



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 20th October 2023

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our Trust have been celebrating Laudato Si' Week. As a school we have joined in to observe other Trusts schools leading prayers. *Laudato Si'* is an encyclical written by Pope Francis about our responsibility to care for our world and not 'steal' resources from future generations. It speaks of the intrinsic value of all creatures, not just humans, and of protecting the climate and biodiversity as part of the common good.



As part of our action to 'live out' our mission and look after our planet, we are pleased to announce the children that have been chosen, after a class vote, to be part of our St. Mary's Regenerators Eco-council. Each child had to write and present in front of the peers, the reasons why they should be chosen as Regenerators for St. Mary's. Congratulations to the following pupils:

Hazel and Dexter
Ollie and Phoebe
Erin and Zayn
Nils and Kaylin

During Wild Passport this week, each class visited Sele Park and began to identify trees using their leaves. The children also observed the creatures that rely on them. Pupils learnt lots of facts like the fact that there are male and female trees.



I am sure the children will enjoy sharing all their 'tree' facts with you this weekend!



Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

Operation Christmas Child

As a school we are now collecting for Operation Christmas child: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

The idea within school is that we all work together as a whole school to contribute items to fill as many shoe boxes as possible. Many thanks for the shoeboxes that have already been donated, please feel free to donate more empty shoeboxes if you have spares. If you wish to donate a fully completed shoebox from your family then please feel free, we have labels and leaflets in the office to help with this should you need them. The following items are suggestions only, any donations (whatever the year group) would be gratefully received:

	
Operation Christmas Child Class Suggested Donations	
Reception	Toys: Small cuddly toys, dolls, toy cars, small musical instruments, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc
Years 1 & 2	School Supplies: Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons/felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads/notebooks, solar calculators, colouring/picture books etc Hygiene Items: Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel etc
Years 3 & 4	Other Items: Hat, gloves, scarf, cap, socks, T-shirt, flip-flops, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch.
	Please do not include the following items: Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items, war-related items, seeds, gum, chocolate or food items, medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.
Deadline date: Friday 10th November	

PTA News

On Friday 10th November at 2pm in school we would like to invite any parents that are interested in being part of the St. Mary's PTA. All parents welcome!

The current PTA have organised a 'Spooky Disco' to take place on Tuesday 24th October from 3.30 until 4.45pm. Children attending the disco will remain in school at 3.15pm and change into home clothes or a costume (no scary masks allowed). Children will attend the disco from 3.30-4.45pm and will be given a snack and a drink at the event. Children will exit school from their usual exits at the end of the disco. Any children not attending will leave school via the main entrance at 3.15pm.

Mrs. Stoves has been taking in money for the disco this week. For those still wishing to pay for tickets, Mrs. Stoves will also be available on the morning of the disco, the 24th October from 8.30am for any last-minute disco tickets. Tickets and payment are not available from the main school office, only from Mrs. Stoves.

Open Days

The online applications for First and Primary schools will open on the 1st November 2023. We would like to invite prospective Reception 2024 parents to look around St. Mary's. Please contact the school office on (01434) 603 791 to arrange a viewing on one of the following mornings (alternative times can be arranged if required):

Monday 23rd October 9.30-11.30am

Tuesday 24th October 9.30-11.30am

Thursday 26th October 9.30-11.30am

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 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>

Cauliflower Cards

We have decided to participate in the 'Christmas Design Project' run by Cauliflower Cards again this year. The project aims to encourage pupils' creativity and design skills whilst also raising funds for our school. Your child has been creating his/her own Christmas design which can be professionally printed to produce personalized Christmas Cards, Gift Labels, Wrapping Paper and/or Mugs. Not only would it be very exciting for your child to see his/her work as a finished printed product, the cards themselves are great for sending a more personal greeting to friends and family at Christmas and the Mugs are great for gifts! Orders and payments must be made online using the unique code located at the top of the pupil order form, which you will receive on Friday 20th October. Please refer to your order form for further instructions. Each order form must be unique so please do not photocopy the form for other members of your family. You can get extra copies from school. **All artwork where orders have been placed must be returned to school by: 26.10.23**. Products will be delivered by the beginning of December.

Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal

We will be selling the Poppy Appeal items in school from next week. Please see the table for priced items.



Paper Poppy	A small donation
Snap Bands SOLD OUT	£1.00
Wrist Bands	£1.00
Zip Tags	50p
Reflective Poppy	£1.00



Parent Communication

Please can we kindly remind parents and carers that all emails sent by parents should be sent to the parent contact address only. This is to ensure that the admin staff can forward emails to the correct member of staff to deal with your queries. parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com

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




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.

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	Isabel	Jay	Felix
Year 1	Noah	Evie	Hazel
Year 2	Charlotte	George	Gracie
Year 3	Corey-Jo	Juliette	Oliver
Year 4	Sebastian	Emily	Kaylin

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:
Year – 3!

<u>Reception</u>	94.77%
<u>Year 1</u>	96.46%
<u>Year 2</u>	96.69%
<u>Year 3</u>	98.48%
<u>Year 4</u>	94.71%

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

Reception Vision Screening	Tuesday 24 th October
PTA Disco	Tuesday 24 th October (Purchase of last-minute tickets from Mrs. Stoves outside school 8.30-8.45am)
Bikeability-Year 4 All pupils need road worthy bike and a helmet to take part.	Wednesday 25 th October
Cauliflower Christmas Card Orders & artwork returned to school	Thursday 26 th October
Teacher Training Day School closed to pupils	Friday 27 th October
Half term	Monday 30 th Oct-Fri 3 rd November
School re-opens for Autumn 2	Monday 6 th November
Reception Heights & Weights	Monday 13 th November
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS https://www.unscriptedphotography.co.uk/gallery/fine-art-school-portraits/	Thursday 16 th November https://www.unscriptedphotography.co.uk/school-photography-northeast/ Follow the link and look at our new school photographer images online
<u>Autumn Term Class & Whole School Mass</u>	
<u>Autumn Term Class Masses</u> Parents and carers are invited to attend class Masses at the Church. Dates are as follows: 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 'Online Relationships.' Pupils will discuss how to be respectful to others online and describe how to recognise healthy and unhealthy behaviours online. 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: [Healthy Online Relationships | 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)

MENU

Monday
Pasta Bake

Tuesday
Nuggets and Rice

Wednesday
Jacket Potatoes

Thursday
Pizza and Chips

Friday
Hot Dogs and Fries

GF/VEG/VEGAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE
MENTION WHEN BOOKING.

DISH
Dinners in School Holidays

**Free Lunch for families in
Hexham**
30th Oct - 3rd Nov
@Trinity Methodist Church

**DOORS OPEN 11:30AM
FOOD SERVED 12-2PM
WITH ACTIVITIES AND SPACE
TO PLAY**

**MENU ON THE BACK
07951 113413 TO BOOK**

'St. Mary's Catholic First is happy and welcoming.' OFSTED 2023

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We would like to invite prospective Reception 2024 parents to our OPEN DAYS on the following dates-

Monday 23rd October (9.30am – 11.30am)

Tuesday 24th October (9.30am – 11.30am)

Thursday 26th October (9.30am – 11.30am)

Please contact our school office to arrange a viewing appointment.

St Mary's Catholic First School, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 2EE. Please call [01434 603791](tel:01434603791). Email - parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com

