



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 19th January 2024

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our St. Mary's superheroes braved the cold this week, turning out in force to take part in our Trust Census Day celebration on Thursday.



On Tuesday, our Wild Passport team were amazed that not one child complained of the cold while during their weekly outdoor session. This week the children were preparing for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Big Garden Birdwatch is the UK's largest garden wildlife survey. It has been running since 1979, and every year, around 700,000 people take part. This year, Big Garden Birdwatch will be back on the 26 to 28 January. The children have spent time observing and identifying birds around school, and have been discussing ways in which we can give nature a helping hand by feeding the birds, putting up bird boxes etc.



As we continue in our journey through the 'Year of Prayer', we have been exploring all the different names Jesus is given in the Bible such as Christ, Messiah, Son of God, Lamb of God. We explored how Jesus is recognised as the 'Lamb of God', as he became the perfect sacrifice for our sins.



Finally, I would like to welcome our new Business Manager Helen McCall to the St. Mary's team. Helen is hugely experienced and is working across three of our Trust schools. We are delighted to have her as part of the team.



Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

Reception Class Celebration of the Word

On Wednesday 24th January Reception will be celebrating a whole school Celebration of the Word in the school hall at 9.30am on the theme 'Water of Life'. All parents/carers are welcome to join us in school for this event.

Blast Off With Books, Number Day & 'Winning With Numbers' Parent Launch

On Friday 2nd February it is NSPCC Number Day, Number Day is an inclusive maths-inspired fundraising day for children. For a donation of £1, children can come to school dressed in something with a number theme, this could be a football shirt with a number on it or something more elaborate such as a calculator or a dice! All proceeds raised will go towards the NSPCC.



On Number Day, we would like to invite parents from all year groups into school to take part in our Blast of With Books Breakfast from 8.15-8.40am. Refreshments and pastries will be on offer in the school hall, as you spend time with your child(ren) reading through some stories together. Once children have gone to class for the day, we would like to invite parents to stay on to hear all about our exciting Winning with Numbers (WWN) maths programme [Parent and Child Intro \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). We currently use WWN across school, so children are all familiar with using it. WWN focuses on the development of number fluency, place value, factual recall, and calculation procedures. Moving forward, we would like to encourage the children to also participate in WWN at home too. During the workshop we will demonstrate to parents/carers how WWN works and even have some children on hand to demonstrate how simple it is to use. For parents/carers not attending the earlier 'Blast Off with Books' session, the WWN workshop will start around 8.50am in the school hall. Please feel free to join us when you can!

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Registers for extra-curricular clubs taking place during the school day will be managed by teachers during the school day. Please let the office know as soon as possible, if you wish your child to attend a club that is before or after school.

Extra-curricular clubs will commence the week commencing 15th January 2024, as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		MORNING		
		Art Club, Miss Lawson Y1/Y2 8.15-8.40am		
		BREAK TIME		
		Prayer Club, Mrs Oakes 10.30-10.45am		
		LUNCH TIME		
	Board Game Club, Miss Stoves 12.30-1.00pm Y2-Y4	Lego Club (Rec,Y1) Miss Baird 12.30-1.00pm	Homework Club Mrs Stansfield 12.30-1.00pm	
	Times Table Club Miss Carr Y4 Only 12.30-1pm	Eco Club, Miss Kane 12.30-1.00pm		
		AFTER SCHOOL		
Mini Vinnies, Miss Baird 3.15-4.30pm	Mini Vinnies, Miss Baird 3.15-4.30pm	Eco Club*, Miss Kane 3.15-4.00pm		
Monday 22nd January	Tuesday 6th February	Wednesday 24th January		

*Eco Club has changed and will now run during lunchtimes with one longer after school session each half term.

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>

Themed School Lunches- Details to follow

Friday 9th February – Chinese New Year, Wednesday 14th February – Valentines Day &

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

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	 We Love	 We Learn	 We Lead
Reception	Layton	Ella-May	Myles
Year 1	Hazel	Phuc	Frankie H
Year 2	Esmee	Luca	Charlotte
Year 3	Erin	Marcus	Oli
Year 4	Kaylin	Archie	Ariella

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

**This Week's Winners:
Year - 4!**

<u>Reception</u>	94.71%
<u>Year 1</u>	93.64%
<u>Year 2</u>	95.14%
<u>Year 3</u>	90.45%
<u>Year 4</u>	98.18%

Diary Dates

Year 4 class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 19 th January
Reception class-Celebration of the Word 9.30am in school hall (All parents/carers invited to attend)	Wednesday 24 th January
Year 3 class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 26 th January
Blast of with Books Breakfast (School hall 8.15-8.40am-all parents/carers welcome)	Friday 2 nd February

<p>Winning With Numbers Parent Launch Worshop</p> <p>(Follows 'Blast off with Books Breakfast session) 8.50-9.20am</p>	<p>Friday 2nd February</p>
<p>NSPCC Number Day</p> <p>Dress in number themed outfit £1 donation to NSPCC</p>	<p>Friday 2nd February</p>
<p>Year 2 class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)</p>	<p>Friday 2nd February</p>
<p>Year 2-Celebration of the Word</p> <p>9.30am in school hall</p> <p>(All parents/carers invited to attend)</p>	<p>Wednesday 7th February</p>
<p>KS2 (Y3/4) Visit to Newcastle central Mosque</p>	<p>Thursday 8th February</p>
<p>Year 1 class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)</p>	<p>Friday 9th February</p>
<p>Whole school Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)</p>	<p>Friday 14th February</p>
<p>Reception class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)</p>	<p>Friday 1st March</p>
<p>Year 1-Celebration of the Word</p> <p>9.30am in school hall</p> <p>(All parents/carers invited to attend)</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th March</p>
<p>Blast Off with Books Breakfast Session (8.15-8.35am)</p> <p>(More information to follow</p>	<p>Week beginning the 29th January</p>

Parents invited after school to look at progress in their child's books (3.20-4.00pm).	Tuesday 30 th & Wednesday 31 st
Parents Evening-Interim Reports to be discussed with parents at meeting. Further information to follow nearer the time.	Tuesday 13 th & Wednesday 14 th February
Last day of half term for children	Thursday 15 th February
Teacher Training Day-School closed to pupils.	Friday 16 th February

Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Online Reputation'. Pupils will learn about what anyone may or may not be willing to share about themselves online and explore the need to be careful before sharing any personal online.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting your child in discussing 'online reputation': [Resources to deal with online reputation - Internet Matters](#)

Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated safeguarding Lead- Mrs. Oakes

Deputy safeguarding Lead-Miss. Baird & Mrs. Stansfield

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)



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

