

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026

Dear parent/carers,

What an exciting and inspiring week it has been across school! We are delighted to share some of the wonderful experiences our pupils have enjoyed together.

Earlier this week, our Year 3 and 4 pupils had a fantastic opportunity to visit The Life Centre as part of the Lighting Up the Future programme. This enriching trip sparked curiosity and excitement as pupils explored interactive exhibits and developed their understanding of the world around them. The children represented the school beautifully, demonstrating enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and a real love of learning throughout the day. It was a brilliant experience and a memorable opportunity for all involved.

Wednesday was truly unforgettable as we welcomed Paul Sturges—Britain's Tallest Man, a Guinness World Record holder, and former Harlem Globetrotter—for our Wow Basketball Day. Pupils were inspired by Paul's incredible story, learning valuable lessons about embracing differences, building confidence, and showing resilience. His high-energy assembly, filled with basketball skills and interactive moments, captivated everyone and reinforced important messages about anti-bullying, healthy lifestyles and recognising our unique talents. It was a joyful and uplifting day, perfectly aligned with our focus on Mental Health Awareness.

We were also pleased to welcome our Year 1 parents and carers to the Phonics Workshop this week. During the session, we shared how phonics is taught in school, offered practical strategies to support reading at home, and provided guidance on the upcoming phonics screening check. We hope parents found the session informative and empowering, and we greatly value the strong partnership between home and school.

Finally, a gentle reminder that families are warmly invited to join their child's class next Wednesday, 20th May, to take part in their special Pentecost Celebration of the Word. Please see the timings below. We would also like to remind you about the Peer Mentor cake stall taking place next Friday, 22nd May (see details below). Thank you in advance for your support with donations and purchases.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes



A Prayer for Ascension Thursday

Dear Jesys,
On Thursday, it was
Ascension Thursday,
the day you went
up to heaven.
Thank you for sending
us your love and
for always being with us.
Help us to share your
love with other people.
Amen.

Basketball - Paul Sturges







KS2 CFL Visit



After School Basketball Club

We are delighted to offer an exciting **new after school basketball club**, run by Shooting Stars North East, to build on the enthusiasm following our recent special visit from Paul Sturgess. The children have shown great excitement about basketball, and we are pleased to provide this opportunity for them to get involved!

Club details:

-  Wednesdays
-  3:15pm – 4:15pm
-  No cost
-  Open to children in Years 2, 3 and 4

Dates: 3rd June, 10th June, 17th June, 24th June, 1st July, 8th July.

Please note that children are required to commit to all 6 sessions, as this will support their development and enjoyment of the programme. Places are limited to 20 children, so we expect high demand.

Please contact the school office to secure a space.



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



Year 3 Peer Mentors Cake Stall

Our Year 3 pupils took part in assembly this morning to share with the rest of the school their new roles as Peer Mentors. They spoke confidently about how they will support other children during the school day, helping to promote kindness, inclusion and friendship across our school. Next Friday 22nd May, the Peer Mentors will be holding a cake stall to raise funds for a Peer Mentor bus stop area in the playground, as well as to purchase yellow Peer Mentor sashes, which will help identify the Peer Mentor children on duty each day. We would be very grateful for any cake donations, which can be left at the school office. Children are also invited to bring some money to purchase a treat, with cakes priced at 50p each. We look forward to supporting their initiative and thank you in advance for your contributions.

Cricket Engagement Day

During our cricket engagement day, each class from Reception to Year 4, will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of engaging and age appropriate cricket activities. Sessions will be led by an enthusiastic and experienced coach, ensuring all children can enjoy learning new skills in a fun and supportive environment.

The aim of the day is not only to build confidence and enjoyment in cricket, but also to inspire more children to get involved in the sport beyond school, including at local clubs. We're looking forward to a fantastic day full of teamwork, energy, and fun!

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.

