

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2026

Dear parent/carers,

Welcome back, hope you all had a restful Easter break. We are delighted to share that our Reception class have now returned to their newly refurbished classroom following the flood in January. The children have settled back in wonderfully and are enjoying their refreshed learning space.

Over the past few months, we have been working closely with the Trust executive team and our Diocese to consider how to strengthen the long-term future of Catholic education across our Hexham schools. These discussions have focused on ensuring that our provision remains strong, sustainable, and rooted in our shared mission to serve our children, families, and communities. As you are aware, a consultation process is currently open on how to best strengthen Catholic education in Hexham. Just a gentle reminder that the consultation process closes on May 1st, we would very much like to consider the views and opinions of parents/carers on how best to strengthen Catholic education in Hexham. We have already shared the consultation paper and linked forms. We strongly encourage you to review the information provided and to share your views before 1st May. Your feedback is an important part of this process.

We are pleased to confirm that lunchtime and after-school clubs will begin next week. Please see the information below for further details.

Weekly homework will also begin from today. Please note that during this half term there is a strong focus on phonics for children in Year 1, in readiness for the statutory Phonics Screening Check which takes place after the May half term. Further information has already been shared with parents regarding how to access resources to support with this at home.

In addition, Year 4 pupils are preparing for the statutory Multiplication Tables Check, which also takes place after the May half term. Most of the children are unaware that they will be taking these assessments, as we do not place pressure on pupils regarding statutory testing. However, we want to ensure all children are as prepared as possible so they can confidently demonstrate their learning and reach their true potential.

Finally, we would like to wish Mrs Hogg all the very best as she begins her maternity leave and thank her for the excellent handover to the new class teacher, Miss Wright, this week. We are delighted that Miss Wright has settled seamlessly into her new role as Year 1 class teacher.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes



CHILDREN'S PRAYER FOR EASTERTIDE



Lord Jesus, during this Eastertide,
we remember your resurrection
and the new life we have in you.
Help us to live in the joy of this season,
loving you and sharing your good news,
through the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Reception in their new classroom



KS2 Whole School Celebration of the Word

All families are welcome to join our school community on **Wednesday 6th May** to participate in our whole school Celebration of the Word for Mental Health Awareness Week at 9.30am in the main school hall (entrance via the rear fire exit door in the hall).

Transition Support – Year 4

The BE YOU Team will be visiting Year 4 on Thursday 7th May to talk with pupils about transition. During the session, they will help children think about changes they may experience, share any worries, and talk about positive ways to manage new situations. The discussion will focus on building confidence, understanding feelings, and reminding pupils that it is normal to feel a mixture of emotions when something new is approaching.

KS2 (Years 3 & 4) Trip – The Life Centre: Lighting Up the Future

We are pleased to inform you that pupils in Years 3 and 4 will be attending a visit to The Life Centre as part of the Lighting Up the Future programme on **Tuesday 12th May**. This is a FREE educational trip designed to support pupils' learning and inspire curiosity about the world around them.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch on the day of the visit. Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a school packed lunch, so no additional arrangements are needed. Pupils should wear school uniform, bringing a bottle of water and a coat. The trip takes place within school time.

Class Pentecost Celebration of the Word.

Families are warmly invited to join their child's class and take part in this special celebration on **Wednesday 20th May** at the following times:

Reception 9.30am

Year 1 -9.40am

Year 2- 9.50am

Year 3 -10:00am

Year 4- 10:10am

KS1 Discovery Museum Trip (Years 1 & 2)

Year 1 and Year 2 will be visiting the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Wednesday 3rd June. Both classes will be attending a specialised workshop where they will have the opportunities to explore and use historical artefacts. We will then have a tour of the exhibits in the museum and take part in a range of different activities. A payment of £15.00 is now live on the Arbor app.

KS1 Whole School Celebration of the Word

All families are welcome to join our school community on **Wednesday 10th June** to participate in our whole school Celebration of the Word on Aspiration at 9.30am in the main school hall (entrance via the rear fire exit door in the hall).

Year 3-Hexham Abbey Visit & Bowling Celebration

Year 3 will be visiting Hexham Abbey as part of their end-of-year trip, where they will explore Anglo-Saxon life and learning in preparation for their history studies in Year 4. Through hands-on activities, pupils will gain a deeper understanding of local heritage and how the past has shaped the present. This will be followed by a visit to the bowling alley, giving children the opportunity to celebrate their hard work this year while developing teamwork, turn-taking and resilience in a fun, social setting. Payment TBC.

