



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 21st June 2024

We love, we learn, we live.



Dear Parents and Carers,

As this week is 'Refugee Week', we have been discussing this with the children in school. The children have been participating in a variety of activities to deepen their knowledge of what refugees and displaced people go through, especially how children's lives are impacted. Today in school, we held our cake sale to raise money for the United Nations Refugee Agency. Thank you for all the kind donations of cakes and baked goods. The money raised will go directly to the Children's Emergency Fund to protect children and families caught up in crises with whatever they need, be that life-saving therapeutic food, water and sanitation, temporary schools and clinics, supplying like first aid kits, baby packs, shelters and winter supplies.



This week we were visited by our trust CEO Mr. Hurn. He was extremely impressed by the welcome he received at St. Mary's and commented on the children's exemplary behaviour!

Thankfully, summer appears to have arrived at last, hope you get chance to enjoy the sunshine this weekend.

Mrs. Oakes

Sun protection & waterproof coat

Just a reminder to send children in with a hat or cap for sun protection during the summer term. Please can we ask that children have suncream applied prior to coming to school to avoid children having to bring suncream into school. Please can we ask that all children bring some form of raincoat to school each day, although the weather is improving, we are still prone to the occasional light shower and children are encouraged to play outside each day.

Year 3 & 4 Swimming

Please ensure that your child's summer term swimming payments are paid before Friday 12th July.

Year 4 Rounders Afternoon

Both St. Joseph's Middle school and Hexham Middle Schools have coordinated their respective rounders afternoon on Wed 26th June. Staff from St. Mary's will be escorting the pupils to both schools so there is no requirement for parents to do so. Children will need to **wear their school PE kit**, have a water bottle and waterproof coat as well as a hat/cap and have suncream applied before school if we are blessed with good weather on the day.

On Tuesday 9th July it is our Hexham Partnership Transfer Day. Parents/carers will be responsible for dropping and collecting their child at their respective middle school on this day.

Sports Day

Sports day will take place on Thursday 11th July. Parents are invited to support and watch events from 9.15am - finish (approximately 11.45am). Please send your child to school wearing their **school PE kit** that day wearing suncream, sunhat and a big bottle of water.

On Sports Day, parents will be given access to the school field once all the children have been escorted to their designated areas on the field. Due to safeguarding reasons, we request that no photographs or videos are taken by parents for the duration of the event. School staff will take photos of the children and share them after the event. Parents are requested to remain in the designated parent's areas and not visit the areas where the children are sitting.

Y4 leavers celebrations

To celebrate their final days at St Mary's, there will be a range of activities taking place for Year 4. On Thursday 18th July, there will be a Leavers Mass in the school hall. Parents and carers are invited into school to celebrate their children's first school journey. In the afternoon, year four will also have a class tea party where each child in the class can bring in a donation of party food to enjoy together.

Year 4 Leavers Photos

To mark their final day at school, the Year 4 will be hosting a talent show on Friday 19th July at 1:30pm, in the school hall. Children who wish to perform, will showcase their talent to the whole school as well as their parents and carers. Following the talent show, there will be a PowerPoint presentation dedicated to our year 4 leavers. We are inviting parents of Year 4 to email in pictures of their child on the first and last day of School (maximum 2 photographs please). This will be displayed in an end of year presentation celebrating their time throughout school. If you have any photos you wish to contribute, please email them to parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com After the talent show, parents and carers of year four children, are welcome to take their child home.

Summer School Trips

Year 3 End of year trip

For our end of year trip, Year 3 will be going to Wentworth Leisure Centre on Tuesday 2nd July for an afternoon of bowling. Following this, on Wednesday 3rd July we will be attending the Forum Cinema to watch a movie (movie title will be confirmed closer to the time). On both days, children will be in school for normal lunches however, if they wish to bring a **healthy** snack and a drink (not fizzy) for the cinema, they are more than welcome to. Payment of £10.70 has now been set up on Arbor.

Reception Visit to Hall Hill Farm

On Thursday 4th July Reception will be visiting Hall Hill Farm as part of our Understanding the World curriculum. It is an exciting opportunity where the children will be able to feed animals, learn about animals and their young and even experience a ride on a tractor! There is now a payment of £21.50 to be made through the Arbor app. The deadline for this payment is Monday 24th June.

Year 4 Trust Sporting Event

We are excited that our Year 4 pupils will be able to take part in the first ever Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust 'Celebration of Sport' event. This is being held on Monday 15 July. This is a sports celebration event being held at Gateshead International Stadium with over 1,200 pupils being invited to take part. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in a range of sports and activities in an internationally recognised arena.



Year 1 and Year 2 Visit to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle

On Tuesday 16th July, Year 1 and Year 2 will be visiting the Discovery Museum in Newcastle to learn all about History and to be able to see the current exhibitions on display. Both classes will be attending a workshop hosted by specialists and will be able to see and use historical artefacts to support their learning. Year 1 will be taking part in a Transport in the Past workshop and Year 2 will be learning all about the Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead. **The deadline for the trip payment is Monday 8th July, this is to be made through the Arbor app.**



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>

School Meals




If you would like to take a look at the new Summer Garden Kitchen menu, please use the following link-
<https://www.hexhamstmarys.uk/parents/school-meals/>

Extra-curricular clubs

Fitness Club	Tuesday Lunch Y2-4
Singing club	Tuesday lunch Y1-4
Running club	Wednesday Morning 8.15-8.40 Y2-4
Times table club	Thursday lunch – Y4 only.
Mini Vinnies –	Next Session - Tuesday 2 nd July 3.15-4.30pm

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	Isabel	Layton	Evie
Year 1	Florence	Austin	Dani Skye
Year 2	Gracie	Kacey	George
Year 3	Joe	Erin	Marcus
Year 4	Archie	Sebastian	Nils

St. Mary's Class Attendance This Week's Winners - Year 4	
<u>Reception</u>	93.94%
<u>Year 1</u>	95.4%
<u>Year 2</u>	95.29%
<u>Year 3</u>	94.77%
<u>Year 4</u>	95.79%



Attendance Ladder



Diary Dates

Wednesday 26th June	St Joseph's Rounders Afternoon (Children transferring to St Joseph's) 1.30-2.45pm
Friday 28th June	Y1 Mass in church at 9.30am. All welcome.
Tuesday 2nd July	Y3 Bowling after lunch.

Wednesday 3rd July	Y3 Cinema in the morning.
Wednesday 3rd July	Years 1 & 2 Celebration of the Word in hall 9.30am-Aspirations-Parents/carers invited.
Thursday 4th July	Reception class end of year trip to Hall Hill Farm. Arbor payments are now live on the app.
Mon 8th-Fri 12th July	Healthy Schools Week
Thursday 9th July	Hexham Partnership Transfer Day
Tuesday 11th July	Sports Day (weather permitting) 9.30am-12pm Parents/carers invited. More information to follow.
Friday 12th July	Reception Class Mass at 9.30am
Monday 15th July	Y4 Trust Sport Event-Gateshead Stadium
Tuesday 16th July	Year 1 and Year 2 End of Year Visit to the Discovery Museum
Thursday 18th July	Y4 Leavers Mass in the school hall at 9.30am-Parents/carers invited. Y4 class tea party in the afternoon-party food donations welcomed-Pupils only.
Friday 19th July	Y4 Talent show in the hall at 1:30pm



St. Mary's Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Copyright & Ownership.' The children will learn that work they create using technology belongs to them and understand that work created by others does not belong to me even if I save a copy.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting your child in discussing 'Copyright & Ownership':

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 (parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com)

Online Safety

Northumberland County Council, in partnership with the Solihull Approach, offer free access to online courses expertly designed for parents, carers, grandparents and teens living in the region. **All schools in Northumberland are in a pre-paid area for emotional health resources hub:**

<https://inourplace.co.uk/northumberland/>

This means parents can access a range of online support to better understand children's emotional health, brain development and wellbeing.

For more comms material and information you can contact vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

PROMOTING PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Physical activity isn't only beneficial for our bodies; it also plays a role in promoting mental wellbeing. With both the Euros and the Olympics this summer, it's an opportunity to engage young people in regular exercise which can reduce stress, improve mood and boost self-esteem. Despite these benefits, many children face barriers to participating in physical activity.

1 MAKE IT FUN

Incorporate activities that children enjoy, such as playing games or dancing. Encourage participation in team sports or group activities to foster social connections and a sense of belonging.

2 MIX MOVEMENT WITH LEARNING

Educational settings can incorporate movement breaks and physical activities to enhance focus, concentration and cognitive function. Embedding exercise into the curriculum can also reinforce learning and stimulate creativity. 'Revision walks' with podcasts and flashcards can benefit older learners.

3 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Provide clear chances for physical activity throughout the day, both indoors and outdoors. Schools can encourage active play during breaks and at lunchtimes, while limiting screen time at home can help keep children up and about.

4 PROVIDE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Praise and encourage children for their efforts and achievements in physical activity. Recognise their progress and celebrate their successes to reinforce positive behaviours. Educators could do this in several ways, such as applauding their efforts at assemblies or celebrating their accomplishments in newsletters.

5 VARIETY IS KEY

Introduce a selection of physical activities to keep children engaged and prevent boredom. From swimming and cycling to yoga and martial arts, trying different types of exercise can help children to discover what they enjoy most.

6 ENJOYMENT OVER COMPETITION

Encourage children to focus on the enjoyment of physical activity rather than winning or achieving perfection. Emphasise effort, improvement and having fun rather than outcomes, to minimise the amount of stress that children can sometimes associate with sports and other competitions.

7 SET REALISTIC GOALS

Help children set achievable physical activity targets based on their interests, abilities and preferences. Celebrate their progress and successes to maintain motivation and enthusiasm.

8 MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE

Ensure that children have access to safe, suitable spaces for exercise at home, at school and in the community. Advocate for inclusive environments which accommodate diverse needs and abilities. Be a change maker in your community if facilities aren't already available.

9 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents and carers can be positive role models by prioritising their own exercise and involving children in their fitness routines. Gentle walks, bike rides or sports activities can be wonderful opportunities for bonding and staying active together.

10 ENCOURAGE PERSISTENCE

Help children develop resilience and perseverance by encouraging them to overcome challenges and setbacks in physical activity. Teach them the importance of perseverance and the value of effort in achieving their goals.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is a learning and development specialist who, as well as working for Minds Ahead, is associate vice principal for personal development at a large secondary school in Barnsley. He was asked to be part of an expert research group for the Department for Education, one of only three school leaders to be asked to do so.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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