



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 12th January 2024

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all the families and friends of St. Mary's, I hope you had a fantastic Christmas. The children have been sharing lots of lovely stories from their Christmas holidays and updating us all on their new toys! This week in school, the children have been learning that 2024 has been designated a 'Year of Prayer' by Pope Francis, in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."

Pope Francis

This year, we are invited as Catholics to have a deeper, prayerful encounter with Jesus; to go deeper in our commitment to pray, and to consider how we might share this with others. This week, the children have had the opportunity to go back to the very basics of prayer in focusing on the 'Our Father', taking part in some creative prayer activities at the 'Our father Prayer Stations' we have set up in the entrance to school.



Next Thursday, we have another superheroes themed Census Day, where all pupils are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite superhero and have a free school meal if they wish (see below for details). Just a reminder for those due to start Reception in September 2024, Monday 15th January is the closing date for First school admissions (see below for further details).

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

FREE LUNCH FOR EVERY CHILD

Thursday 18th January is our second Census Day of the academic year

We want to take this opportunity, to celebrate our wonderful family together and hold a “**Trust Celebration**” where every school meal is **FREE for all children**.

Once again, the theme for the day is the same as in October ‘Superheroes’, we are encouraging the children to dig out their costume and dress up as your favourite superhero that day.



The MENU for the day will include a selection of the following, as examples of what our school meal provision includes:

- Selection of Pizza
- Sausage Roll Bites
- Chicken or Quorn Nuggets
- Potato Wedges & Dips
- Selection of Sandwiches & Wraps
- Vegetable Sticks & Humous
- Scrumptious Salad Bar
- Fresh Fruit
- Ice Cream Pots

Please let the office know by Monday 15th if you **do not** wish your child to receive a free school meal on Thursday 18th January.

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	Lego Club (Rec,Y1,Y2) 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>

Application for First School:


It is now time to apply for your child to start school, reception class in September 2024. Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 should apply. The portal opened on 1st November 2023 and will close on 15th 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

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

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	Elizabeth	William
Year 1	Florence	Dexter	Beauden
Year 2	Gracie	Riley	Ollie
Year 3	Skylar	Charlie	Harrison
Year 4	Ariella	Nils	Zach

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:
Year - Year 2!

<u>Reception</u>	88.24%
<u>Year 1</u>	95%
<u>Year 2</u>	99.31%
<u>Year 3</u>	92.73%
<u>Year 4</u>	94.09%

Diary Dates

Spring term starts for pupils and staff	Monday 8 th January 2024 8:40am
Census Day-Free lunch for all pupils (Come dressed up as your favourite superhero!)	Thursday 18 th January
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
Year 2 class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 2 nd February
NSPCC Number Day (More information to follow)	Friday 2 nd February
Year 2-Celebration of the Word 9.30am in school hall (All parents/carers invited to attend)	Wednesday 7 th February
Year 1 class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 9 th February
Whole school Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 14 th February
Reception class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 1 st March
Year 1-Celebration of the Word 9.30am in school hall (All parents/carers invited to attend)	Wednesday 13 th March
Blast Off with Books Breakfast Session (8.15-8.35am) (More information to follow)	Week beginning the 29 th January
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.	Tuesday 13 th & Wednesday 14 th February

Further information to follow nearer the time.	
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

