilient.

RECEPTION CLASS

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum: There are seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes in early years' settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

In addition, we provide children with the opportunity to strengthen and apply the three prime areas above through four specific areas below:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

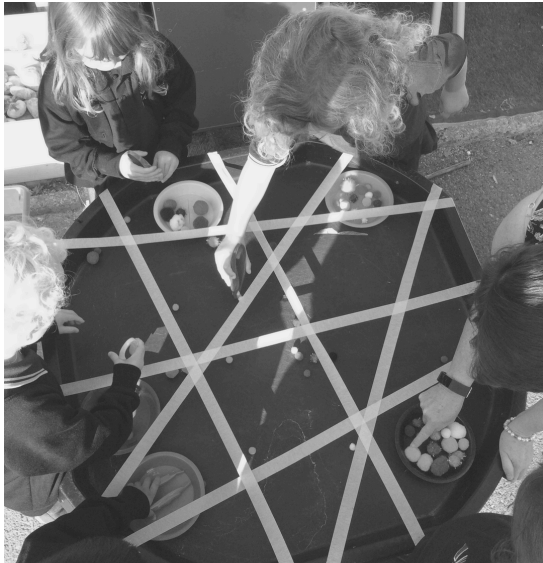
Our Reception Class at St Mary's Catholic Primary School is an exciting, vibrant and stimulating place to learn. Our team ensures the learning is based on the children's interests. Our children are engaged and motivated to learn through fun, laughter, encouragement and exploration. Our team inspires children to believe that if they work hard they can achieve anything.

Our Reception team at St Mary's Catholic Primary School know that play is an integral part of the children's development and most learning will be introduced through a variety of carefully planned play and adult-led focused activities. As the Reception year progresses, the learning will become more formal in preparation for Year 1 and the National Curriculum.

Throughout the year, we will inform you of our learning journey's, events and other information via Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a fantastic communication tool and online learning journey for your child, which is accessed by both teaching staff and grown-ups at home, and follows them from Reception all the way to Year 6.



DAY TO DAY



The school uniform is worn with pride by our children. The uniform across the school is designed so that children can access outside learning without having to change. Gingham dresses may also be worn in the summer. Our PE kit is practical and yet still shows the opposition we mean business! See our website for more details of the uniform available from Kids and Co, our Ryde stockist.

↑ UNIFORM

SCHOOL DINNERS ↓

Our School dinners are provided by Chartwells. They provide wholesome and healthy food. The children are supported during the lunchtime by our Midday Supervisors Team. They make sure the children are able to cut their food and have a drink. They also ensure that the playground is a happy place for the children.

— Weekly menus are available for parents on our website.

PUPIL PREMIUM

Some of our families will be able to access Pupil Premium funding. This means that the school receive additional funding supporting a variety of activities. For example, the school has used Pupil Premium funding to enable all of the Reception Class to attend Forest Schools at a reduced cost.

At present all children in Key Stage One and Early Years receive school dinners at no cost. If you apply for Pupil Premium however you also enable this additional funding for the school, that will benefit your child and others throughout their time at St Mary's. More information available at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Free-School-Meals/Key-Stage-1-and-2>



This remains one of the most asked questions. We understand children have different food preferences. We also know from experience that many children happily eat things they would not eat at home when they are with their classmates. We always suggest children try school dinners but never prevent children from bringing in a packed lunch. As a healthy eating school we ask that these do not include chocolate or sweets. Due to allergy needs they should also not include any products including nuts.

If you have food allergy questions please let the school know and we can find out the answer or get you in touch with Chartwells directly.

Aspects of School Life (1)

ATTENDANCE

There are only 190 school days per year. So it is essential that the children attend these days. Schools report attendance figures to the DfE and it forms part of the OFSTED assessment of the school. The IOW Education Welfare Service may choose to issue penalty notices for unauthorised absences. From September 2013 there is no longer provision in law for headteachers to authorise absence from school for the purpose of term time holiday. We ask that parents inform the school when their child is unable to attend due to illness by 9am on every day of absence.

SPORTING ACTIVITY

The school recognises how important an active life in mind and body is for children. The children experience a range of sporting activities within their curriculum PE lessons. The children also have the opportunity to participate in After School Clubs for a variety of sports including football, skateboarding and forest schools. The government provides additional funding for PE. There are also opportunities for competitive sport in Years 5 & 6. In Year 6 as the children mature they have the opportunity to be sports leaders in the House system.

SCHOOL AMBASSADORS

The school enables young leadership through the Ambassador system. This links children to the roles that most interest them and the children take these roles on for the year. Currently we have the following ambassador roles: Chaplaincy ambassadors, subject ambassadors and house captains. Please look out for them and ask them about their ambassador roles.

This forms part of the school provision of the British Values education required by the DfE.

HOUSE SYSTEM

On joining the school each child will be assigned to a House. The school has four Houses. The House names were chosen by the pupils and are linked by initial with the house colour

St Mary's- Blues

St David's - Yellows

St Martin de Porres- Greens

St Josephine - Reds

The children collect class house points. Children are also awarded individual certificates in celebration assembly to celebrate their achievements each week.



Aspects of School Life (2)

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

If your child needs prescribed medicine administered during the school day, this must be brought into the school office. We have trained staff who will administer medicine. The school nurse team have advised that parents should, where possible, administer the medicine at home. Inhalers and epipens should also be brought into the school office and the correct forms completed. There may be times when your child attends dental or hospital appointments during school time. We ask that you bring the appointment letter to school so we can mark this in against the absence. If your child bumps their head during the school day, you will receive a call to inform you of this.

SAFEGUARDING

The school sees its safeguarding role as a core responsibility. Safeguarding training including the PREVENT strategy against extremism is provided for all staff. Staff and volunteers all have DBS checks. Parents are welcome to discuss any safeguarding concerns they have. The school will act on issues raised by children and members of the community. The school's key belief in terms of safeguarding is:

See it, Say it, Stop it.

We will try to include families immediately with any concerns we have, although there may be occasions where this is not possible. The school safeguarding statement and policy are available on the school website.

PARENTS AND FAMILIES

The school values greatly its relationships with families. We work hard to ensure that there are good communications between us, as that is how we feel the children will achieve their full potential. Mrs Broome our Head of School, is at the front of the school building most mornings. She is also available for meetings. Class teachers are the first port of call for class issues. They are happy to meet with parents and appointments can be made through the office. We are very fortunate to have an active family association called FOSMA (Friends of St Mary's Association) who raise funds for the school.

RE AND SEX EDUCATION

We are proud to be an inclusive Catholic primary school. The children will have the opportunity to participate in Masses, Pancake races, Mayday celebrations and other religious celebrations. The RE curriculum that the school follows is God Matters as directed by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. This is a Bible based curriculum and also includes aspects of World Faiths. The Relationships education in school is taught through the guidance of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. It will be delivered through the science and PSHE curriculum. This curriculum is delivered through age appropriate learning. It will cover issues such as people who are special to us, friendships, personal hygiene, birth and reproduction, peer pressure and self-respect. Parents are welcome to discuss any aspects of these provisions.



Aspects of School Life (3)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At different times during their education children may need additional support. This may be managed within the quality first teaching that they receive in their classroom. Others may need targeted support. At St Mary's this will be provided and monitored by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo), Mrs Skelley. Our SENDCo, tracks the children's progress which means that we know what intervention has worked and what progress has been made. Parents who have concerns may arrange a meeting with our SENDCo through the school office.

HOMEWORK

It has been shown that homework, at this young age, does not improve a child's progress hugely, so we have taken the decision that homework will be based purely on rehearsing those aspects of the children's learning that are easiest so to do. This means reading as frequently as possible within the family's day to day life. It also includes times tables, using coins and telling the time. On occasion some subject specific work will also be sent home.

TRIPS AND VISITS

To enable an exciting and vibrant curriculum, the class teachers organise a range of trips and visits. These include visits to the IOW Zoo and Carisbrooke Castle. The children also visit the beach and take part in Forest schools. A wide range of visitors join us at the school including a range of authors and museum curators. The children in Year 6 have a residential at Kingswood.

The school also endeavours to enable the children to experience theatre trips. Last year we visited the Mayflower to enjoy a performance of Joseph

BROAD CURRICULUM

The school strongly believes that the children deserve an exciting broad curriculum. The Learning teams enable this to happen using a range of resources to provide a vibrant and varied curriculum. The children are taught French in KS2 using the Language Angels scheme. Science is experienced through wonderful experiments including creating your own digestive system! History and Geography have strong local links so they children truly understand the world around them. We have exciting Art lessons based on significant artists and designers. DT days allow children to fully immerse in the full design process with research, designing, making and evaluating.





We hope that you feel you have an understanding of school from our prospectus but feel free to speak with us and ask anything further you require.

Please also look at our website which has information about our results, our OFSTED journey and our place within the Diocese.

The children have recently reviewed the Behaviour Policy and they have created their Behaviour Code.

Kind regards from
all of the St Mary's team

