

# ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

Dear parent/carers,

All families were 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. Throughout the week in school, pupils have taken part in a range of activities focused on wellbeing, kindness and positive mental health. These included opportunities to talk about feelings, reflect calmly, and take part in creative activities such as pebble painting, where children decorated pebbles with positive messages to share and spread kindness around our school community. We all enjoyed coming together as a community to celebrate, reflect and support one another.

This week, some of our Year 4 pupils have begun their transition visits to middle school. These visits are an important opportunity for the children to become familiar with their new environment and start to feel confident about the next stage in their education. In school, we have also been supporting pupils in talking about their thoughts and feelings around this move. Linked to Mental Health Awareness Week, we have encouraged open discussions about any worries or excitement, helping children to recognise that it is natural to feel a mixture of emotions during times of change. We are proud of how thoughtfully the children are approaching this transition and will continue to support them every step of the way.

Today, our pupils took part in a special live celebration assembly to mark Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. The children joined schools across the country to reflect on Sir David's incredible work and his lifelong dedication to protecting our planet. They thoroughly enjoyed being part of this inspiring event and learning more about the importance of caring for the world around us. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate such a significant milestone and to encourage our pupils to think about how they can make a positive difference in the future.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes



## A CHILD'S PRAYER

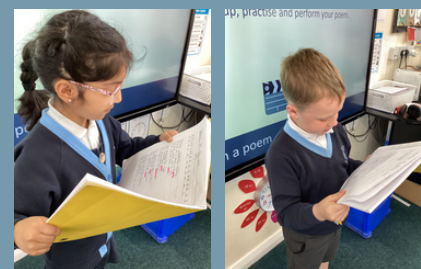
Dear God,  
Help me to care for my mind  
and heart each day.  
When I feel worried or upset,  
please calm my thoughts and  
give me your peace.  
May I be kind to others  
and to myself.

Amen

SJMS Transition Visit



Amazing Poetry by Y2



Y3 Mental Health Awareness Week



### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Wow Basketball Day**

On **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**, as part of our continued focus on Mental Health Awareness Week, we are excited to welcome Paul Sturges to school. At 7ft 8in, Paul is Britain's Tallest Man, a Guinness World Record holder, and a former Harlem Globetrotter. Paul will lead a Wow Basketball Day, sharing his inspiring story about embracing differences and building confidence and resilience. His assembly will combine basketball fun with key messages on anti-bullying, healthy lifestyles, growth mindset and recognising individual talents. Key stage 2 pupils are permitted to come to school in their PE kit on Wednesday (Rec & KS1 have their kit in school). We are sure this will be a memorable and uplifting experience for all pupils.

### **Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop**

We would like to warmly invite Year 1 parents and carers to our **Phonics Workshop on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm**. This workshop will provide guidance on how phonics is taught in school and share practical tips to help you support your child's reading at home. We will also explain what to expect from the upcoming phonics screening and provide helpful resources for you to take away.

### **Transition Support – Year 4(TBC)**

The BE YOU Team will be visiting Year 4 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.

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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'.

### **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 18<sup>TH</sup> 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.



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



Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> May	Wow Basketball Day-Y3 & Y4 may wear PE kit (Rec,Y1 & Y2 have PE kit in school)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop at 3.30pm.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Pentecost Celebration of the Word. Families welcome to join their child's class to participate in this event.
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> June. <b>School will provide a packed lunch for every child.</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	KS1 Whole School Celebration onf the Word-Aspiration-9.30am in school hall. Parents/carers welcome to join us.
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June/Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 4 Trust Celebration of Sport Event-Gateshead Stadium. Further information to follow.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Reception Honest Farm Trip - Payments of £8.80 are now live on the Arbor app. The deadline for this payment is 19 <sup>th</sup> June. The children will return to school in time for their lunch.
Wk Beg 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Healthy Schools Week, including Sports Day. More information to follow.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Back up Sports Day
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Mass in school hall 9.30am. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Talent Show in school hall 12.30pm. Parents/carers invited to attend this event. More information to follow.



Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Teddie	Loriea	Catherine
Year 1	Felicity	Lola	Max
Year 2	Evie	Myles	Felix
Year 3	Florence	Lumen	Jacob
Year 4	Leo	Ollie	Phoebe



### Attendance Ted



St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Y1	
Reception	97.5%
Year 1	98.68%
Year 2	97.22%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	90.18%

# 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](mailto:vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk)



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