



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – Friday 17th March, 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue our Lent journey we have taken part in the 'Wait a Minute' series, a well-appreciated resource from across the diocese where individuals and schools are tuning in to watch, reflect and pray together each day, with a short video reflection. St. Mary's offered to lead a couple of video reflections this year. Well done to Charlie and Ellie from year 2 for their fantastic contributions on the 13th & 28th March. To see them both in action please follow this link:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_whhZ8gzYZ2dRYstN34mfbtaJOuOdgWL

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we will be holding our St. Mary's Easter Fair on Wednesday 29th March, raising funds for our PTA and ultimately the children of St. Mary's. Please can we ask for donations of toys, gift bags, bric-a-brac, teddies, books etc. All donations can be sent in with the children or left at the main school office in a bag labelled Easter Fair. Each year group will be responsible for a stall at the Easter Fair, so individual teachers have made their requests for donations as follows:

Reception	Guess the name of the bunny - Donations of sweets for the winner will be greatly appreciated!
Year 1	Pin the tail on the bunny. If children could bring in any prize donations such as an Easter egg, chocolate coins or sweets. These donations will be used to make up 3 different prize bags.
Year 2	Easter stall will be a chance to win hundreds of delicious Mini Eggs. Donations of Mini Eggs are requested please. All you need to do is guess how many are in the jar and the nearest guess wins the whole lot!
Year 3	Year 3 will be holding a 'Hook a bag' stall at the Easter Fair. We are looking for donations of teddy bears, stationary, sweets and other small items as well as gift bags.
Year 4	Decorate your own Easter biscuit. Donations of digestive biscuits, icing sugar sprinkles etc. will be gratefully received!

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to support us as we take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk! The children have told me that they are collecting lots of sponsors, with one child already raising over £80! Every £1 you raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. As a school we are hoping to raise £150 if possible. Please follow the link to our donation page or complete the paper sponsor form your child has brought home, sending in any sponsorship money raised once the we have completed 'The Big Lent Walk':




<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/s-oakes>

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

Mission Statement Value Award Winners:

If you would like to celebrate your child’s achievements out of school and would like us to give them a mention in Celebration Assembly on a Friday, then simply fill out one of the Mission Statement Value Cards that have been sent home with your child or ask for one at our school office. We love to hear about all the children’s wonderful achievements, both in school and out!

Class			
Reception	Nyla	Austin	Nathan
Year 1	Riley	Gracie	Frankie
Year 2	Marcus	Ella	Parker
Year 3	Harley V	Spike	Daniel
Year 4	Eliza	Brody	Isaac K

Attendance Ladder



Star attenders this week:
Year: Y1

St. Mary’s class attendance this week:

Reception	93.3
Year 1	93.4
Year 2	90.9
Year 3	88.0
Year 4	89.6

Arbor Education

As you are aware, St. Mary's is proud to be part of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. Following a recent, significant, contract change imposed by one of our current contractors, a working party, which included primary representation, was established to identify what a new, 'fit for purpose' Management Information System (MIS) would look like. A robust tender process was undertaken, and Arbor Education was awarded the contract to be our new MIS provider, from 31st March 2023.

The MIS is a computer system which is used to hold and manage your child's school records. These records include their contact details, next of kin, attendance, educational and medical information. All schools have a statutory obligation to hold and manage this information. **A letter with a parental contact information form has been given to your child today.**

The form for each child at St Mary's must be checked and returned to the school office by Friday 24th March. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Mini Vinnies

The next Mini Vinnie session will be on **Monday 20th March 3.00 - 4.00pm**

World Down Syndrome Day

On March 1st we took part in the Sunflower Challenge for Down Syndrome UK. As part of a countdown to World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st we planted Sunflower Seeds. For 21 days we will be watching them take root and grow. Each child, just like our Sunflowers, grows and blooms in different ways. Children will then be able to take their Sunflower home to continue to watch it grow. To make a donation to support Down Syndrome UK please scan the QR code on the 'Countdown to World Down Syndrome Day' poster that was sent home last week. Alternatively, we have a poster on the front door of school if you are unable to locate your poster.

Easter Bonnets

On Wednesday 29th March, St. Mary's will take part in an Easter bonnet parade. The children will make their Easter bonnets in school during their art lessons. Please could all hats and craft materials be brought into school in a named bag no later than Monday 20th March.

Football Club

Starting after the easter holidays year 2 are invited to take part in our football club with Mr Flynn. The club will start on Tuesday 18th April 3-4pm. Please could you ring and let the office know if your child would like to take part. PE / football kit can be brought into school for the children to change into at 3pm.

Dates for Diary:

Mini Vinnies	Monday 20th March 3.00 - 4.00pm
Easter bonnet making materials need to be in school (in a named bag) by this date	Monday 20th March
World Down Syndrome Day - Children take part in related activities in school.	Tuesday 21st March
Easter Bonnet Parade - More details to follow. Parents invited.	Wednesday 29th March 9.15am
Easter Fair - All welcome. Further details to follow.	Wednesday 29th March - 3.10pm

Safeguarding

Our e-safety focus in school this month is 'Managing Online Information'. Throughout this module the children will learn strategies for effective searching, critical evaluation and ethical publishing. Gaining insight on things like having an awareness that not all opinions online are shared or accepted by others, how to use search technologies safely and how to identify, flag and report inappropriate content. For help, advice and resources for parents/carers please take a look at:

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/reliability-online/>

Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs. Oakes

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Miss. Baird

Assistant safeguarding Lead: Mrs. Stoves

SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo: Mrs Dotchin & 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 603 791) or by email (admin@hexhamstmarys.uk)