ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 1ST MAY 2026

Dear parent/carers,

It has been another busy and enjoyable week in school. Years 1 and 2 had a fantastic time taking part in drumming workshops with Dan Ward, developing their rhythm, coordination and teamwork while having lots of fun.

Our extra-curricular clubs have also started this week, and it has been wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved and making the most of these opportunities. With the sun shining, the whole school has enjoyed a positive and uplifting start to the week, creating a lovely atmosphere for learning and play.

It has been lovely to see such a good uptake of our summer clubs. These clubs provide valuable opportunities for children to socialise, try new activities, build confidence and develop teamwork skills in a relaxed and supportive environment. Children who would like to join a club can simply let their class teacher know, and we will be happy to help them get involved. We are delighted to offer Curling Club on Thursday mornings at 8.20am for anyone who is interested. Curling helps pupils develop balance, coordination and strategic thinking, while also promoting cooperation, resilience and fair play. It is a fun way to start the day active, focused and ready to learn.

All families are warmly invited to join our school community on Wednesday 6th May for a whole-school Celebration of the Word to mark Mental Health Awareness Week. The celebration will take place at 9.30am in the main school hall (entrance via the rear fire exit door in the hall). Throughout the week in school, pupils will be taking part in a range of activities focused on wellbeing, kindness and positive mental health. These will include opportunities to talk about feelings, reflect calmly, and take part in creative activities such as pebble painting, where children will decorate pebbles with positive messages to share and spread kindness around our school community. We look forward to coming together as a community to celebrate, reflect and support one another.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

'We Love, We Learn, We Live as followers of Jesus'

CHILDREN'S PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Dear God,
Thank you for our school, our friends and all the people who care for us.
Help us to be kind to one another, to listen carefully and to do our best each day.
When things feel difficult, help us to stay calm and remember we are never alone.
Thank you for happy moments, for learning together and for having fun.
Amen.

All of the Summer clubs started this week

Y2 Drumming Lesson

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 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. A payment of £9 is now live on the Arbor app under 'trips'.

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.

SCAN ME

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 Vinnie's	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

SAVE THE DATE

Monday 4th 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 7th May	Be You Transition session 1 with Y4 pupils
Tuesday 12th May	KS2 (Y3&Y4) Life Centre Trip (Lighting up the Future) FREE TRIP 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 20th May	Class Pentecost Celebration of the Word. Families welcome to join their child's class to participate in this event.
Wednesday 3rd 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 2nd June. **School will provide a packed lunch for every child.**
Wednesday 10th June	KS1 Whole School Celebration onf the Word-Aspiration-9.30am in school hall. Parents/carers welcome to join us.
Tuesday 30th June/Wednesday 1st July	Hexham Abbey & Bowling Celebration - Payment of £9 is now live on the Arbor app. (Includes trip to Abbey about Anglo Saxons, bowling and a drink.)
Thursday 2nd July	Year 4 Trust Celebration of Sport Event-Gateshead Stadium. Further information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 3rd July	Reception Honest Farm Trip - Payments of £8.80 are now live on the Arbor app. The deadline for this payment is 19th June. The children will return to school in time for their lunch.
Wk Beg 6th July	Healthy Schools Week, including Sports Day. More information to follow.
Thursday 9th July	Sports Day
Friday 10th July	Back up Sports Day
Thursday 16th July	Leavers Mass in school hall 9.30am. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.
Friday 17th July	Y4 Talent Show in school hall 12.30pm. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.

Regenerators litter picking around the school yard

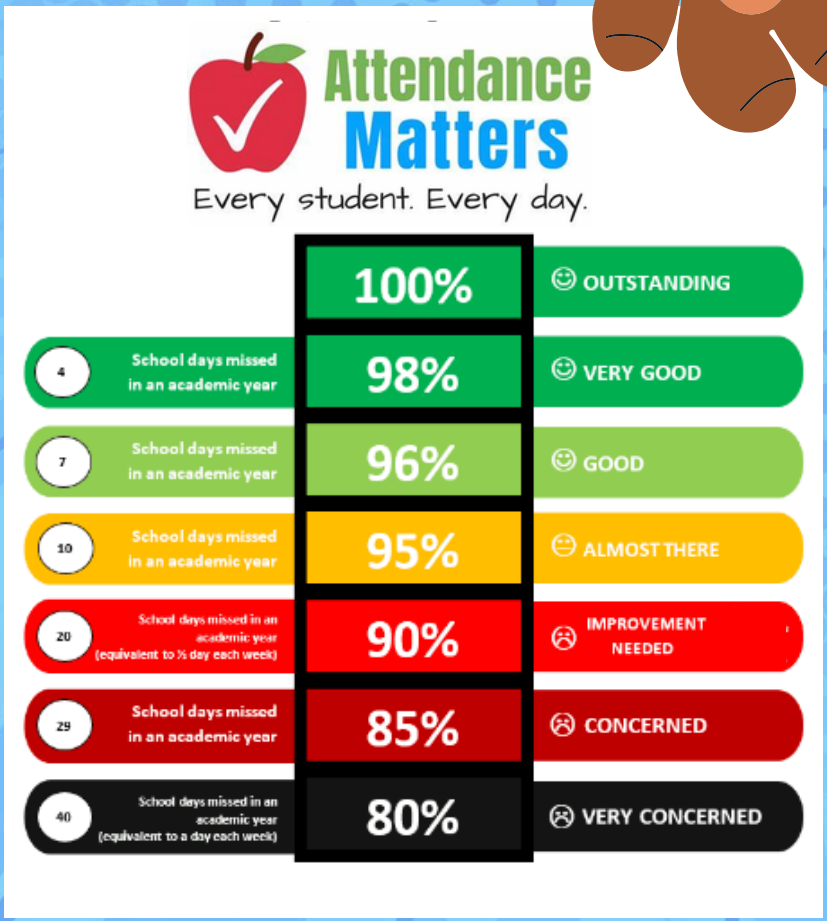
Church Class Masses

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 8th May	Reception, Y1 & Y2 - CANCELLED

Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Robson	Jasmine	Adalyn
Year 1	Charlie A	Monica	Keegan
Year 2	Erin	Penni	Jay
Year 3	Frankie	Raffy	Eabha
Year 4	Savva	Gracie	Frankie

Attendance Ted



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Reception	
Reception	100%
Year 1	98.83%
Year 2	97.53%
Year 3	99.44%
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

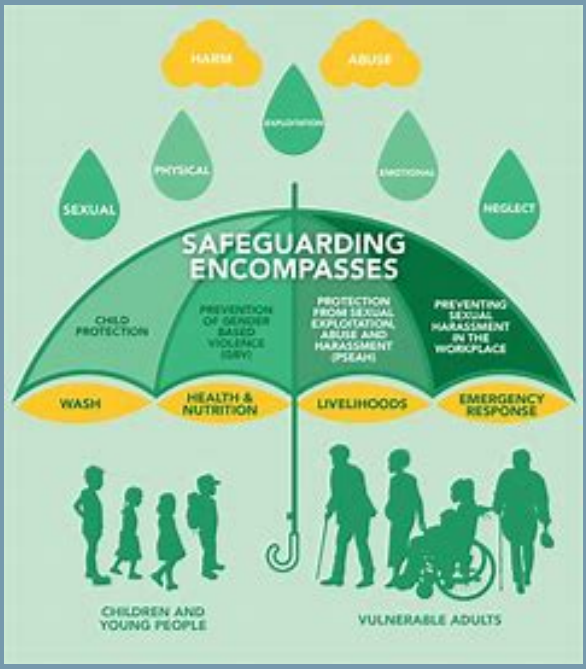
Assistant Safeguarding Lead-Mrs. Stoves

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

www.stmaryshexham.bwcet.com

@stmaryscatholicfirstschoolhexham

Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle