

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026

Dear parent/carers,

We began the week with a beautiful Holy Week Celebration of the Word led by our Year 1 pupils. They did an amazing job helping us reflect and prepare for this special time in the church year.

Throughout the week, parents and carers were also invited into classrooms to join their children for their RE end-of-topic Lent Celebration of the Word. It has been wonderful to welcome so many families into school to share this moment of prayer and reflection together. The children thoroughly enjoy taking part and love being able to share their learning with you.

On Tuesday, our school celebrated Oscar Romero Day, taking time to reflect on the life and message of Saint Oscar Romero. Throughout the day, children took part in thoughtful activities that highlighted themes of justice, peace, courage, and standing up for what is right. Pupils engaged in discussions, creative tasks, and moments of quiet reflection, learning how Romero's values can inspire us to make a positive difference in our own community. It was a truly uplifting day, filled with meaningful conversations and a strong sense of togetherness. We are proud of how our children embraced the spirit of Oscar Romero and demonstrated the compassion and courage he championed.

We were delighted to take part in this year's Hexham Book Festival this week, a wonderful celebration of reading and storytelling. The festival offered a fantastic range of events for all ages, and our pupils had the chance to enjoy inspiring workshops led by children's authors. The children had a brilliant time discovering new stories, meeting authors, and celebrating the joy of books.

The children have been continuing their daily laps for 'The Big Lent Walk'. Thank you so much for all the donations. Our target was to raise £150, to date we have raised **£250!** We conclude 'The Big Lent Walk' challenge on Monday with a whole school Easter bonnet parade around Sele Park, please see route and further information below. If you would still like to make a donation and see if we can raise even more for CAFOD then please see the QR code & link below.

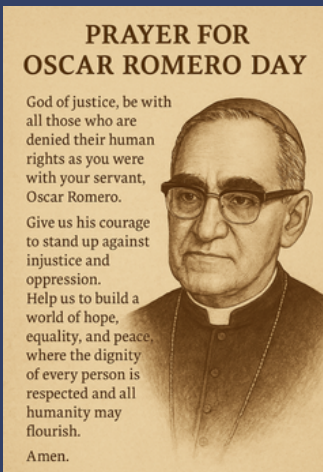
Today, we ended the week with a fantastic Easter Fair, which is a joyful way to bring our school community together. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and supported with the fair and also to everyone who came along and supported the event. We are incredibly grateful to our families for helping us raise valuable funds for the PTA, which will directly benefit the education and experiences of all the children at St Mary's. Your support truly makes a difference.

Easter Hamper Update

The winners of our Easter hampers will be announced on Monday. Good luck everyone

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes



Hexham Bookfest



Celebration of the Word



PTA Cake Winner - Theo

Easter Bonnet Parade and Big Lent Walk

We are once again participating in our annual 'Big Lent Walk' for CAFOD. On **Monday 30th March** at **9.45am**, the whole of St. Mary's school will conclude the Big Lent Walk Challenge by walking around Sele Park (weather permitting) wearing our Easter bonnets. Our target this year is to raise £150 for CAFOD, to date we have exceeded that target. If you still wish to donate please follow the link/QR codes that have previously been shared on Facebook & Arbor (or telephone our office for more information).

We would like to invite our families, governors & parishioners to also take up the challenge and join us as we complete our final stage of 'The Big Lent Walk' on the 30th March. Please see the route we are taking outlined below, starting at St. Mary's (red arrows are outgoing journey, blue arrows are the return journey).

Families and parishioners are welcome to either spectate along the route and/or join at the rear of the children and join in with the walk. We ask that parents/carers meet us in the park rather than outside the school entrance. Due to the limited width of some of the paths on the route and for safeguarding, we politely request that adults do not walk alongside the classes but join at the rear once all the children have passed through. We also ask that children are not taken out of their class lines by family members and that if photographs are taken, they are not uploaded to social media if there are other children present in the photograph. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Big Lent Walk Route:

We are keeping our fingers crossed that the weather is kind. If the weather is inclement, we will hold the walk in the school hall at the same time of 9.45am. The school office will let you know if this is the case by 8.30am on 30th March.



A huge 'thank you' to those that have already donated to our Just Giving page, it is lovely reading all your positive comments encouraging the children with their fundraiser. The donation page remains live for anyone who still wishes to donate. Thank you!



PTA Treasurer Vacancy

We are currently looking for a friendly and enthusiastic volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer for the St Mary's PTA. This role is designed to fit around your existing commitments, and full support will be provided. You don't need to be a financial expert – just organised, reliable, and happy to be part of a supportive team.

Key responsibilities include helping to oversee fundraising activities, keeping simple financial records, and managing the PTA bank account. If this is something you might be interested in, or if you'd like to find out more, please contact the school office on 01434 603791 or email info@smfs.bwcet.com.

School Meals

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



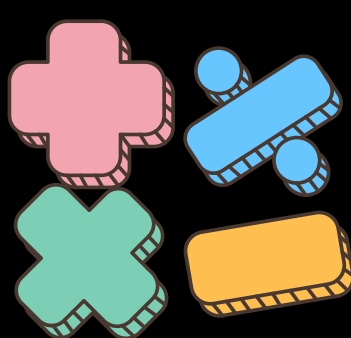
Homework

There will be no homework over the Easter holidays, if you could still read with your child and write in their diary.

Clubs

There will be NO clubs next week, a new list of clubs will be sent out on the first week back.

Y4 Timestable Superstars

Esmee	Frankie
Heidi	leo
Riley	
Luca	
Olivia	



Monday 30 th March	CAFOD Big Lent Walk-Easter Bonnet Parade-Sele Park-from 9.45am.
Wednesday 1st-Thursday 2 nd April	Year 4 Residential Trip to Weardale.
Thursday 2 nd April	Celebration & Attendance Assembly-Prize giving Last Day of Spring Term. School closed at 3.15pm.
Monday 20 th April	School opens at 8.40am for the start of the Summer term.



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

Friday 24th April	Y4
Friday 1 st May	Y3
Friday 8 th May	Reception, Y1 & Y2

DYNAMOS
Girls Dynamos Cricket
 at Tynedale Cricket Club

Girls only - School Years 3/4/5/6
 Thursdays 5-6pm starting 14th May

£50.00
 Scan QR code to book!

Contact
 Ella Martin-Dobson
 ella.tynedalecc@gmail.com



Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Adalyn	Robson	Jasmine
Year 1	Lola	Alexander	Lola
Year 2	Lizzie	Alfie R	Isabel
Year 3	Jacob	Noah	Freddie
Year 4	Leo	Ashton	Heidi



Attendance Ted



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Y2 & Y4	
Reception	90%
Year 1	97.08%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	98.33%
Year 4	100%

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)

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



www.stmaryshexham.bwcet.com



@stmaryscatholicfirstschoolhexham

