

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY 2026

Dear parent/carers,

This week has been full of exciting learning opportunities!

On Tuesday, our children enjoyed a fantastic outdoor session with the Wild Passport Team, making bird feeders after last week's lessons on birds. It was a wonderful way to combine creativity, teamwork, and nature exploration.

In school, pupils have been learning about Martin Luther King Jr. in preparation for our special Martin Luther King Day celebration on Monday, 19th January. We look forward to marking this important day with the children.

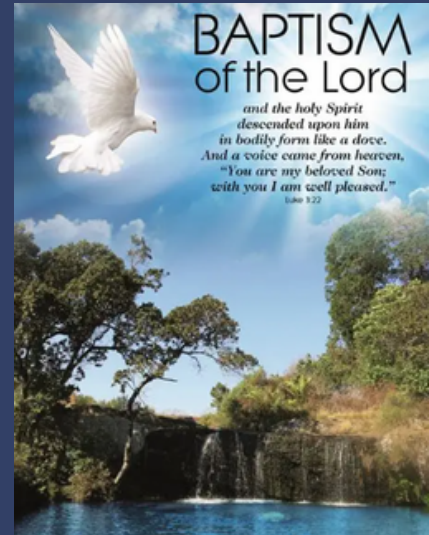
We're excited to announce that St. Mary's will be taking part in National Careers Week, which runs from 2nd-7th March. This nationwide initiative is designed to inspire young people by introducing them to the wide range of careers available and the skills needed for the future.

Careers education helps children broaden their horizons, understand the world of work, raise aspirations, and connect classroom learning to real-life opportunities. By starting these conversations early, we encourage curiosity, confidence, and ambition for the future.

We would love to involve our parents and carers. If you are willing to come into school to talk about your career, or know friends or colleagues who would be happy to share their experiences with the children, please get in touch with the school office. Your support will help inspire our pupils and broaden their horizons!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes



Wild Passport Session



Open the Book





Celebration of the Word Year 2 & Reception

On Monday 26th January 9.30am, we would like to invite all parents/carers to join the whole school in the hall for Year 2's Celebration of the Word to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

On Monday 9th February 9.30am, we would like to invite all parents/carers to join the whole school in the hall for Reception's Celebration of the Word to mark Children's Mental Health Week.

For both events we ask parents/carers to enter via the hall fire exit door.

Parents/carers to look at books & Parents Evenings

We would like to invite parents into school to look at your child's books in the week before our mid-year parents evening. School will be open for parents and children from 3.20-4:00pm on **Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th February**. Children will have their school books on their desks to show their grown-ups all their hard work so far this year.

Parents Evenings will be held on **Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th February**. Details on how to register for these events will be given nearer the time.

World Book Day Celebration

On Thursday 5th March we will be celebrating World Book Day! Children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character and share the joy of reading. We'll also be welcoming Cogito, our local independent bookstore, for a special story time session. Pupils will have the chance to use their World Book Day vouchers to choose a book and continue their reading adventures at home.

Hexham Bookfest

We are excited to share that Hexham Book Festival is taking place in March, offering a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading and storytelling. The festival features a range of events for all ages, including author talks, workshops, and family activities designed to inspire a love of books. St. Mary's have secured the following visits for our pupils to attend workshops:

Reception on Thursday 26th March at 10.30am: Hank Goes Honk by Maudie Powell-Tuck
Yr 1 & 2 Wednesday 25th March at 10.30am: The Lion Inside by Rachel Bright
Yr 3 & 4 Thursday 26th March at 1.30pm: Alice with an A why by Anna James

Payments of £2 are now live on the Arbor app. all payments must be paid online.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Please see the attached list of extra-curricular clubs on offer this half term.

If the club is before or after school, please contact the office to book a place. If the club is at lunchtime class teachers will sign pupils up.

Homework

All children In Reception and Year 1 will bring a Read, Write Inc phonics book home. Please complete and sign your child's Reading Record when you have listened to them read.

Swimming

Swimming for years 3 & 4. All KS2 children to attend school wearing their P.E. kit on Monday's. **The Spring swimming payments are live on Arbor under 'School Shop'.** If you haven't paid for last terms swimming, please can a payment be made by Friday 23rd January.

PTA Cake Raffle

From January, our cake raffle will be the last Friday of each month. The next cake raffle will be Friday 30th January 2026.

School Meals

If you would like to take a look at the Winter & Spring 25 Garden Kitchen menu, please find our school menu's on the school website.

Penalty Notice Information for Families

Since 2024, the government introduced legislation regarding the issue of Penalty Notices to address attendance concerns. There is a "National Framework" which introduces consistency in the use of Penalty Notices across England by introducing a 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. For further information please see our website 'Attendance' page: Attendance – St Mary's First School, Hexham (bwcet.com)

We are currently looking for someone to take on the role of

Treasurer for the PTA.