School Meals

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

Swimming Y3 & Y4

The final 'Swimming Summer Term' payment is now live on Arbor under 'school shop'. Please contact the school office if you are having any issues.



Salto School Uniform Ordering

The deadline date for this years' uniform is **SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026**. All orders that are placed before the deadline will have an extended returns and exchange policy until the start of the new school term in September. Use the **QR code**, online **www.saltouk.com** or call **01661 835240** to make an order.

Weather-Ready Reminder

As the weather becomes warmer (and sometimes changeable), please can we ask parents and carers to ensure children come to school prepared. Please can you ensure your child has a Sun hat or cap in their bag and that sun cream is applied at home before school. Children should not bring sun cream into school. We also ask that children have a lightweight raincoat with them, as weather conditions can change quickly during the school day. Thank you for your support in helping children stay comfortable and safe.



KIDS CLUB

Club	Teacher	Day/Time	Year Group
Mini Vinnies	Mrs Riches	Wednesday Lunch	All
Singing	Mrs Stansfield	Tuesday Lunch	All
Colouring Club	Miss Wright	Friday Lunch	All
Regenerators	Miss Stoves	Thursday Lunch	Y2 - 4
Football Club	Miss Carr	Thursday lunch	Rec- Y2
Curling	Mrs Stoves	Thursday 8.20am	All
Wellbeing	Mrs Stoves	Friday 8.20am	All

All clubs will start next week



Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday-School closed to pupils and staff.
Wednesday 6th May	KS2 Whole school Celebration of the Word-Mental Health Awareness Week- 9.30am in school hall. Parents/carers welcome to join us.
Thursday 7 th May	Be You Transition session 1 with Y4 pupils
Tuesday 12 th May	KS2 (Y3&Y4) Life Centre Trip (Lighting up the Future) <u>FREE TRIP</u> Your child will need a packed lunch on this day. If your child is FSM, they will be provided with a school packed lunch.
Wednesday 20 th May	Class Pentecost Celebration of the Word. Families welcome to join their child's class to participate in this event.
Wednesday 3 rd June	Y1 & Y2 Discovery Museum Trip - Payments of £15.00 are now live on Arbor, you can pay in installments or in full. Deadline of 2 nd June. School will provide a packed lunch for every child.
Wednesday 10 th June	KS1 Whole School Celebration onf the Word-Aspiration-9.30am in school hall. Parents/carers welcome to join us.
Tuesday 30 th June/Wednesday 1 st July	Hexham Abbey & Bowling Celebration
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 4 Trust Celebration of Sport Event-Gateshead Stadium. Further information to follow.



Friday 3 rd July	Reception Honest Farm Trip - Payments of £8.80 are now live on the Arbor app. The deadline for this payment is 19 th June. The children will return to school in time for their lunch.
Wk Beg 6 th July	Healthy Schools Week, including Sports Day. More information to follow.
Thursday 16 th July	Leavers Mass in school hall 9.30am. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.
Friday 17 th July	Y4 Talent Show in school hall 1.30pm. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.
Thursday 9 th July	Sports Day
Friday 10 th July	Back up Sports 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 these events. Please see rota below for details of dates for each class.

Friday 1 st May	Year 3
Friday 8 th May	Reception, Y1 & Y2 - CANCELLED



Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Millie	Lara	Lottie
Year 1	Sienna	Eli	Monica
Year 2	Isabel	Alfie L	Elsie
Year 3	Hazel	Austin	Noah
Year 4	Kacey	Leo	Gracie



Attendance Ted



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Reception	
Reception	100%
Year 1	88.89%
Year 2	97.53%
Year 3	98.89%
Year 4	96.83%

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

YouTube continues to be one of the most popular platforms for young people, offering a mix of entertainment, creativity and learning.

However, its vast content library and recommendation systems can also expose children to risks that are not always easy to spot.

Our latest #WakeUpWednesday guide highlights key concerns, including:

- Inappropriate or extreme content
- Interaction with strangers
- Risky trends and challenges
- The impact of short-form content

It also offers practical advice, such as using YouTube Kids, setting parental controls and watching content together.



www.stmaryshexham.bwcet.com



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