World Environment Day-Art Afternoon

We are delighted to invite you to join us for a special World Environment Day Art Afternoon on **Friday 5th June** from 2:00pm to 2:45pm. This will be a lovely opportunity for you to work alongside your child to create a piece of artwork to celebrate and reflect on this important global event. Together, we will be exploring themes linked to caring for our environment and thinking about how we can all make a positive difference. We hope you are able to join us for this creative and meaningful session—it promises to be a wonderful way to celebrate learning and community spirit. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you into school.

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).

Church Class Masses - TBC- 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.

Year 3-Hexham Abbey Visit & Bowling Celebration

Year 3 will be visiting Hexham Abbey on Tuesday 30th June 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 on Wednesday 1st July after lunch, 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'.

Parents Book Look & Career Showcase

We are delighted to invite you into school on **Tuesday 23rd June** and **Thursday 25th June**, from 3:20pm to 4:00pm, for our Book Look and Careers Showcase. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your child looking through their books and celebrating the progress they have made this year ahead of their end-of-year reports. You will also be able to see the fantastic work pupils have been completing around aspiration and careers, exploring their interests, ambitions and future possibilities. We are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm pupils have shown in this area and look forward to sharing their achievements with you. We hope you are able to join us for this special end-of-year celebration of learning.

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.

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.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

Are you ever worried about your child's behaviour and aren't sure how best to help? Do you want to better understand their needs and support them through those tricky times? These workshops help parents think about strategies and to come up with a plan that focuses on a good life for your child and your family.

NORTHUMBERLAND
Mondays 11th & 18th May and 1st June
10am - 2pm
Hexham Family Hub, Stewart Ave, Hexham, NE44 1D

Booking is essential. Please note you need to attend all 3 days of the course.

- I wish it was available for all parents.
- I loved hearing other people's views about the way we behave!
- I felt relaxed and supported.

If someone in your family is under 18, and is autistic, has a learning disability or is waiting for a diagnosis, return to a waiting list or a diagnosis, please come along.

To book your place, get in touch with Skills for People and call the EPS team. Tel: 0191 261 8722 or email: information@skillsforpeople.org.uk

Skills for People logo and other partner logos at the bottom.



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 13 th May	Wow Basketball Day-Y3 & Y4 may wear PE kit (Rec,Y1 & Y2 have PE kit in school)
Thursday 14 th May	Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop at 3.30pm.
Wednesday 20 th May	Class Pentecost Celebration of the Word. Families welcome to join their child's class to participate in this event.
Friday 22 nd May	Cricket Engagement Day-all classes throughout the day. KS2 wear school PE kit. Rec & KS1 change ins school.
Friday 22 nd May	Peer Mentor Cake Stall-cake donations much appreciated! Cakes sold at 50p each. Award Celebration Assembly, school closes at 3.15pm
Mon 25th-Fri 29 th May	May Half Tem Holiday
Monday 1 st June	School restarts 8.40am for Summer 2
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 5 th June	World Environment Day-Art Afternoon. Parents/carers invited into classes to join their child from 2:00-2:45pm
Wednesday 24 th June	KS1 Whole School Celebration onf the Word-Aspiration-9.30am in school hall. Parents/carers welcome to join us.
Wednesday 24 th June	Y4 Rounders afternoons at respective middle schools. School staff will escort pupils there and back during school day, no change to school poick-ip times.

23 rd & 25 th June	Look at Books/ Careers Showcase
Tuesday 30 th June/Wednesday 1 st 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 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 9 th July	Sports Day
Friday 10 th July	Back up Sports Day
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 12.30pm. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.

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





Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Lara	Millie	Archie
Year 1	Alexander	Laya	Sienna
Year 2	Josie	Alfie R	Alice
Year 3	Phuc	Freddie	Dani
Year 4	Leo	Esmee	Gracie



Attendance Ted



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Y1	
Reception	93.33%
Year 1	98.03%
Year 2	93.83%
Year 3	95.56%
Year 4	95.24%

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



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