

Merry Christmas



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

*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are now days away from Christmas and nearing the end of our Advent journey, we can rejoice in Jesus' presence among us. This third week of Advent has the special name of 'Gaudete Sunday' meaning 'Rejoice!'



There has been a huge amount of rejoicing in St. Mary's this week, the children were amazing in the school Nativity on Monday. On Wednesday, they sang and read beautifully at our church service and behaved impeccably at the pantomime. We also had a special visitor in school this week, Father Christmas took time out of his hectic schedule to pay the children of St. Mary's a visit this week, bringing them all a little early Christmas present and some festive cheer. The look on the children's faces was priceless!



Today, our Mini Vinnies paid a visit to the residents of Carntyne Nursing Home and sang them some Christmas songs from our Nativity, which was a real treat for all involved. We also held our end of term Celebration Assembly, every child won a small prize for attending school and working hard this term. This morning, our top 'Mission Statement' and 'Attendance' award winners were also awarded with a special tea party too-well done everyone!

The children at St Mary's are an absolute joy to teach and as a staff we would like to thank you as parents & carers for all for your continued support. Finally, to each family, on behalf of all the staff and governors we would like to wish you all a peaceful and 'Merry Christmas!' We look forward to meeting again on Monday 8th January 2024.

Wishing you all a magical Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Oakes



*Merry Christmas*



### **E-Safety at Christmas**

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year, excitable children and time to relax with family and friends. And of course, there are new toys to play with.

With a huge increase in sales of devices it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new kit. To help, the UK Safer Internet Centre has set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/top-tips-for-staying-safe-online-at-christmas>

### **Swimming**

Swimming for years 3 & 4 will commence on Monday 8th January 2024. All KS2 children to attend school wearing their P.E. kit on Monday 8th January.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

There will be no extra-curricular clubs the week commencing 8th January 2024.

### **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>

### **Application for First School:**

It is now time to apply for your child to start school, reception class in September 2024.

Children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 should apply.

The portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and will close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Here is the link to the portal where you can apply. First time users will need to register an account.

[http://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](http://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

If you require any help or need advice please call the team on 01670 624889.




# Merry Christmas



## **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	Suzannah	William	Myles
Year 1	Nathan	Hazel	Nyla
Year 2	Phoebe	Charlotte	Frankie
Year 3	Parker	Olivia	Ellie
Year 4	Harley	Ollie A	Elsie



## Breakfast with

Vicki and Jackie from Family Hubs

Family hubs work with families and children from 0-19: Relationship support, peer support groups, help parents feel less isolated, support for children with additional needs or with worries and anxiety, get free access to workshops and courses online..

What is a Family Hub?



Come along after school drop off on the 8th February

Relax after drop off  
Find out something new  
Share with your friends



## Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year - 4	
<u>Reception</u>	94.65%
<u>Year 1</u>	95.45%
<u>Year 2</u>	94.67%
<u>Year 3</u>	95.48%
<u>Year 4</u>	95.99%

### Diary Dates

Spring term starts for pupils and staff	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 8:40am
---	---

### 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.bwct.com](mailto:info@smfs.bwct.com))