

# ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, we welcomed our new Reception 2026 starters into school for the first of their transition visits. The children spent time together in the Reception class getting to know the class teachers.

Our year 4 leavers received their 'Leavers Hoodies' this week. They look fantastic and the children are delighted with them. Year 4 are permitted to wear their hoodie as part of their school uniform for the remainder of the academic year.

Next week is Refugee Week. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, years 1 & 2 will be holding a Celebration of the Word for Refugee Week. Parents and carers are welcome to join us in the school hall at 9.30am for this celebration. As part of Refugee Week, we will be holding a cake stall at break time on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Donations of cakes and baked goods would be gratefully received. Children can bring in 50p to purchase a cake, any left over cakes will be sold off at the end of the school day.

Just a reminder that on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June we are inviting parents/carers into school to celebrate Jubilee Day. The children will be involved in the creation of a joint whole-school display on the Jubilee themes of hope; actions to build a better world; care for creation; forgiveness; rest and worship. We would be grateful for donations of different coloured fabrics, ribbons & buttons. All donations can be handed in at the main office. Many thanks!

Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes



Pentecost Prayer

## *Pentecost Prayer*

**Breathe in me O Holy Spirit  
that my thoughts may all be holy;  
Act in me O Holy Spirit  
that my works, too, may be holy;  
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit  
that I love but what is holy;  
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit  
to defend that is holy;  
Guard me then O Holy Spirit  
that I always may be holy.**



PTA Cake Winner -  
Laya



Attendance Ted  
Winners this week -  
Year 4



## REMINDER

### Year 4 leaver photographs

During the Leavers Mass and Talent Show we like to celebrate the children's final days at St Mary's. We are hoping to create a special 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 [info@smfs.bwcet.com](mailto:info@smfs.bwcet.com) by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

### Jubilee Day

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June we are celebrating Jubilee Pledge Day at St. Mary's. The late Pope Francis decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. In a world that is growing more unjust and unequal, we are invited to experience the joy and strength in coming together as we respond to God's call for a reset, a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world. On the 27th June all Catholic schools are invited to make a Jubilee Pledge to live out Catholic Social Teaching for a better world needs all of us, and the Pledge will be a whole school, long-term commitment to building a fairer world.

Throughout the day, the children will participate in a variety of activities, including creating a whole school piece of art work. On the afternoon of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June, we would like to invite parents/carers into school to support their children in the creation of a joint whole-school display on the Jubilee themes of hope; actions to build a better world; care for creation; forgiveness; rest and worship. School will be open to parents from 2-2:45pm to work with their child(ren) in class.

**For the art day we are after donations of different coloured fabrics, ribbons & buttons. All donations can be handed in at the main office. Many thanks!**



### Key Stage 1-Celebration of the Word

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June, years 1 & 2 will be holding a Celebration of the Word for Refugee Week. Parents and carers are welcome to join us in the school hall at 9.30am for this celebration.

**As part of Refugee Week, we will be holding a cake stall at break time on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Donations of cakes and baked goods would be gratefully received. Children can bring in 50p to purchase a cake, any left over cakes will be sold off at the end of the school day.**



### Cake Raffle

If your child would like the chance of winning the weekly cake, please bring £1 to the school office.

### Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust 'Celebration of Sport'

This event is being held on Thursday 3 July 2025 at Gateshead International Stadium. Over 1,200 pupils from our Trust are being invited to take part, including Year 4 pupils from each Trust primary school. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in a range of sports and activities in an internationally recognised arena.

we are inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution of £1 towards the children's t-shirts. on the Arbor app.

### KS1 Teddy Bear's Picnic

To mark the end of the academic year, we would like to take KS1 out to the Sele Park for a Teddy Bear's Picnic during the week beginning the 14th July. During the visit, the children will play a variety of games and finish the afternoon with an ice lolly! As this trip is weather dependent, we will look at the weather nearer the time and select the best-looking day. Children will wear school uniform for the trip and are welcome to bring a picnic blanket and their favourite teddy so that they can join them for the picnic! We will notify you nearer the time as to the day of the visit.

## **Bag2school Clothes**

Many thanks indeed for helping us with this unique Bag 2 School fundraising opportunity.

## **Y3 & Y4 Swimming**

Just a reminder that all Y3 & Y4 'Summer' Term swimming payments need to be paid in full, no later than the 3rd July. This payment is found on 'School Shop' on the Arbor app.

