

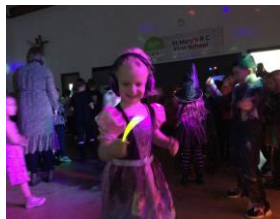
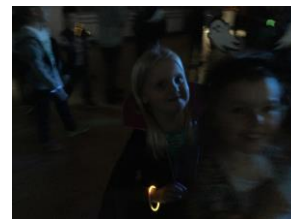


St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Thursday 26th October 2023

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to all the children, staff and parents of St. Mary's for making it to the first half term of this academic year. This week, some of year 4 took part in the bike safety course 'Bikeability' learning valuable skills and attaining their level 1 accreditation. This week, all children spent time discussing Bonfire Night safety in our PSHE lessons and have learnt the importance of staying safe when watching firework displays. We have also had time for a lot of fun too, with our PTA disco and our Bonfire themed lunch. A fantastic way to end a busy half term!



Today, in Celebration Assembly we recognised all children's attendance, with everyone getting a little reward for attending school this past 8 weeks. Our whole school target for attendance is 96% and this term we have managed 96.1%! All our award winners were also involved in our end of half-term tea party this afternoon-Well done everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents/carers of St. Mary's children, for your continued support and encouragement this half term. Wishing you all a lovely half term and a well-deserved break.

Mrs. Oakes

Homework

Just a reminder that there will be no homework set over the half term holiday.

Year 3 & 4 Museum of the Moon-Hexham Abbey

On Tuesday 7th November years 3 and 4 will be visiting Hexham Abbey to take part in the Museum of the Moon exhibition.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you all so much for the generous donations of items for our Operation Christmas Child appeal:


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



We will be collecting items until Friday 10th November, so please keep any donations coming in after half term!



Operation Christmas Child Class Suggested Donations

| | |
|---|--|
| Reception | Toys: Small cuddly toys, dolls, toy cars, small musical instruments, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc |
| Years 1 & 2 | School Supplies: Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons/felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads/notebooks, solar calculators, colouring/picture books etc Hygiene Items: Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel etc |
| Years 3 & 4 | Other Items: Hat, gloves, scarf, cap, socks, T-shirt, flip-flops, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch. |
|  | Please do not include the following items: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items, war-related items, seeds, gum, chocolate or food items, medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items. |
| Deadline date: Friday 10th November | |

PTA News

On Friday 10th November at 2pm in school we would like to invite any parents that are interested in being part of the St. Mary's PTA. All parents welcome!

Children In Need/Odd Sock Day

On Friday 17th November we are taking part in Children in Need, and we will also be asking children to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week, highlighting how everyone is different and this is something to celebrate. Children can come into school on this day wearing odd socks with their choice of Pudsey Bear related outfit.

Museum of the Moon Visit

On Tuesday 7th November at 1:30pm Year 3 and 4 will be visiting the museum of the moon at Hexham Abbey to take part in the following workshop:

The Moon: Our Cosmic Companion

Join us for a storytelling journey about our cosmic companion, The Moon. How and when was it formed and why does it orbit the Earth? How does it affect us? What is our relationship with the Moon and how was this changed by the NASA Apollo missions of the 1960's? What will our future relationship with the Moon be like with the commencement of the NASA Artemis missions and who might be the next person to walk there?

Children will have lunch as usual in school and arrive back to school in time for their usual home time.

Friday 10th November

On Friday 10th November children in Year 3 and 4 will be taking part in a lantern making workshop with the artist Deni Riach in school. It would be fantastic to see the children participate in the Hexham Lantern Parade on Friday 17th November to show off their fantastic lantern creations!

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>

Parent Communication

Please can we kindly remind parents and carers that all emails sent by parents should be sent to the parent contact address only. This is to ensure that the admin staff can forward emails to the correct member of staff to deal with your queries. parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com

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




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.

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 | Elizabeth | Alfie L | Myles |
| Year 1 | Olivia C | Nyla | Nathan |
| Year 2 | Luca | Ashton | Charlotte |
| Year 3 | Olivia | Gabriel | Marcus |
| Year 4 | Kaylin | Freddie S | Alfie |

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:
Year -4 !

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| <u>Reception</u> | 95.59% |
| <u>Year 1</u> | 97.16% |
| <u>Year 2</u> | 98.15% |
| <u>Year 3</u> | 94.32% |
| <u>Year 4</u> | 100% |

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Some school clubs will be changing after half term. There will be a new notification to follow shortly, outlining what clubs will be on offer. Please do not send your child in for an extra-curricular club after half term, unless you have signed up for the new club.

Diary Dates

After a recent Hexham Partnership meeting, we reviewed alignment of training days and term dates. As part of this, on the final day of this term Friday 22nd December, we will be closing at 1.30pm. Children will have lunch in school as usual.

| | |
|---|--|
| Teacher Training Day School closed to pupils | Friday 27 th October |
| Half term | Monday 30 th Oct-Fri 3 rd November |
| School re-opens for Autumn 2 | Monday 6 th November |
| Year 3 and 4 Visit to Hexham Abbey to visit the museum of the moon | Tuesday 7 th November 1:30pm |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Year 3 whole School Armistice Day- Celebration of the Word in school hall at 9.30am.</p> <p>All parents/carers welcome to attend.</p> | <p>Wednesday 8th November at 9.30am</p> |
| <p>Year 1 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church.</p> <p>All parents/carers welcome to attend.</p> | <p>Friday 10th November at 9.30am</p> |
| <p>Year 3 and 4 Lantern making with artist Deni Riach</p> | <p>Friday 10th November 1:00pm</p> |
| <p>PTA AGM</p> <p>Any parents interested in helping support PTA are most welcome to attend.</p> | <p>Friday 10th November 2:00pm</p> |
| <p>Reception Heights & Weights</p> | <p>Monday 13th November</p> |
| <p>SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS</p> <p>https://www.unscriptedphotography.co.uk/gallery/fine-art-school-portraits/</p> | <p>Thursday 16th November</p> <p>https://www.unscriptedphotography.co.uk/school-photography-northeast/</p> <p>Follow the link and look at our new school photographer images online</p> |
| <p>Year 4 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church.</p> <p>All parents/carers welcome to attend</p> | <p>Friday 17th November at 9.30am</p> |
| <p>Children in Need & Odd Socks Day</p> | <p>Friday 17th November</p> |
| <p><u>Autumn Term Class & Whole School Mass</u></p> | |
| <p><u>Autumn Term Class Masses</u></p> <p>Parents and carers are invited to attend class Masses at the Church. Dates are as follows:</p> <p>Half Term Y1-10/11 Y4-17/11</p> | |

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

Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Online Relationships.' Pupils will discuss how to be respectful to others online and describe how to recognise healthy and unhealthy behaviours online. 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: [Healthy Online Relationships | 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)

MENU

Monday
Pasta Bake

Tuesday
Nuggets and Rice

Wednesday
Jacket Potatoes

Thursday
Pizza and Chips

Friday
Hot Dogs and Fries

GF/VEG/VEGAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE
MENTION WHEN BOOKING.



DISH

Dinners in School Holidays

**Free Lunch for families in
Hexham**

30th Oct - 3rd Nov
@Trinity Methodist Church

**DOORS OPEN 11:30AM
FOOD SERVED 12-2PM
WITH ACTIVITIES AND SPACE
TO PLAY**

**MENU ON THE BACK
07951 113413 TO BOOK**