



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter Friday 3rd March, 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see the children all back in school discussing their half term adventures. Our Regenerators Club started off the week holding their first ever whole school assembly all about our CAFOD Live Simply Award. The LiveSimply award is earned by communities and schools who can show how they have been living; simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably with creation. It helps the community to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

This week in school we have joined CAFOD's Big Lent Walk! Our school community is joining thousands of others to help fight extreme poverty by walking 200km over Lent. As a school our aim is to walk 4000 metres (about 2.5 miles) a week, the equivalent to approximately 5 laps around our school yard every day! We are also hoping to complete a whole school walk around Sele Park during the last week of the spring term in a bid to raise £150 for CAFOD. CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Further details at cafod.org.uk/walk/

We would love as many families to support the children as they take up 'The Big Lent Walk' challenge. 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 we have completed 'The Big Lent Walk':

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

Thursday was World Book Day. The children and staff of St. Mary's looked fabulous dressed up as their favourite book characters. We had a visit from Cogito books of Hexham, who read each class a story before giving children the opportunity to spend their World Book Day token on a book of their choice. Our year 3 children were read to virtually by KS5 students from another of our Trust schools at St. Roberts. They took part in activities and listened to extracts from Joanne Nadin's 'The Worst Class in the World'.




Unfortunately, it has not been a great week for Miss. O'Shea who has sustained a broken foot and a broken leg after taking a nasty fall on her way home from work earlier this week. Miss. O'Shea is in good spirits and says she is still smiling despite her injuries. We are sending our thoughts and prayers to Miss. O'Shea for a speedy recovery.

Best wishes,

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	Mikey	Dani-Skye	Freddie
Year 1	Kaciey	Phoebe	Charlotte
Year 2	Skylar	Oli	Charlie
Year 3	Archie M	Daniel R	Tyler
Year 4	James	George	Delilah

Attendance Ladder



Star attenders this week:
Year:Y1

St. Mary's class attendance this week:

Reception	93.5%
Year 1	94.4%
Year 2	92.6%
Year 3	88.0%
Year 4	93.1%

World Book Day



Mini Vinnies

We would like to invite our Mini Vinnie volunteers to attend two meetings this half term from 3:00-4:00pm
We will be focusing on our school 'Year Of Mary' mission and how we can turn our concerns into Action.

We would like to invite our Mini Vinnies to the following sessions:

Monday 6th March 3.00 - 4.00pm

Monday 20th March 3.00 - 4.00pm

Science Week

British Science Week is taking place from the 13th-17th March. British Science Week is a week of celebrating science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). This year's theme is 'Connections'. Nearly all innovations in science, technology, engineering and maths are built on connections between people; two (or more) heads are better than one, after all! But as well as exploring the importance and joy in connections between individual scientists, research groups and institutions, you could discover the different ways connections appear across all areas of science. Over the coming weeks, your child may come home with stickers on their jumpers where they have been recognised as demonstrating one of the 16 STEM attributes that make a fantastic STEM scientist such as organised, tenacious, observant etc. during Science Week the children will then put all their attributes to good use in taking part in a variety of STEM related activities throughout the week.

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. **Today you will have been sent a 'Countdown to World Down Syndrome Day' poster with a QR code that can be scanned to make a donation to support Down Syndrome UK.** On 21st March, children will have the opportunity to take part in activities to learn more about Down syndrome and celebrate that we all are special and unique. Down Syndrome UK works hard to raise public awareness, advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with Down syndrome. So as well as having some fun growing sunflowers, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to raise funds for this amazing charity, helping them to continue to empower, enlighten and educate families and professionals involved in all children's care and education.

Year Four Residential

Thank you for all of the contributions received so far towards year four's residential trip. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that if you would like your child to attend, the deposit needs to be paid by Monday 6th March at the latest. This will allow us to confirm numbers. Please note, if there are not enough pupils interested in attending this residential, unfortunately the trip will not be able to go ahead.

For more information about the trip, please visit the following website:

<https://moor-house.org.uk/>

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.

Art Day

St. Mary's thoroughly enjoyed their Art Day on Wednesday. This time they took part in a design and technology themed day, where the children designed, made and evaluated a product linked to their class story book. Thank you so much to all of the parents and carers who came along to school and supported their child in making their product. I hope you enjoy our photos!



Fairtrade Fortnight-Regenerators

This week marks the start of Fairtrade fortnight, on Wednesday 8th March our Eco-council will be holding a fairtrade bake sale. As part of homework this week, we are asking children to bake using at least 1 fairtrade ingredient. Please bring your treats into school by or on Wednesday 8th March.

Tennis Morning

On Monday 6th March we have a tennis coach visiting school, all children will be involved in tennis workshops throughout the school day. Please can all children attend school that day wearing their P.E kits and bring a suitable waterproof jacket along with a bottle of water.

Dates for Diary:

Arts Day Parents invited in PM - timings to be confirmed	Wednesday 1st March
Fairtrade cake sale-please donate cakes to sell and give children some change in order to buy cakes.	Wednesday 8th March
Mini Vinnies	Monday 6th March 3.00-4.00pm
Tennis Morning All children to attend wearing their school PE kit	Monday 6th March
Easter Bonnet Parade-More details to follow. Parents invited.	Wednesday 29th March 9.15am

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)