



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023



*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another busy week at St. Mary's with all classes paying a visit to the Queen's Hall as part of Hexham book Festival. Years 2,3 and 4 joined the award-winning illustrator Sara Ogilvie for a fun filled Drawing Dogs event. We found out how she created some of her well-known canine characters, including Julia Donaldson's Detective Dog, and Biff from Dog's don't do Ballet. She also helped the children to draw some handsome hounds and perky pooches of our own. Reception and year 1 in a change of plans got to see award winning author and illustrator Steven Lenton. Steven illustrates fiction for David Baddiel, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, and is the Sainsbury's Prize-winning illustrator of The Nothing to See Here Hotel series. The children learnt about how Steven became an illustrator and also got to join in with drawing a character from his new 'Genie & Teeny' book series, whilst listening to an exclusive reading from the book.



This week, as part of our 'Year of Mary' each class has visited our Annunciation Prayer station in the foyer. We discussed how Mary had the courage to say 'yes' to God and how sometimes when we are asked to do something difficult, we make excuses. At the prayer station each child had the opportunity to think and pray about any challenges or difficulties that may be worrying them where they need some courage.



Finally, for any of our budding artists, Hexham community Centre are running a children's art competition inspired by the Coronation of King Charles. Children who enter, have the chance of seeing their artwork on display at Hexham Community Centre and winning an art prize:

<https://www.hexhamcommunitycentre.org/whats-on/events/coronation-kids-art-competition>

The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 5, the winners will be chosen by guests at the Coronation Party on Saturday, May 6. Entries are to be submitted to Hexham Community Centre directly.

Have a lovely long weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

### International Day of Dance

Today is the International Day of Dance and to celebrate each class participated in a different activity ranging from Zumba to dances from around the world. The children enjoyed learning about pace, rhythm and several types of dances.



### King's Coronation

As you know, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the coronation of Charles III will take place. The coronation will be a historic occasion and will be the first coronation witnessed by the majority of the country's population.

Throughout the week leading up to the 6<sup>th</sup> the children will take part in a variety of coronation themed activities. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 1.30-2.30pm we would like to invite parents and carers into school to take part in some coronation themed activities with your child(ren). Our week will culminate in a regal whole school coronation picnic on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, where each child will be presented with their own commemorative pin badge, a gift from the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust to mark the coronation of King Charles.

### Staffing

Ruth Hunneysett has decided to spend some time outside of the classroom and is embarking on a new career venture. All the pupils and staff at St Mary's wish Ruth the very best in this new chapter and want to say a huge thank you for all she has contributed during her time at St. Mary's. Mrs. Hunneysett is hoping to join us all at our end of year Leaver's Mass where she will get to ring the bell as a proper St. Mary's send off!

### Polite Notice

Please can we ask parents/carers to remain vigilant to ensure that children are not playing among the parked cars or standing on the stones lining the entrance way.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs for this term start next week and are as follows:

<b>CLUB</b>	<b>YEAR GROUP</b>	<b>DAY/TIME</b>
Gardening Club	Year 1-4	Monday 3-4pm
Running Club	Year 2-4	Tuesday 8.15-8.45am
Football Club	Year 2	Tuesday 3-4pm
Prayer Club	Years 1-4	Wednesday 8.15-8.45am
Eco	Regenerators	Wednesday 3-4pm

### Imagine a story:




Over the Spring term, Year 3 and 4 took part in a writing competition where there was the chance to have part of a story the children had written published in a book. We are delighted to announce that the children's chapter has been chosen to be published into the story. As part of the process, all children in year 3 and 4 have been invited to Tyne theatre and Opera House to watch a production of the short story. This will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July more information will follow. In addition to this, all the children will receive a free copy of their book from the theatre with a chance for one child to introduce their chapter on stage. The cost of the trip will be £6 - More information to follow on payment methods for this trip.

### Hall Hill Farm

As part of the Understanding the World curriculum in EYFS, the children will be visiting Hall Hill Farm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The cost of the visit will be £16.10 per child, which includes the cost of the coach and admission into the farm. The children will be leaving school at 9:15am and returning to school by 3:00pm, traffic permitting. More information on payment methods for this trip will follow in the coming weeks.

### Mission Statement Value Award Winners:

If you would like to celebrate your child's achievements out of school and would like us to give them a mention in Celebration Assembly on a Friday, then simply fill out one of the Mission Statement Value Cards that have been sent home with your child or ask for one at our school office. We love to hear about all the children's wonderful achievements, both in school and out!

Class			
Reception	Dexter	Raffy	Beauden
Year 1	George	Phoebe	Ollie
Year 2	Harrison	Ellie	Ruby
Year 3	Jenna	Elsie	Nils
Year 4	Callum	Sophia T	Darcey

## Attendance Ladder



### St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week: Y3 are the Winners

<u>Reception</u>	94.9%
<u>Year 1</u>	95.0%
<u>Year 2</u>	94.4%
<u>Year 3</u>	95.3%
<u>Year 4</u>	92.1%

### Safeguarding

Our e-safety focus in school during April & May is 'Privacy & Security'. Children will be made aware that internet use is never fully private and learn ways in which to keep personal information private whilst online. For help, advice and resources for parents/carers please take a look at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/privacy-identity/>

#### **Pupil Support & Safeguarding**

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs. Oakes

Deputy Safeguarding Lead – Miss. Baird

Assistant Safeguarding Lead – Mrs. Stoves

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo – Mrs. Dotchin & Mrs. Stoves

Please remember that we are here to support you and child at any time. You can contact us via the main office (01434 603791) or by email ([info@smfs.bwcet.com](mailto:info@smfs.bwcet.com))

<p><b>May Bank Holiday</b></p> <p><b>School Closed</b></p>	<p><b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b></p>
<p><b>Coronation Arts Open Day</b></p> <p><b>(Parents welcome)</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm-2.30pm</b></p>
<p><b>King's Coronation Bank Holiday</b></p> <p><b>School Closed</b></p>	<p><b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b></p>
<p><b>Year 1 Whole School Liturgical Prayer- Dedication to Mary</b></p> <p><b>(Parents welcome)</b></p>	<p><b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May-9.15am</b></p>
<p><b>Year 4 Moor House Residential</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b></p>
<p><b>Reception Trip to Hall Hill Farm</b></p>	<p><b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b></p>
<p><b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Imagine A Story Theatre Visit</b></p>	<p><b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b></p> <p><b>(PM Leave at 1pm may be later than 3pm returning to school-more info to follow nearer the time)</b></p>
<p><b>Transfer Day</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b></p>