## **Sports Day Dates**

We appreciate that many families like to spectate at our annual Sport's Day event and may need to book time of work in advance in order to attend. This year we aim to hold Sport's Day on Thursday 10th July from 9.30am, finishing before lunch time at approximately 11:45am. As we can never rely on British weather, we have also booked in a second provisional 'back-up' day just in case the weather gets the better of us on the 10th July. The second 'back-up' date is Monday 14th July from 1:30pm.

## **Clubs**

If your child would like to join any of the clubs, please let their class teacher know or contact the school office. (See below)

Lego club	Monday lunch Rec-Y2 (Miss Eccles)
Dance club	Tuesday after school until 4pm (Mrs Hogg) Y2-Y4
Regenerators	Wednesday lunch (Miss Stoves) Y2-Y4
Colouring club	Wednesday after school until 4pm (Miss Wright) Y1-Y4
Computing club	Thursday lunch (Miss Carr) Y3-Y4
Mini Vinnie's (Miss Baird)	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 3:15pm - 4:30pm Tuesday 1st July: 3:15pm - 4:30pm

### **School Meals /School Lunch Payments**

The Trust are now providing us with weekly reports identifying accounts that currently have an outstanding balance. As part of the Trust's guidance, it is essential that children's meal accounts remain in credit to ensure they can continue to order school meals without any interruptions.

[School Lunch Menu](#)

### **Snacks**

The School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme is a government program that entitles all pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 to a piece of fruit or vegetable, each school day. Children in Key Stage 2 are permitted to bring in a healthy snack for break if they wish (no chocolate bars & sweets please).

### **Uniform**

Trainers are not permitted (except for KS2 on Mondays). Thank you for your cooperation with this. Black Nike trainers do not constitute as school shoes. **Please can children bring in a waterproof coat to school each day, the weather can be changeable and we like to get the children outside as much as possible.**

ORDER ONLINE – <https://www.saltouk.com/> Tel – 01661 835240

### **Universal Free school Meals**

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM).

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals

We urge parents to still register because school will receive the extra pupil premium funding. In school, none of the children are aware of who is on FSM or not as they all access their lunch in the same way. [Apply for Free School Meals](#)

#### **Your child might be eligible if you access:**

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- See [gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)

Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways. At St. Mary's Catholic First School, we receive an extra £1480, for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

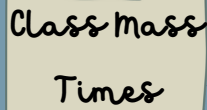
### **Penalty Notice Information for Families**

New legislation comes into force on 19th August 2024 regarding the issue of Penalty Notices to address attendance concerns. There will be a new "National Framework" which introduces consistency in the use of Penalty Notices across England by introducing a new national threshold at which they are considered. This will be met when a pupil has been recorded as absent for 10 sessions (5 school days) within a rolling period of 10 school weeks. To commence, there will be a transitional period, but this new legislation will take effect for absences recorded from the start of the new academic year commencing in September 2024. For further information please see our website 'Attendance' page: [Attendance – St Mary's First School, Hexham \(bwcet.com\)](#)

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

27th Jun & 4th July	Nursery Transition Visits 9.30-10.45am
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Key Stage 1 Refugee Week-Whole School Celebration of the Word-Parents & carers invited to attend in school hall at 9.30am. (Please note Y1 Mass has been cancelled due to this event)
Friday 20th June	Reception End of Year Trip- Red Hemmels Farm Payments for this trip are now live on the Arbor app. Please can all payments be made before the 13 <sup>th</sup> June.  Cake Stall raising money for Refugee Week. Donations of baked goods & 50p to purchase a cake at break time.
Monday 23rd June	Mini Vinnie's 3.15-4.30pm
Tuesday 24th June	New Reception Starters-Parents meeting-5pm
Wednesday 25th June	1.15pm SJMS & HMS Rounders afternoon-more information to follow
Friday 27th June	Jubilee Day-Open art afternoon to parents/carers 2:00-2:45pm
Monday 30th June	Y3 Enrichment morning at SJMS, all children will have a lunch provided by St Joseph's before their usual swimming lesson
Tuesday 1st July	Be You Team in school to discuss transition with Year 4 & <b>Mini Vinnie's - 3.15-4.30pm</b>

