

St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 22nd September 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the families who joined us in school on Tuesday to take part in the Year 4 Class Liturgical Prayer, celebrating International Day of Peace. The children all spoke wonderfully and took part praying for peace in our world. On Thursday, years 3 and 4 also took part in the Hexham Abbey Joint Schools Project at Hexham Abbey as part of our celebration of International Day of Peace. The children sang and performed in front of parents and members of the public who were invited to attend the performance. The children were a credit to St. Mary's and sang beautifully!



Next week, we have our first 'Blast off with Books' early bird sessions from 8.15-8.35am each morning. 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: Monday-Reception, Tuesday-Y3, Wednesday Y1, Thursday-Y2, Friday Y4. On Thursday 28th at 9.30am in St. Mary's Church we also have whole school Welcome Mass for our new Reception pupils. All parents and carers are invited to attend this event, it would be lovely to see you there!

Finally, just a reminder that we are collecting non-perishable items for 'The People's Kitchen' in Newcastle any donations of dried goods such as tinned food items, sauces, pasta, rice, toiletries, cleaning products and pet food etc would be gratefully received. Also, on the afternoon of Friday 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 in the school hall. To raise funds to support MacMillan Cancer Care, we are asking for donations of cakes and baked goods to be dropped off at the main school office on the morning of the 29th. At 3.15pm parents can collect their children from their usual exit points and then bring them into the hall for cakes once they been collected. As always, we really appreciate your support with our fundraising efforts.

Have a lovely weekend,

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.

All Creatures Great & Small

As a school we are taking part in an exhibition held at St. Mary's Catholic Church called 'All Creatures Great & Small'. During the weekend of the 13th-15th October an exhibition of work produced by parishioners, children, staff (and anyone who wants to!) will be displayed at the Church, all about animals. In school, the children have been given the opportunity to create some work for the exhibition based on any animal that is/has been special to them or someone they know and/or a funny story about an animal etc. If children would like to bring any photos of their pets to go alongside this work, they are welcome to. On Sunday the 15th October (time TBC) Fr. Jeff will be holding a short service outside of St. Mary's Church where families are invited to bring along their precious pets for a special blessing. All families, friends and pets of St. Mary's are invited to attend this event.

Homework & Reading Books

From last **Friday 15th September** children were sent home a reading book, their Reading Record and their first piece of homework. Children in Reception and Y1 take home a RWInc home reading book. Children in Y2, Y3 and Y4 take home a library book which matches their Accelerated Reader level. Children in Y2, Y3 and Y4 who take part in a phonics intervention also take home a RWInc home reading book and a library book. 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 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.

First Reconciliation & Holy Communion Preparation 2023-24 for St Mary's Y4 pupils

Following the summer break, our parish community at Saint Mary's will begin to prepare children for First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion. This programme of preparation is open to all baptised Catholic children in Year Four and above.

Should you judge your child to be ready to make this important step, please could you indicate your interest by completing the slip below and returning it to the Presbytery/Parish Office as soon as possible.

Please find information below regarding the **Pre.Loved** First Holy Communion shop where you can borrow outfits free of charge and donate pre-worn First Holy Communion dresses.

Free School Meals

Universal free school meals - All pupils in reception, year one, and year two are entitled to a free meal, without having to apply for this option.

Eligibility for free school meals - The government has made amendments to the eligibility criteria since April 2018. This is to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>

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.

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

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 | Elsie | Suzannah | Josie |
| Year 1 | Phuc | Rafferty | Evie |
| Year 2 | George | Esmee | Kacey-Lea |
| Year 3 | Jessica | Bao | Jax |
| Year 4 | Freddie H | Alfie | Daniel |

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:
Year – Reception!

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| <u>Reception</u> | 96.47% |
| <u>Year 1</u> | 95.45% |
| <u>Year 2</u> | 85.07% |
| <u>Year 3</u> | 95.45% |
| <u>Year 4</u> | 95.24% |

Extra-Curricular Clubs

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- 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 Vinnie's 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

| | |
|--|--|
| '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 |
| Reception welcome Mass | Thursday 28 th September 2023 9.30am St. Mary's Church All parents/carers invited to attend. |
| Macmillan Cancer Support (Donations welcome) | Friday 29 th September 2.45pm School Hall |
| Flu Immunisation (Can all the online consent forms be sent back please) These were sent to your email address. | 3 rd October 2023 |
| Open The Books for parents Opportunity 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 3 rd and Wednesday 4 th October. |
| Brighten Up for CAFOD Children to come to school in bright clothes and bring £1 donation for CAFOD | Friday 6 th October |

| | |
|--|--|
| <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>All Creatures Great & Small Exhibition and pet blessing at St. Mary's Church.</p> | <p>13th-15 October Blessing to be held on Oct 15th-Time TBC</p> |
| <p><u>Autumn Term Class & Whole School Mass</u></p> | |
| <p><u>Autumn Term Class Masses</u> 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: 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 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)



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

Examples

Tinned Vegetables

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

Tinned Fruit

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

Soup

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

Cooking/Baking Ingredients

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

Snacks

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

Drinks

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

Desserts

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

Tinned Meat

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

Cooking Sauces

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

Condiments

Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper

Pasta and Rice

Lasagne, Egg, Noodles, Rice

Stock and Gravy

Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken & Onion

Toiletries

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

Cleaning/Other

Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags

Pet Food

Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food



THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN LIMITED The Alison Centre, 56 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5SQ
T: 0191 222 0699 E: info@peopleskitchen.co.uk www.peopleskitchen.co.uk



PRE • LOVED

First Holy Communion Wear for BWCET

Do you have a First Holy Communion dress or outfit that you would like to donate for another child to wear?



Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust are opening a Pre-Loved communion wear shop and all outfits will be available to borrow free of charge.

Pupils and their parents are encouraged to come to the shop to select an outfit without the worry of cost, in a hassle-free environment.

If you have a dress, tie, shoes, suit, veil or other item that you would like to donate, please email: ethos@bwcet.com to arrange collection.



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership