

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE 2026

Dear parent/carers,

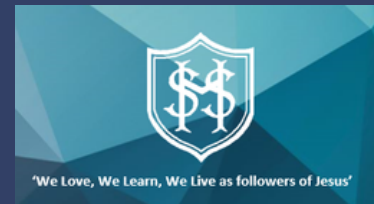
Thank you to Alison and Pat, members of the SVP group at St Mary's Parish, who joined our Mini Vinnies meeting on Wednesday. They shared many ways they support people in need in our local community. Our Mini Vinnies are feeling inspired after the visit!

Today, we were delighted to welcome our future pupils for the first of our Nursery transition visits for the new Reception 2026 cohort. It was wonderful to see the children beginning to explore their new environment, meet staff, and start building confidence and excitement about joining our school community. These visits are an important step in ensuring a happy and smooth transition, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for their upcoming sessions.

As we look ahead to welcoming our new starters, we are also thinking about our Year 4 pupils who will soon be leaving us. During the Leavers' Mass and Talent Show, we like to celebrate our children's final days at St Mary's in a special way. This year, we are hoping to create a PowerPoint presentation dedicated to our Year 4 leavers. We would love parents to support us by emailing in up to two photographs of their child—one from their first day at school and one from their most recent time with us. These will be included in an end-of-year presentation celebrating their journey through school. If you would like to contribute, please email photographs to info@smfs.bwcet.com by Friday 3rd July. Further Year 4 leavers' information is outlined below.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes



Visit from members of the SVP group at St Mary's Parish



Bag2School

If you have any clothing donations, please bring to the school office on Monday.

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: 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.

Visit to Local Care Home – Curling Activity

We are delighted to share that pupils from our Mini Vinnies and Curling Club have started taking their newly developed skills out into the community by visiting local care homes. As part of this initiative, the children are participating in friendly curling activities alongside residents, sharing their enthusiasm for the sport and creating meaningful intergenerational connections. This experience is providing a wonderful opportunity for pupils to engage with others, develop their social skills, and represent the school in a positive and respectful way. We are incredibly proud of their commitment to community involvement and look forward to seeing the joy this project will bring to everyone involved. Dates and times are listed below, letters have been sent to families of children involved.

Year 3 & 4 Cricket Festival

Following on from our recent cricket engagement day held in school, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils have been invited to Stocksfield Cricket Club to take part in an exciting cricket festival on **Tuesday 16th June**. This will be a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their skills, enjoy team activities and experience cricket in a community sports setting. Pupils are to come to school in their school PE kit. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle and a packed lunch to school.

KS1 Whole School Celebration of the Word

All families are welcome to join our school community on **Wednesday 24th 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).

KS2-Oliver Production visit to SJMS

We are delighted to share that our Key Stage 2 pupils have been kindly invited to St. Joseph's Middle School on the morning of **Wednesday 24th June** to watch the ****dress rehearsal of Oliver! ****. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to experience a live theatre performance and to support older pupils as they showcase their hard work and talent. We are very grateful to St. Joseph's for extending this invitation, and we are sure it will be an inspiring and memorable morning for all involved.

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.

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'.

Reception Class Trip-Honest Farm Friday 3rd July

Reception are extremely excited about their school trip to Honest Farm on Friday 3rd July. Please can you send your child to school in appropriate clothing, e.g shorts and trainers if it is hot, with their school t-shirt, jumper/cardigan on as normal. Can I ask that all children have suncream applied to them before the beginning of the school day and that they all bring a sun hat and water bottle with them. They will be back in time for lunch, lunches will be provided as normal from our school kitchen. Can any outstanding payments for the trip please be paid through the Arbor app.

SJMS 50th Anniversary Celebrations!

Our Key Stage 2 pupils have been kindly invited to St. Joseph's Middle School to take part in their 50th anniversary celebrations on **Friday 3rd July**. The children will enjoy a special picnic lunch as part of this significant milestone event, providing a wonderful opportunity to strengthen links within our community. We are very grateful to St. Joseph's for including us in their celebrations and look forward to what promises to be a memorable occasion.

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust 'Celebration of Sport'

This event is being held on **Thursday 2 July 2026** at Gateshead International Stadium. Over 1,200 pupils from our Trust are being invited to take part, including Year 4 pupils from each Trust primary school. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in a range of sports and activities in an internationally recognised arena. We are inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution of £1 towards the children's t-shirts. Payment's are now live in 'School Shop' on the Arbor app.

LEAVERS INFORMATION:

To celebrate their final days at St Mary's, there will be a range of activities taking place for Year 4:



Year 4 leaver photographs

During the Leavers Mass and Talent Show we like to celebrate the children's final days at St Mary's. We are hoping to create a special PowerPoint presentation dedicated to our year 4 leavers. We are inviting parents of Year 4 to email in pictures of their child on the first and last day of School (maximum 2 photographs please). This will be displayed in an end of year presentation celebrating their time throughout school. If you have any photos you wish to contribute, please email them to info@smfs.bwcet.com by Friday 3rd July.

Pizza/Tea Party Wednesday 15th July 1pm Year four will have a class tea party/ pizza party where each child in the class can bring in a donation of party food to enjoy together.

Shirt Signing Wednesday 15th July AM - Children are invited to bring a spare school t-shirt/shirt into school, to get signed by peers. Please note, children who do not bring a spare school t-shirt, will not be permitted to have the shirt they are wearing signed.

Leavers Mass Thursday 16th July 9:30am Leavers Mass in the school hall. Parents and carers are invited into school to celebrate their child's first school journey.

Talent Show Friday 17th July 12:30pm

Year 4 will be hosting a talent show in the school hall. Children who wish to perform, will showcase their talent to the whole school as well as their parents and carers. Following the talent show, there will be a PowerPoint presentation dedicated to our year 4 leavers. Following the talent show, parents and carers are welcome to take their child home.

Sports Day Dates

We appreciate that many families like to spectate at our annual Sport's Day event and may need to book time of work in advance in order to attend. This year we aim to hold Sport's Day on **Thursday 9th July from 1.30pm**, finishing before home time at approximately 3:00pm. As we can never rely on British weather, we have also booked in a second provisional 'back-up' day just in case the weather gets the better of us. The second 'back-up' date is Friday 10th July, also from 1:30pm.

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. We would like to remind all families that, in line with Bishop Wilkinson Trust policy, all school meal accounts must remain in credit. Meal monies should be added to your child's account in advance of the school week to ensure there are sufficient funds available.

Please note that no account should fall into a negative balance. We kindly ask that you check your child's account regularly and top up as needed using the school's payment system.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us manage the school catering service effectively.

Swimming Y3 & Y4

Please can you ensure that the final 'Swimming Summer Term' payment is paid on Arbor.



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.

12 th & Wed 17 th June	Mini Vinnies & Curling Club local Care Home Visits: 17 th June 2026 - Acomb Court - 2.00 - 2.45pm
15 th June	Bag2School collection. Please bring any donations of clothing, shoes, bags, scarves & socks on Monday 15 th June.
Fri 12 th , Fri 19 th & Fri 26 th June	9.30-11am Reception '26 starters-series of 3 nursery visits to St. Mary's.
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 3 & 4 Cricket Festival at Stocksfield Cricket Club.
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 pick-up times.
Wednesday 24 th June	KS2 to SJMS to see Oliver dress rehearsal-9.45am
Wednesday 24 th June	KS2 to respective middle schools for rounders afternoon-SMFS staff will escort pupils to these events, returning by th end of the school day.
23 rd & 25 th June	Look at Books/ Careers Showcase 3.20-4:00pm

Tuesday 30 th June/Wednesday 1 st July	Year 3 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.
Friday 3 rd July	SJMS 50 th Anniversary-KS2 join SJMS for celebratory picnic
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.
Tues 7 th July	Hexham Partnership Transfer Day
Thursday 9 th July	Sports Day-1.30pm start time.
Friday 10 th July	Back up Sports Day (1:30pm start)
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 4: AM - Shirt Signing & 1pm - Pizza/Tea Party
Thursday 16 th July	1.30pm- Food Road Show
Thursday 16 th July	Leavers Mass in school hall 9.30am. Parents/carers invited to attend this event.
Friday 17 th July	Y4 Talent Show in school hall 12.30pm. Parents/carers invited to attend this event.
Friday 17 th July	School closes at 1.30pm in line with Hexham Partnership.



Class	WE LOVE	WE LEARN	WE LIVE
Reception	Lara	Archie	Loriea
Year 1	Luna	Eli	Molly
Year 2	Lizzie	Erin	Josie
Year 3	Lumen	Grace	Jenson
Year 4	Frankie	Phoebe	Leo



Attendance Ted



	100%	😊 OUTSTANDING
4	98%	😊 VERY GOOD
7	96%	😊 GOOD
10	95%	😊 ALMOST THERE
20	90%	😞 IMPROVEMENT NEEDED
29	85%	😞 CONCERNED
40	80%	😞 VERY CONCERNED

St. Mary's Class Attendance Winners- Well done - Y2	
Reception	95.56%
Year 1	91.23%
Year 2	98.15%
Year 3	90.56%
Year 4	92.86%

St Mary's Church Mass



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 or 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 19 th June	CANCELLED Y2 Mass
Friday 26 th June	Rec & Y1 Mass
Thursday 16 th July	Y4 Leavers Mass - School Hall at 9.30am

All clubs will remain the same this half term, please note- no clubs on the last week of term



Club	Teacher	Day/Time	Year Group
Mini Vinnie's	Mrs Riches	Wednesday Lunch	All
Basketball After School	Shoot Stars North East	Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm	Y2-Y4 <u>Only 5 spaces left!</u>
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

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



Wake up Wednesday
Sports betting has become increasingly visible online, appearing across apps, websites, social media, sports coverage and gaming spaces.
Even when young people are not legally old enough to gamble, they may still encounter betting messages through adverts, influencers, tipsters, friends or adult accounts.



www.stmaryshexham.bwcet.com



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