



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –  
Friday 21st July 2023

*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of the academic year. The children have all worked extremely hard this year and deserve a well-earned rest over the summer holidays. Today, we say goodbye to our Year 4 children and wish them every success in their transition to middle school, it was lovely to see so many parents at our Leaver's Mass on Tuesday. This afternoon, Year 4 have displayed their wealth of talents in our annual Talent Show. A great way to end their time at St. Mary's, we all wish them every success in their educational journey.



Finally, we also say farewell to Miss Watt, Mr. Flynn, Miss. Newton and wish them all the best in their future careers. The children and staff have also given Mrs. Barron and Miss. Longstaff a fab send-off as they start their start their well-earned retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the children and staff for their continued help and support throughout my first year as Headteacher at St. Mary's, I feel truly blessed to work with such amazingly dedicated individuals. Finally, I would also like to thank you as parents & carers for the continued support and encouragement that you have given to both the staff and children throughout the year. Our children's education is a partnership, and I am grateful that we can support the children's progress in working together so closely.

I hope you all have an amazing summer, spending time with family and friends and making fantastic memories. I look forward to welcoming those returning to St. Mary's on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Wishing you all lovely summer,

Mrs. Oakes

### **Revised Timings of School Day**

In March 2022, the Department for Education set out the government's expectation that all schools should deliver a minimum school week of 32.5 hours by September 2023.

Our school, along with a number of other schools in the local area and across the Trust, is making some minor changes to the school week to comply with this expectation.

September 2023:

- Start of school day **8.45am** (Gates open at **8.40am**)
- End of school day **3.15pm**

From September we are introducing a 'Soft Start' to the school day. As such, key staff will be outside from the earlier time of 8.40am. All children will enter school via the main entrance (and not line up on the yard) from 8.40am onwards. Class teachers will remain in their classrooms and will greet the children at the classroom door. This will ensure a calm start to the school day, ensuring that learning can start promptly from 8.45am when the school day starts.

### **Inhalers**

Children with inhalers will bring their school inhaler home today. Please can any children requiring an inhaler bring a spare one (to remain in school) when school starts again in September.

### **Wild Passport**

In September, pupils in years 1-4 will take part in WILD Passport once a week. Wild passport is an outdoor learning curriculum with fully realized progressive skills. The WILD Passport provides children with weekly outdoor learning opportunities, taught by outdoor education experts. As such, we advise that children in years 1-4 have a pair of wellingtons and/or some sturdy walking boots and a waterproof coat in preparation for this. The sessions are due to take place each Tuesday.

### **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.

## **Ready, Set, Read**



Just a reminder that local libraries are launching their 'ready, Set, Read!' challenge for the summer. This year, the theme is sport and there will be fantastic games and activities being run in libraries over the holidays, you can take part by joining your local library. There are certificates and medals to be won! Follow this link for further information: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

## **Shoe Box Appeal**

Over the summer holidays many children will be getting new school shoes. Please can we ask that any shoe boxes are retained and brought into school at the start of the autumn term. We are hoping to take part in Operation Christmas Child during the autumn term, it would be great to have lots of boxes to get started with.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

## **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.**

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

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

Tel – 01661 835240

**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	Beauden	Evie
Year 1	Miya	George	Heidi
Year 2	Archie	Ava	Joe
Year 3	Tyler	Alex	Spike
Year 4	Sebby	Lilly	Delilah

## Attendance Ladder



### St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:  
Year – Year 3!

<u>Reception</u>	95.17%
<u>Year 1</u>	94.47%
<u>Year 2</u>	94.83%
<u>Year 3</u>	95.22%
<u>Year 4</u>	91.74%

### Diary Dates

Teacher Training Day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Autumn Term begins for pupils	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September

### **Safeguarding in the summer Holidays**

In the summer holidays children have more free time to spend with friends, family and online. Please follow the link below for advice and tips on how to ensure your child stays safe online over the summer holidays, and how as a parent/carer you can support with this:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/staying-safe-online-in-the-summer-holidays>

#### **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))