



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 15th September 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

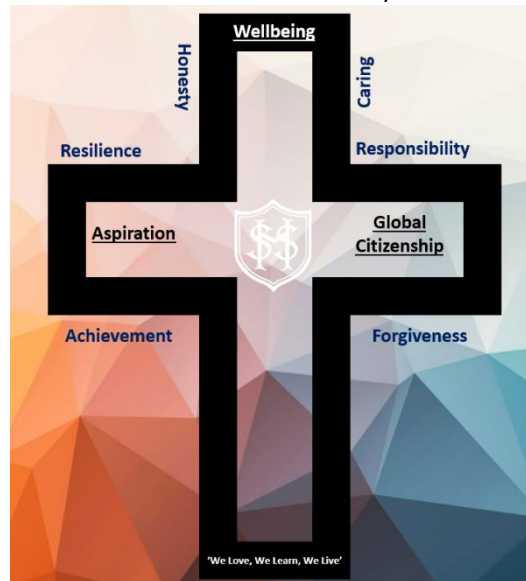
Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to invite parents into school to take part in our Curriculum Workshops this week. The workshops were an opportunity for us to share St. Mary's vision and values with you as parents and carers. The workshops also outlined what your child will be covering in school throughout this academic year and explained how you can access information regarding your child's curriculum. If you were unable to attend this event, please contact the school office if you would like a copy of the PowerPoint or any materials that were shared.

At St. Mary's we are all encouraged to live out our mission:

'We love, We Learn, We Live as followers of Jesus'

In order to live out our mission, we focus on developing our vision and values with your child during their time with us. As such, we focus on the following key areas: Aspiration, Well-being & Global Citizenship. Your child will be familiar with the illustration below that summarises our key focus areas in school:



For more information regarding St. Mary's vision and values and how you can support your child with these areas at home, please follow this link and take a look at our 'Vision and Values' presentation: [Vision, Values, Ethos & Mission – St Mary's First School, Hexham \(hexhamstmarys.uk\)](https://www.hexhamstmarys.uk)

Next week, to celebrate the International Day of Peace, year 4 will be holding a whole school liturgical prayer in the school hall on Wednesday 20th September at 9.20am. On Thursday 21st September, years 3 and 4 take part and singing in the Hexham Abbey Joint Schools Project at Hexham Abbey. The children's performance will take place between 11:00 and midday with parents and the general public invited to attend the performance. Entry will be free. Please feel free to join us at both these events if you are available.

Best wishes,

Mrs Oakes



PTA

The St. Mary's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) raises money for things that enhance the learning experience for our children in school. Our Chair of the PTA Amber and Sherriann have organised lots of events and activities over the years, raising valuable funds for our school. Amber and Sherriann have decided that it is time to pass on the baton and are stepping down from running the St. Mary's PTA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Amber, Sherriann and all supporters of the PTA, who have volunteered their time and effort to the children of St. Mary's in this way, you have been amazing! The total raised by the PTA is £1,995.48.

If you would be interested in helping run the PTA, we would love to hear from you! I would like to invite any parents to register their interest in running St. Mary's PTA, to contact the school office on 01434 603791. The PTA not only raises valuable money for school but is vital in bringing the school community together to have some fun. We believe in the best for every child, every day. We can support this by celebrating our school and doing more together.

It plays a vital role in assisting the participation of parents in school life by:

- Providing an active but informal communication link between our school and parents on non-academic matters.
- Organising events to foster school community spirit and for the enjoyment of the children.

Reception Curriculum Workshops

Reception's curriculum workshops will take place on:

Tuesday 26th September – Prime Area's of Learning

Wednesday 27th September – Literacy and Mathematics

Thursday 28th September – Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World

The workshops will begin at the **earlier** time of 3:00pm, before your child is collected from school.

Whilst parents and carers attend the curriculum workshops, the children will be supervised by another adult in the school hall.

We appreciate your involvement in your children's education and by attending these workshops you will gain an understanding of how you can better support your child at home.

Homework & Reading Books

From today **Friday 15th September** children will come home with a reading book, their Reading Record and their first piece of homework. This week, all parents were sent an updated St. Mary's Homework Policy explaining the expectations for homework in each year group. Homework will be set by class teacher's each Friday, to be returned the following Wednesday. The expectation is that children read at least 1 book a week and when completed parents/carers write a note in their child's Reading Record and sign to say their child has finished their reading book. When the child returns their signed Reading Record and book to school, they will be given the opportunity to visit the library

to exchange their library books. The expectation is that children will be given new books each Wednesday, however, if they finish their book and have their Reading Record signed it can be changed as and when is required.



