



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 29th September 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely starting each day this week with parents in school as part of our 'Blast off with Books' early bird sessions each morning. The children loved spending time reading their favourite stories before the start of the school day. On Thursday, all the St. Mary's school community joined in to welcome our new Reception starters at our whole school Welcome Mass.



We ended the week holding our annual coffee afternoon to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Care. Thank you for all the donations of cakes and for contributing so generously. Next Thursday 5th October, is Census Day in schools, which is an important day for school meal funding. Our Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust want to celebrate our wonderful family together and hold a "Trust Celebration" where every school meal is **FREE** for **all** children (please see menu below). Please contact the office by Tuesday 3rd October if you do not wish your child to eat the free school lunch next Thursday. We are combining the Trust's theme of the day '**Heroes and Superheroes**' with our annual '**Brighten Up**' fast day. As a school, we are currently collecting non-perishable items for 'The People's Kitchen' in Newcastle. As such, we are inviting children and staff to come to school dressed in their brightest clothes and/or as their favourite superhero with children being asked to contribute any donations of dried goods such as tinned food items, sauces, pasta, rice, toiletries, cleaning products and pet food etc to this good cause. Please give generously.

"Lord, teach us to be kind in heart, so that love, grace, and charity flow forth like a river. Give us a generosity that reflects your own, through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Finally, we want to invite all parents/carers to come along and look at your child's books after school from 3.20-4pm next Tuesday and Wednesday (3rd & 4th Oct) in readiness for the first Parents Evenings of the year the following week. The children's books will be left on their desks for you to look through with your child. The children are looking forward to showing off all their hard work!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Oakes



Football News!

On Monday evening, two of our year 3 children, Oliver and Parker who play for Hexham Milan U8's Sunday Team, represented their club at Newcastle United's Academy. They were unbeaten against three U7 teams, with a really strong performance in the final game. A great experience for the boys, and no doubt one they will always remember.



Super Hero Census Day



It will take place on **Thursday 5th October** 2023. The theme for the day is Superhero's and we would encourage you all to dress up as a super hero.

The trust are offering to pay for lunches of the children in Y3 & Y4 who have either packed lunch or a paid school dinner.

Census day-Free School Meal Day Menu:

The free MENU for Thursday 5th October will include a selection of the following:

- Selection of Pizza
- Sausage Roll Bites
- Chicken or Quorn Nuggets
- Potato Wedges & Dips
- Selection of Sandwiches & Wraps
- Vegetable Sticks & Humous
- Scrumptious Salad Bar
- Fresh Fruit
- Ice Cream Pots

Year 4 Class Mass

Fri 6th Oct 9.30am-St. Mary's Catholic Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend.



All Creatures Great & Small

As a school we are taking part in an exhibition held at St. Mary's Catholic Church called 'All Creatures Great & Small'. During the weekend of the 13th-15th October an exhibition of work produced by parishioners, children, staff (and anyone who wants to!) will be displayed at the Church, all about animals. In school, the children have been given the opportunity to create some work for the exhibition based on any animal that is/has been special to them or someone they know and/or a funny story about an animal etc. If children would like to bring any photos of their pets to go alongside this work, they are welcome to. On Sunday the 15th of October at 4pm, Fr. Jeff will be holding a short service outside of St. Mary's Church where families are invited to bring along their precious pets for a special blessing. All families, friends and pets of St. Mary's are invited to attend this event.

First Reconciliation & Holy Communion Preparation 2023-24 for St Mary's Y4 pupils

Following the summer break, our parish community at Saint Mary's will begin to prepare children for First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion. This programme of preparation is open to all baptised Catholic children in Year Four and above.

Should you judge your child to be ready to make this important step, please could you indicate your interest by completing the slip below and returning it to the Presbytery/Parish Office as soon as possible.

Please find information below regarding the **Pre.Loved** First Holy Communion shop where you can borrow outfits free of charge and donate pre-worn First Holy Communion dresses.

Bikeability

Year 4 have been booked in to take part in Bikeability on Wednesday 25th October. In order to take part in this bike safety course, each child must have a bike which is road worthy along with a suitable safety helmet. Please contact the Miss. Baird if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Free School Meals

Universal free school meals - All pupils in reception, year one, and year two are entitled to a free meal, without having to apply for this option.

Eligibility for free school meals - The government has made amendments to the eligibility criteria since April 2018. This is to reflect the introduction of Universal Credit.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will be held on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October. Details on how to register for these events will be given nearer the time.



Application for Middle and High School:

It is now time for children in year 4 (First to Middle), year 6 (Primary to Secondary) and year 9 Middle to High) schools to apply for the next phase of school starting in September 2024.

If you have a child who is due to transfer to either middle or high school, please see the link below.

