

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2026

Dear parent/carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at Sele Park on Monday morning to support the children on their Big Lent Walk. The turnout was fantastic, and the atmosphere even better! The hats and bonnets were absolutely amazing — such creativity and colour everywhere we looked! Well done to all the children for their brilliant walking and wonderful enthusiasm. Our Big Lent Walk target was to raise £150, and thanks to your generous donations & the children's efforts we raised an amazing £260! All donations go to CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, and are used to help vulnerable communities around the world.

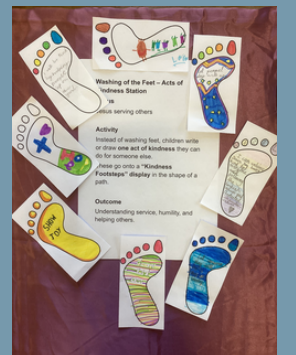
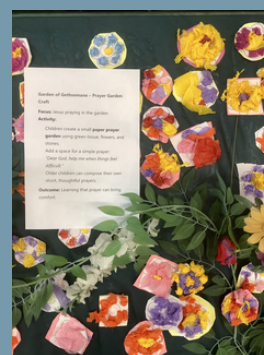
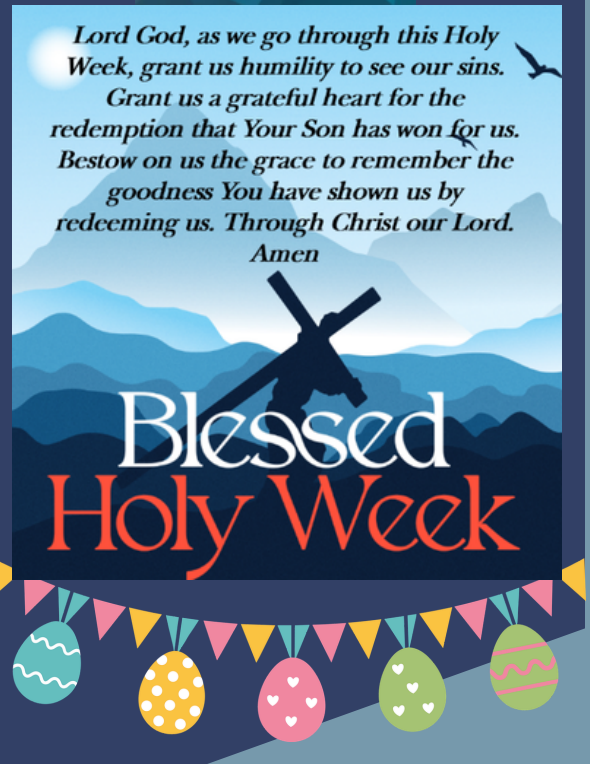
Thank you to everyone who supported and attended our Easter Fair last Friday – it was wonderful to see such an amazing turnout and a real sense of community throughout the afternoon. Thanks to the generosity of families, friends and staff, we are delighted to share that £509 was raised for the PTA. This fantastic total will help support enrichment opportunities, events and resources for our children.

This week, the children have taken part in a carousel of Holy Week activities, giving them the opportunity to learn about this very important time in the Christian calendar in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. Through reflection, storytelling, prayer and creative activities, the children explored the events of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Good Friday, and learned why Holy Week is a time of sacrifice, love and hope. The activities helped them to understand how Christians prepare for Easter and celebrate the message of Jesus' resurrection.

Year 4 have had a fantastic time away on their residential visit this week. The children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and courage, enjoying a wide range of exciting pursuits including zip lining, team challenges and outdoor activities. They showed resilience, independence and excellent teamwork throughout the trip, while creating wonderful memories together. We are very proud of the way they represented our school and I would like to thank Miss. Carr, Mrs. Monnelly & Mrs. Erving who supported them on this memorable experience.

May you have a blessed and joyful Easter, and we wish all our families a restful break. We look forward to seeing everyone again next term.

Mrs. Oakes



Holy Week



Easter Bonnet Parade and Big Lent Walk

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!



Easter Fair

Thank you to everyone who entered our Easter competitions and bought raffle tickets at our Easter Fair. Your support has been incredible! Please see our wonderful winners below – congratulations to you all! Thanks to your generosity, we raised a fantastic £509.00. What an amazing achievement!

A table titled "EASTER WINNERS" with two columns: "Prize" and "Winner". The table lists four prizes and their corresponding winners. The table is decorated with colorful Easter-themed icons at the top and bottom.

Prize	Winner
M & S Hamper	Loriea F
Easter Craft Hamper	Nathan W
Guess the Eggs	Adalyn C
Guess the Chick's Name	Luna P

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 on the first week back, a new list of clubs will be sent out when we return after the holidays.



Big Lent Walk



Weardale Trip



Easter Fair





Monday 20 th April	School opens at 8.40am for the start of the Summer term.
Tuesday 21 st April	Trust parents meeting at St. Mary's First School 3.45pm Trust meeting at St. Joseph's Middle School-5pm (All parents from either school are welcome to attend either of the above meetings)
Wednesday 6 th 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 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.
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.

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	Year 4
Friday 1 st May	Year 3
Friday 8 th May	Reception, Y1 & Y2



Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Catherine	Archie	Teddie
Year 1	Caleb	Eli	Laya
Year 2	Layton	William	Evie
Year 3	Lumen	Hazel	Austin
Year 4	TRIP	TRIP	TRIP



Attendance Ted



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Y3	
Reception	88.57%
Year 1	96.99%
Year 2	96.03%
Year 3	98.57%
Year 4	92.86%

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



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