If this is something you would be interested in, please call the school office on 01434 603791 or email us at info@smfs.bwcet.com.

Thank you for your support!



Mini Vinnies Miss Baird (Y2-Y4)	Wednesday Lunch
Singing Club Mrs Stansfield (Y1-Y4)	Tuesday Lunch
Craft Club Miss Wright (Y1-Y4)	Tuesday 3.15-4pm
Lego Club Miss Carr (Y1-Y4)	Wednesday Lunch
Regenerators Miss Stoves (Same pupils as last term)	Thursday Lunch
Dance Club Mrs Hogg (Y1-Y4)	Thursday 3.15-4pm
Wellbeing Club Mrs Stoves	Friday 8.20am

FEBRUARY HALF TERM, SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Full of Beans
CHILDREN'S FITNESS & SPORTS COACHING

FULL OF BEANS HOLIDAY CLUB
February half term at Hexham First School.

What's in Store?
A fun filled, high energy clubs designed to boost confidence, develop teamwork, and support your child's personal growth – all while having a blast! Your child will enjoy a wide range of exciting activities. Dodgeball, Football, NERF, Basketball, Gymnastics, cricket & much more !!

Bookings can be made via our website
www.fullofbeansfitness.co.uk

Email: johnpaul@fullofbeansfitness.co.uk
Telephone: 07561 439035
Facebook: [FOBNorthEast](https://www.facebook.com/FOBNorthEast) Instagram: @fobne

Year 1 to Year 8
Packed lunch & drinks required

COST
£45 for 3 days or
£20 per day

LOCATION
Hexham First School
NE46 1JD

DATE
Tuesday 17th
Wednesday 18th
Thursday 19th
9am till 3pm

bfa **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**
PROUD TO BE A MEMBER

Our coaches all hold professional qualifications and an enhanced DBS. Expert and qualified instruction in a safe, non-competitive environment. We go out of our way to ensure a personal and special day.



Church 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 and Fr. Paul. Class Masses are usually held on Fridays at 9:30am and all parents/carers and families are welcome to attend theses events. Please see rota below for details of dates for each class.

Friday 23 rd January	Y3 Class Mass
Friday 30 th January	Y2 Class Mass
Friday 6 th February	Reception & KS1 Class Mass
Wednesday 11 th February	Whole School Lent Mass
Friday 6 th March	Y4 Class Mass
Friday 13 th March	Y3 Class Mass
Friday 20 th March	Y2 Class Mass
Friday 27 th March	Reception & KS1 Class Mass



Monday 26 th January	Year 2 Celebration of the Word-Holocaust Memorial Day 9.30am in school hall. All families welcome to join us in school hall for this event.
Monday 26 th January	BE YOU Coffee Afternoon- Sleep Clinic Parents Workshop held in school hall from 2.20pm with Mrs Stoves. All parents/carers welcome to attend.
Tues 3 rd & Wed 4 th February	Parents/carers to look at books after school prior to parents evening 3.20-4pm.
Monday 9 th February	Reception-Celebration of the Word- Children's Mental Health Week 9 .30am in school hall. All families welcome to join us in school hall for this event.
Wednesday 11 th & Thursday 12 th February	Parents Evening & Interim Reports (3.30-5.30pm). Details on how to book you slot will be communicated nearer the time.
Thursday 12 th February	Last day of Spring Term 1 for pupils-school ends 3.15pm
Friday 13 th February	Teacher Training Day- School closed to pupils
Monday 23 rd February	School will Reassemble
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day-Pupils come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Storytelling visit from Cogito books.
Wednesday 25 th & Thursday 26 th March	Hexham Bookfest for all year groups- Payments of £2 are now live on the Arbor app. All payments must be paid online.



Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Jasmine	Lara	Loriea
Year 1	Eli	Bea	Theo
Year 2	Alice	Jay	Josie
Year 3	Dani	Beauden	Raffy
Year 4	George	Luca	Leo



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Year 3	
Reception	93.33%
Year 1	91.23%
Year 2	98.15%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	90.48%

St Mary's Safeguarding Information

Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead- Mrs. Oakes

Deputy Safeguarding Lead-Miss. Baird, Mrs. Stansfield & Miss. Stoves

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)

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 (bwcet.com)



This infographic provides guidance on digital device usage. It features a central illustration of a boy with a red cap looking at a smartphone. The title is 'What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING'. It lists risks such as 'SLEEP DISRUPTION', 'ONLINE PEER PRESSURE', 'CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE', 'REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY', 'EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION', and 'PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS'. It also includes 'Advice for Parents & Educators' with sections on 'SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES', 'ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE', 'MODEL HEALTHY HABITS', and 'PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY'. The infographic is attributed to 'Wake Up Wednesday' and 'The National College'.

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