The People's Kitchen

The People's Kitchen support homeless and vulnerable people and help fight hunger and loneliness for local people in Newcastle and the surrounding areas. They might be at risk of homelessness, unemployed, lonely or living in poverty. Thanks to the generosity of schools, communities and religious groups during Harvest Festival time, the warehouse at The People's Kitchen gets replenished with essential food items and the team can keep cooking hearty meals for people in need throughout the year. This Harvest Festival time, St. Mary's would like to support The People's Kitchen and are asking for any donations of dried goods such as tinned food items, sauces, pasta, rice, toiletries, cleaning products and pet food etc (Please see list of suggested items at the end of the newsletter). The children can bring them into school and give items to their class teacher or items can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you for helping us support others in need.

Hexham Abbey - A Peaceful World-Singing project

Just a reminder that St. Mary's is taking part in the 'Joint Schools Project' being held in Hexham Abbey on **September 21st**. Fiona Lander is leading this year's festival singing project with young people from local schools, including St. Mary's KS2 children, to mark United Nations World Peace Day.

The children's performance will take place between 11.00am and midday with parents and the general public invited to attend the performance. Entry will be free. Please feel free to join us if you are available.

Year 4 International Day of Peace Liturgical Prayer

To celebrate the International Day of Peace year 4 will be holding a whole school liturgical prayer in the school hall on Wednesday 20th September at 9.20am. All parents and carers are invited to attend this event.

Reception Welcome Mass

To welcome our new Reception pupils into St. Mary's we are having a Welcome Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church on September 28th at 9.30am. All parents and carers are invited to attend this event.

MacMillan Cancer Care

On the afternoon of the 29th September from 2.45pm, we would like to invite all friends and families of St. Mary's to our MacMillan Cancer Care Coffee Afternoon. We will be asking for donations of cakes and treats for this event. All funds raised will be going to MacMillan Cancer Care, one of the largest British charities, providing specialist health care, information and financial support to people affected by cancer.

Blast Off With Books

We would like to invite parents and carers to 'Blast Off with Books' week during the week of the 25th September from 8.15-8.35am. Each year group will have a designated day where parents can come into school early with their child(ren) to spend time reading their favourite stories before the start of the school day. Children can bring in a book of their choice or read one of the school books on offer. Older children may even want to read some of their English stories to their grown up. Days are as follows:

Class	Day
Reception	Monday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 4	Friday

Parents Evenings

We would like to invite parents into school to look at your child's books in the week before our autumn parents evening. School will be open for parents and children from 3.20-4:00pm on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October. Children will have their school books on their desks to show their grown-ups all their hard work from this term.

Parents Evenings will be held on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October. Details on how to register for these events will be given nearer the time.

Brighten up for CAFOD

Around the world, one in three people have gone hungry in the last year. This Harvest, we are helping to brighten up the world by fundraising for our global family. On Friday 6th October, we are asking for children to come to school in the brightest clothes they have for a £1 donation which we will donate to CAFOD. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, working together with people living in poverty in some of the most hard-to-reach places in the world. We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money together, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world and living out our school mission.



Shoe Box Appeal

It is lovely to see all the shiny new school shoes in school this week. We would be grateful if any leftover shoe boxes could be brought into school over the coming weeks. We are hoping to take part in Operation Christmas Child later in the autumn term, it would be great to have lots of boxes to get started with!

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

The idea within school is that we all contribute items to fill as many shoe boxes as possible. However, please feel free to retain shoeboxes if you wish to donate a fully completed nearer the time. More details will be given nearer the time.

Jewellery

Children are permitted to wear stud earrings, and a crucifix or cross necklace. **All earrings must be removed for P.E.** Watches are permitted but we request that there are no Smart Watches with camera facilities and independent access to the internet. We also request that no nail varnish is worn in school.

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!

Open Evening at St Joseph's Catholic Middle School

St Joseph's Open Evening for prospective parents and pupils transferring to Middle school in September 2024, is at 6.00pm on Wednesday 27th September 2023.

Application for Middle and High School:

It is now time for children in year 4 (First to Middle), year 6 (Primary to Secondary) and year 9 (Middle to High) schools to apply for the next phase of school starting in September 2024.

If you have a child who is due to transfer to either middle or high school, please see the link below.