The Portal will open 12th September 23 and close at midnight on 31st October 23.

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

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	Evie	Elsie	Layton
Year 1	Frankie H	Jacob	Lumen
Year 2	Gracie	Miya	Luca
Year 3	Zayn	Joe	Parker
Year 4	Mason	Elsie	Grace



Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year – 2	
<u>Reception</u>	94.77%
<u>Year 1</u>	99.49%
<u>Year 2</u>	100%
<u>Year 3</u>	98.99%
<u>Year 4</u>	96.3%

Extra-Curricular Clubs

If your child wishes to attend a club that is before or after school, then please ring and inform the school office.

Club	Day/Time
Girls Football Club (Years 3 & 4)	Tuesday 12.25-12.55pm
Boys Football Club (Years 3 & 4)	Tuesday 12:25-12.55pm
Running Club (Years 2-4)	Wednesday 8.15-8.40am
Mini Vinnies (Years 1-4)	See following information below
Homework Club (Years 1-4)	Thursday 12.25-12.55pm
Singing Club (Years 1-4)	Wednesday 12.25-12.55pm
Regenerators	Wednesday 3.15-4.00pm

Diary Dates

<p>Flu Immunisation</p> <p>(Can all the online consent forms be sent back please)</p> <p>These were sent to your email address.</p>	<p>3rd October 2023</p>
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Open The Books for parents Opportunity to look at your child's books in the week before our autumn parents evening.	School will be open for parents and children from 3.20-4:00pm on Tuesday 3 rd and Wednesday 4 th October.
Y4 Class Mass	Fri 6 th Oct 9.30am-St. Mary's Catholic Church All parents/carers welcome to attend
Superheroes Census Day/Brighten Up for CAFOD Children to come to school dressed as a superhero and/or in bright clothes. Bringing a donation of food for 'The People's kitchen'	Thursday 5 th October
Parents Evenings	Tuesday 10 th and Thursday 12 th October 3.30-6:00pm
All Creatures Great & Small Exhibition and pet blessing at St. Mary's Church. <u>All pets welcome!</u>	13 th -15 th October Blessing to be held on Oct 15 th -4pm St. Mary's catholic Church
Mini Vinnies	Monday 16 th October 3:15pm-4:30pm
<u>Autumn Term Class & Whole School Mass</u>	
<u>Autumn Term Class Masses</u> Following our Reception Welcome Mass on the 28 th September each class will have the opportunity to attend Mass at St. Mary's Church at 9.30am. Parents and carers are invited to attend class Masses at the Church. Dates are as follows: Reception Welcome Mass: 28/9 Y4-6/10 Y3-13/10 Y2-20/10 Half Term Y1-10/11 Y4-17/11	



Y3-24/11

Y2-1/12

Y1 & Rec-8/12

Thurs 14/12-**11am** Christingle Service-Whole School

Wed 20/12-End of term Christmas Mass-9.30am-Whole School

Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Self-image & Identity.' Pupils will discuss how their online identity online can be different to their offline identity and reasons why they may do this. Pupils will be talking about this with their class teacher in class.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online [Parents: Supporting Young People Online \(Leaflets\) | Childnet](#)

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)



THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

EST. 1985
NEWCASTLE

FOOD FRIENDSHIP FUTURES

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers, so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.

Items we Need

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fruit

Soup

Cooking/Baking Ingredients

Snacks

Drinks

Desserts

Tinned Meat

Cooking Sauces

Condiments

Pasta and Rice

Stock and Gravy

Toiletries

Cleaning/Other

Pet Food

Tomatoes Plum and Chopped, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes

Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Mandarin, Oranges

Tinned or Instant Vegetables, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek

Sugar, Flour, Jam, Coconut, Cocoa, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth Mix, Spices

Pot Noodles, Pot Pasta, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolates, Sweets

UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash

Rice Pudding, Jelly, Angel Delight, Custard, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup

Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Mixed Beef, Bolognese, Stewing Steak

Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk

Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnalse, Salt, Pepper

Lasagne, Egg, Noodles, Rice

Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken & Onion

Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrush

Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags

Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

Examples



THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN LIMITED The Alison Centre, 56 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5SQ
T: 0191 222 0699 E: info@peopleskitchen.co.uk www.peopleskitchen.co.uk



PRE • LOVED

First Holy Communion Wear for BWCET

Do you have a First Holy Communion dress or outfit that you would like to donate for another child to wear?



Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust are opening a Pre-Loved communion wear shop and all outfits will be available to borrow free of charge.

Pupils and their parents are encouraged to come to the shop to select an outfit without the worry of cost, in a hassle-free environment.

If you have a dress, tie, shoes, suit, veil or other item that you would like to donate, please email: ethos@bwcet.com to arrange collection.



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership