



## St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter – Friday 14th July 2023



*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

The penultimate week of the school year has certainly been eventful! The children were amazing at Sport's Day, and it was great to see so many parents and carers in attendance. A huge thanks must go to the PTA for the refreshments and organising the raffle. Prize winners are due to be drawn after school today, under the entrance canopy.



Years 3 & 4 had a great afternoon bowling on Thursday and this afternoon Years 1, 2 and 3 also enjoyed an afternoon at the bandstand taking part in the Wilding Theatre Project at Sele Park. The Wilding Theatre is an extraordinary outdoor theatre adventure for school aged children.



Despite all our end of year commitments, I am incredibly proud of all the children and staff at St. Mary's who were so warm and welcoming to our OFSTED visitors this week, fitting in sporting events and trips around lots of other commitments. You were all a credit to the school!

As we move towards the end of the term, we have to say some farewells to staff that are leaving St. Mary's at the end of the term. Miss Watt, Mrs. Newton and Mr. Flynn are leaving us at the end of term. Miss. Newton and Mr. Flynn are pursuing their teaching careers. We wish them all every success in their future careers.

A special mention also has to be made to Frances Barron and Kathleen Longstaff who are both retiring at the end of next week. Kathleen has been a cleaner at St. Mary's for 21 years, Kathleen always cheers us up at the end of each day with her funny stories and her ongoing battles with the Hoover! Frances Barron has been a lunch time supervisor at St. Mary's for 13 years and has reluctantly been persuaded by her husband that it's time to hang up her whistle and enjoy more of their retirement time together. Frances is completely invested in the children of St. Mary's; her winning smile and sunny disposition are infectious, and we will miss her warmth at lunch time. We wish Kathleen and Frances all the best in their well-deserved retirements, you will both be sorely missed.



Kathleen



Frances

Finally, your child(ren) will be bringing home their end of year academic report today. I know you will be immensely proud reading about all your child's hard work and achievements. Each child will take home one copy of their report today, duplicate copies of pupil reports will be available for collection from the school office this afternoon for any parents/carers who require them. Any such reports not collected will be sent to parents in the post. Please can we ask that parents/carers complete the attached form and return it to school next week to acknowledge receipt of your child's report. As a staff team we would like to thank you as parents for the continuing support and encouragement you have given us and, most importantly, the children over this academic year.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

#### **Hexham Abbey-A Peaceful World-Singing project**

We are sending out a leaflet to accompany this week's newsletter promoting Hexham Abbey's Festival due to take place in September. We would particularly like to draw your attention to the 'Joint Schools Project' being held in Hexham Abbey on **September 21st**. Fiona Lander is leading this year's festival singing project with young people from local schools, including St. Mary's KS2 children, to mark United Nations World Peace Day. The event will take place between 10.30am and midday with parents and the general public are invited to attend the performances. Entry will be free.

#### **Reading Books**

Please can all reading books/library books be returned to school before the end of term. No new books will be issued before the autumn term.

#### **Year 4 Leaver's Mass**

Year 4 Leaver's mass will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am. Parents /carers can enter via the fire exit door at the back of the hall from 9.25am. We politely request that no photos or videos are taken during the Mass for safeguarding purposes.

#### **Account Balances**

Please can we ask that any outstanding balances are paid as soon as possible.

#### **School Uniform**

**All children are expected to wear school uniform when they attend school, even in the current warm weather. Year 3 & 4 are permitted to wear their school PE kit on Monday & Tuesdays and only when attending sporting events. Trainers are not permitted on days when the children do not have P.E. Thank you for your cooperation with this.**

Salto our school uniform provider, has requested that any school uniform orders required are ordered **before Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July** to guarantee them in time for September.

ORDER ONLINE – [www.saltouk.com](http://www.saltouk.com)

Email – [enquiries@saltouk.com](mailto:enquiries@saltouk.com)

Tel – 01661 835240

#### **Weather**

The weather has been rather variable of late. We have been fortunate enough to have been blessed with warmer weather but do experience unexpected downpours on occasion. Please can we advise parents check the weather forecast before school and ensure children have sun cream applied before attending school and bring a waterproof, as children do continue to play outdoors if it is drizzling. Please can we also ask that children are provided with a hat or cap and a water bottle throughout the summer term.

#### **Year 4 Leavers & Talent Show**

In anticipation of the Year 4 leavers celebrations, please can parents provide two pictures of their child from different stages of their educational journey, for an end of year presentation. Please can all photos be sent into school using the following address: [parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com](mailto:parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com)

Additionally, on the last day of term it is tradition for parents and carers to come alone to the year 4 leavers Talent Show. Parents are welcome to watch the Talent Show on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 1.30pm (fire doors at the back of the hall will open for access from 1.25pm). Following the Talent Show parents are welcome to take their child home but are also welcome to leave them in school until the usual collection time of 3pm.

**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	Noah	Mikey	Eabha
Year 1	Charlotte	Riley	Phoebe
Year 2	Oli	Juliette	Marcus
Year 3	Freddie. S	Alfie	Ollie. A
Year 4	Charlie	Layton	Sophia

## Attendance Ladder



### St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:  
Year – Reception!

<u>Reception</u>	95.45%
<u>Year 1</u>	94.21%
<u>Year 2</u>	94.44%
<u>Year 3</u>	93.43%
<u>Year 4</u>	89.3%

Extra-Curricular Club - No clubs will be running during the last week of term.

### Diary Dates

Year 4 Leavers Mass (In school-parents/carers invited)	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 9.30am
Y4 Talent Show (In school-parents/carers invited)	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 1.30pm
Last day of academic year	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 3:00pm

## **Safeguarding**

Our e-safety focus in school during June & July is 'Copyright & Ownership'. Children will be made aware that deliberately infringing copyright can be a criminal offence. Just because something is found freely on the internet, doesn't mean it's free to download, distribute or use. For help, advice and resources for parents/carers please take a look at:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/webinars/an-introduction-to-online-copyright-ownership#>

### **Pupil Support & Safeguarding**

**Designated safeguarding Lead-** Mrs. Oakes

**Deputy safeguarding Lead-**Miss. Baird

**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](mailto:info@smfs.bwcet.com))