The Portal will open 12th September 23 and close at midnight on 31st October 23.

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Class			
Reception	Jay	Aanika	William
Year 1	Beauden	Florence	Freddie
Year 2	Ashton	Ollie	Charlotte
Year 3	Marcus	Archie	Ruby
Year 4	Elsie	Harley	Jenna

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:
Year – Year 3!

<u>Reception</u>	100%
<u>Year 1</u>	92.73%
<u>Year 2</u>	97.14%
<u>Year 3</u>	91.82%
<u>Year 4</u>	98.57%

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Starting next week will be the following extra-curricular clubs. If the club is within the school day, we will sign all relevant children up to the club. If your child wishes to attend a club that is before or after school, then please ring and inform the school office.

Club	Day/Time
Girls Football Club (Years 3 & 4)	Tuesday 12.25-12.55pm
Boys Football Club (Years 3 & 4)	Tuesday 12:25-12.55pm
Running Club (Years 2-4)	Wednesday 8.15-8.40am
Mini Vinnies (Years 1-4)	See following information below
Homework Club (Years 1-4)	Thursday 12.25-12.55pm
Singing Club (Years 1-4)	Wednesday 12.25-12.55pm
Regenerators	Wednesday 3.15-4.00pm

Please note Regenerators is our school Council/Eco Council clubs. Children are invited to be elected for this club. The children will find out more about this in school next week. Therefore, Regenerators will not commence immediately, until the members have been voted for and elected by the children. School will inform parents when Regenerators commence and who is in the club.

Mini Vinnies- The Mini Vinnies are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need.

There will be two Mini Vinnies sessions every half term. The first two sessions for this half term are as follows:

Monday 25th September 3:15pm-4:30pm

Monday 16th October 3:15pm-4:30pm

If your child is in years 1-4 and would like to attend Mini Vinnies please let a member of our office know on (01434) 603 791.

Please note that we review extra-curricular clubs each half term to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a club at some point in the academic year.

Diary Dates

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reception Curriculum Workshop-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week beginning 11th September 1.45-2:00pm.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clubs Starting Week	W/B 11 th September
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 4 International Day of Peace Liturgical Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To celebrate the International Day of Peace year 4 will be holding a whole school liturgical prayer in the school hall on Wednesday 20th September at 9.20am. All parents and carers are invited to attend this event.
Hexham Abbey-A Peaceful World-Singing project	<p style="text-align: center;">September 21st</p> <p>The children's performance will take place between 11:00 and midday with parents and the general public invited to attend the performance. Entry will be free. Please feel free to join us if you are available.</p>
'Blast Off with Books' week	During the week of the 25 th September from 8.15-8.35am.
Reception Curriculum Workshops	Tuesday 26 th September – 3:00pm Wednesday 27 th September – 3:00pm Thursday 28 th September – 3:00pm
Macmillan Cancer Support	Friday 29 th September
Flu Immunisation (Can all the online consent forms be sent back please) These were sent to your email address.	3 rd October 2023

<p>Open The Books for parents</p> <p>Opportunity to look at your child's books in the week before our autumn parents evening.</p>	<p>School will be open for parents and children from 3.20-4:00pm on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th October.</p>
<p>Brighten Up for CAFOD</p> <p>Children to come to school in bright clothes and bring £1 donation for CAFOD</p>	<p>Friday 6th October</p>
<p>Parents Evenings Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October 3.30-6:00pm.</p>	<p>For any parents unable to attend the curriculum workshops due to work commitments, please contact the school office and we will happily accommodate another time.</p>
<p><u>Autumn Term Class & Whole School Mass</u></p>	
<p><u>Autumn Term Class Masses</u></p> <p>Following our Reception Welcome Mass on the 28th September each class will have the opportunity to attend Mass at St. Mary's Church at 9.30am. Parents and carers are invited to attend class Masses at the Church. Dates are as follows:</p> <p>Reception Welcome Mass: 28/9 Y4-6/10 Y3-13/10 Y2-20/10 Half Term Y1-10/11 Y4-17/11 Y3-24/11 Y2-1/12 Y1 & Rec-8/12</p> <p>Thurs 14/12-11am Christingle Service-Whole School Wed 20/12-End of term Christmas Mass-9.30am-Whole School</p>	

Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Self-image & Identity.' Pupils will discuss how their online identity online can be different to their offline identity and reasons why they may do this. Pupils will be talking about this with their class teacher in class.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online [Parents: Supporting Young People Online \(Leaflets\) | Childnet](#)

Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated safeguarding Lead- Mrs. Oakes

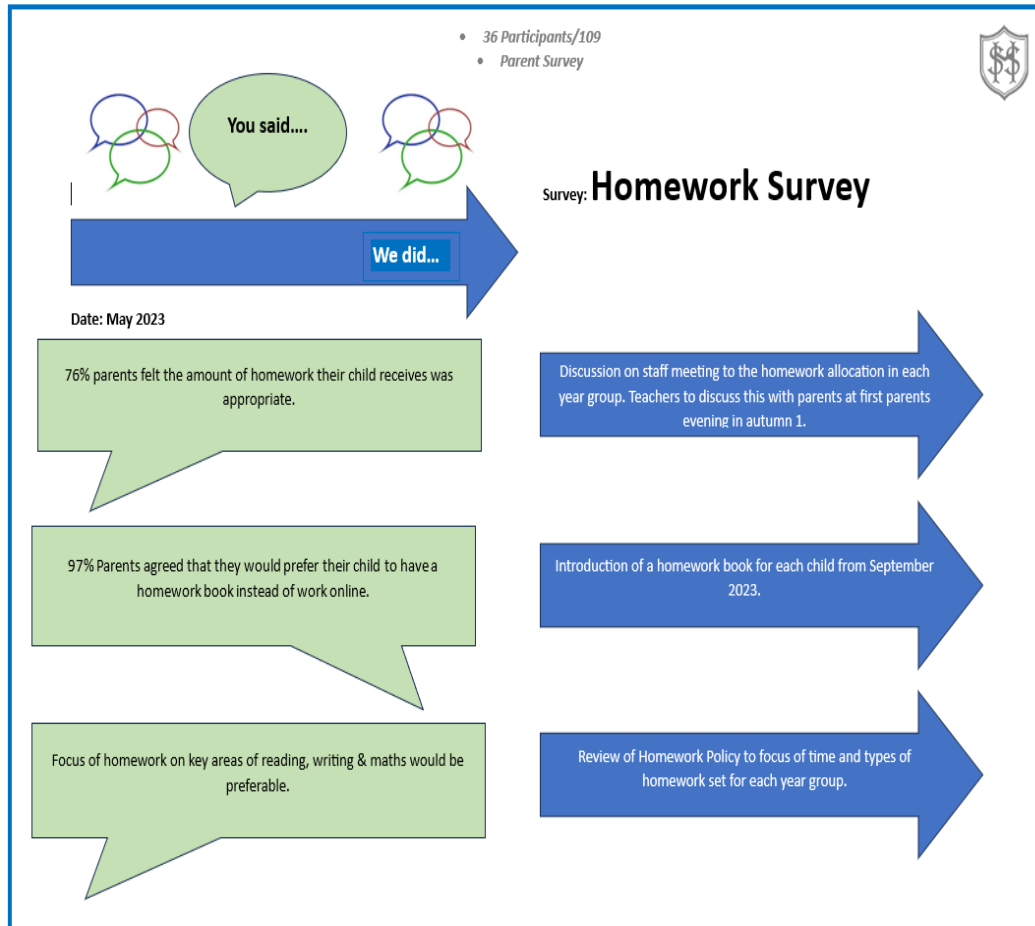
Deputy safeguarding Lead-Miss. Baird

Assistant safeguarding Lead-Mrs. Stoves

SENDCo/Assistant SENCo-Mrs. Stansfield & Mrs Stoves

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

Summary of Parent/Carer Survey Responses to Homework Survey-May 2023





THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

EST. 1985
NEWCASTLE

FOOD FRIENDSHIP FUTURES

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers, so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.



Items we Need

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fruit

Soup

Cooking/Baking Ingredients

Snacks

Drinks

Desserts

Tinned Meat

Cooking Sauces

Condiments

Pasta and Rice

Stock and Gravy

Toiletries

Cleaning/Other

Pet Food

Examples

Tomatoes Plum and Chopped, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes

Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Mandarin, Oranges

Tinned or Instant Vegetables, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek

Sugar, Flour, Jam, Coconut, Cocoa, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth Mix, Spices

Pot Noodles, Pot Pasta, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolates, Sweets

UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash

Rice Pudding, Jelly, Angel Delight, Custard, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup

Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Mixed Beef, Bolognese, Stewing Steak

Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk

Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper

Lasagne, Egg, Noodles, Rice

Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken & Onion

Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrush

Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags

Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

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