



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter – Friday 6th October 2023

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an amazing week we have had at St. Mary's! All our little superheroes have collected huge amounts of food items for The People's kitchen in Newcastle. Add to this the £164.28 we raised during our MacMillan Cancer Support Cake Sale last Friday-thank you to everyone who bought and donated. Amazing!

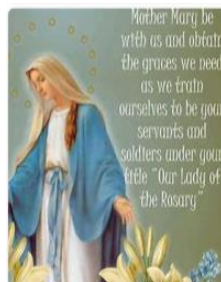


On Thursday, our Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust organised for all pupils to have a free school meal to mark Census Day in school. Every child who had a free lunch was entered into a free raffle. Below are our lucky raffle prize winners!



Year 4 planned and took part in their class Mass at St. Mary's Church today, having planned the Mass on Thursday with Fr. Paul. The pupils prepared and read some lovely bidding prayers. Next Friday (9.30am at St. Mary's Church), it is the turn of year 3 to have their class Mass-all parents/carers are invited to attend this event.

October is the month we celebrate 'Our Lady of the Rosary,' we dedicate October to the Holy Rosary. As such, the children will have time this month to visit our prayer station and look, hold and pray using some Rosary Beads.



Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

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 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>

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

Parents Evenings

Information was sent out earlier this week regarding booking for Parents Evenings which will be held on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October. The deadline to book appointments is Monday 9th October if you still need to register.

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	Josie	Suzannah	Myles
Year 1	Eabha	Dani-Skye	Jenson
Year 2	Esmee	Heidi	Ollie
Year 3	Ellie	Oli	Skylar
Year 4	Ariella	Freddie S	Calum

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year – 3	
<u>Reception</u>	95.39%
<u>Year 1</u>	95.96%
<u>Year 2</u>	89.43%
<u>Year 3</u>	96.46%
<u>Year 4</u>	96.39%

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

Parents Evenings	Tuesday 10 th and Thursday 12 th October 3.30-6:00pm
Year 3 Class Mass All parents/carers welcome	Friday 13 th 9.30am at St. Mary's Catholic Church
All Creatures Great & Small Exhibition and pet blessing at St. Mary's Church. <u>All pets welcome!</u>	13 th -15 th October <u>Blessing to be held on Oct 15th-4pm outside St. Mary's Catholic Church</u>
Mini Vinnies	Monday 16 th October 3:15pm-4:30pm
Bikeability-Year 4 All pupils need road worthy bike and a helmet to take part.	Wednesday 25 th October

Autumn Term Class & Whole School Mass

Autumn Term Class Masses

Following our Reception Welcome Mass on the 28th 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 '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)



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