Wednesday 2nd July	Y3 End of Year Bowling Trip Payments for this trip are now live on the Arbor app
Thursday 3rd July	Y4 Celebration of Sport-Trust Event-Further details to follow (parents can spectate at Gateshead Stadium).
Wk Beg 7th July	Healthy Schools Week-more information to follow
Tuesday 8th July	Hexham Partnership Transfer Day-Y4 pupils spend day at their respective middle schools. Rest of school spend time in school in their new classroom for the next academic year, working with their new class teacher
Thursday 10th July	Sport's Day 9.30-11:45am (Back-up day is Mon 14th July at 1:30pm)
w/c 14 <sup>th</sup> July	KS1 Teddy Bear's Picnic - Information above
17th July	Y4 Leavers Mass in school 9.30am
18th July	Y4 Talent Show in hall 1:30pm
18th July	Last day of the academic year-school closes at 3:15pm for Summer holidays



Class Mass  
Times

### Class Masses

Throughout the year each class has the opportunity to attend Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mass is lead by our Parish Priests Fr Jeff or Fr. Paul. Class Masses are usually held on Fridays at 9:30am and all parents/carers and families are welcome to attend these events.

Please see rota below for details of dates for each class.

Class Masses are held in St. Mary's Catholic Church at 9.30am-all families are welcome to attend these services.	
20th June	Y1 Mass is cancelled-Celebration of the Word in school hall instead.
27th June	Reception Mass
17th July	Y4 Leavers Mass-in school hall-9.30am



## Value Award Winners

Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Bea	Laya	Alaria
Year 1	Isabel	William	Lizzie
Year 2	Phuc	Dexter	Beauden
Year 3	Kacey	Luca	Esmee
Year 4	Reni	Zayn	Marcus



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done Year 4	
Reception	96.91%
Year 1	93.83%
Year 2	98.89%
Year 3	98.29%
Year 4	99.15%

# St Mary's Safeguarding Information

## Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead- Mrs. Oakes

Deputy Safeguarding Lead-Miss. Baird & Mrs. Stansfield

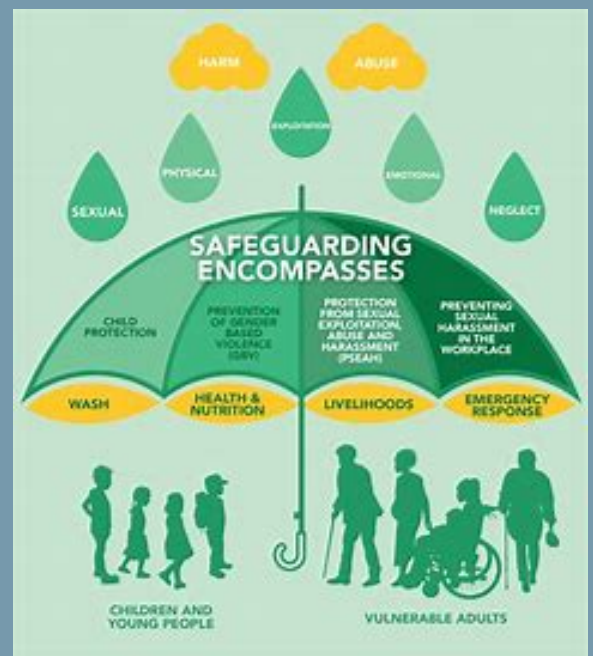
Assistant Safeguarding Lead-Mrs. Stoves

SENDCo/Assistant SENCo-Mrs. Stansfield (Maternity), Mrs. Oakes & 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)

### Operation Encompass

St. Mary's is an Operation Encompass school, run in partnership with both Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police. The project, which commenced in April 2015 aims to support children who are affected by domestic abuse. Operation Encompass aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse. Please visit the Operation Encompass for more information: Home : Operation Encompass & support services: Northumberland-Support-Services.pdf (bwct.com)



At the National College, our Wellbeing/Resilience guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, links and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.org.uk](https://nationalcollege.org.uk).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 in the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY**
  - Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may mistake the information it generates and believe it. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess any information, even when it comes from AI.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
  - Because generative AI is trained on vast amounts of data from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unwholesome material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.
- PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY**
  - Some AI tools ask for personal details or other user information. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be collected or shared. Encouraging good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.
- REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING**
  - Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may mean children are encouraged to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own views, encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.
- DIGITAL DEPENDENCY**
  - Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. It can also affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.
- UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES**
  - Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or complete tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practice. Conversations around responsible and open academic honesty are crucial.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES**
  - Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.
- PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION**
  - Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to help if something doesn't feel right.
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION**
  - Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.
- ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS**
  - Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert  
 Eirionn O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools. Eirionn has extensive experience in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. An on author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College. Eirionn guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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### 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](mailto:vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk)



[www.stmaryshexham.bwct.com](http://www.stmaryshexham.bwct.com)



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