



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 10th November 2023

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday key stage 2 visited the 'Museum of the Moon' exhibition at Hexham Abbey where the children took part in a storytelling journey about our cosmic companion, The Moon. How and when was it formed and why it orbits the Earth and how this affects us. The children discovered our relationship with the Moon and how this was changed by the NASA Apollo missions of the 1960's. They learnt about what our future relationship with the Moon will be like, with the commencement of the NASA Artemis missions and who might be the next person to walk there!



Today, we had artist Deni Riach in from the Queen's Hall supporting year 3 in creating lanterns for the Lantern Parade, a free event that takes place on Friday 17th November at Hexham Bandstand. The children can't wait to illuminate their lanterns at this event.

On Wednesday, we welcomed parents into school to participate in our year 3 Celebration of the Word with a focus on Armistice Day and honouring those who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Year 3 read beautifully, and the children showed great composure and respect during our two-minute silence.



At our Year of Mary Prayer Station this month, we are focusing on praying for those who have sacrificed their lives for us and we are also praying for anyone loved ones we have lost in our families and friends.



Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you all so much for the generous donations of items for our Operation Christmas Child appeal. We have managed to create an send off **18** shoeboxes all down to your generous donations!



Children In Need/Odd Sock Day

On Friday 17th November we are taking part in Children in Need, and we will also be asking children to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week, highlighting how everyone is different and this is something to celebrate. Children can come into school on this day wearing odd socks with their choice of Pudsey Bear related outfit. We will also be holding a Pudsey related cake sale, with donations of cakes greatly received, these can come into school with children on the morning of the 17th or be handed in at the main school office. Children can purchase cakes for 50p, all proceeds going towards the Children in Need charity.

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>

Application for First School:




It is now time to apply for your child to start school, reception class in September 2024. Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 should apply. The portal opened on 1st November 2023 and will close on 15th January 2024. Here is the link to the portal where you can apply. First time users will need to register an account.

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

If you require any help or need advice please call the team on 01670 624889.

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	Fraser	Felix	Isabel
Year 1	Jenson	Frankie M	Phuc
Year 2	Frankie	Phoebe	Heidi
Year 3	Skylar	Ella	Ava
Year 4	Emily	Grace	Jack B

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance

This Week's Winners:
Year –2

<u>Reception</u>	90.00%
<u>Year 1</u>	92.73%
<u>Year 2</u>	95.52%
<u>Year 3</u>	94.55%
<u>Year 4</u>	94.29%

Diary Dates

After a recent Hexham Partnership meeting, we reviewed alignment of training days and term dates. As part of this, on the final day of this term Friday 22nd December, we will be closing at 1.30pm. Children will have lunch in school as usual.

Reception Heights & Weights	Monday 13 th November
Mini Vinnies	Monday 13 th November 3:15pm – 4:30pm
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

<p>Year 4 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend</p>	<p>Friday 17th November at 9.30am</p>
<p>Children in Need & Odd Socks Day/Bake Sale Non-school Uniform and Odd-Socks-£1 donation. Cake Sale donations greatly received-50p per item required.</p>	<p>Friday 17th November</p>
<p>Year 3 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend</p>	<p>Friday 24th November</p>
<p>Parents to look at books in classrooms</p>	<p>Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th 3.20-4pm</p>
<p>Year 2 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend</p>	<p>Friday 1st December at 9.30am</p>
<p>PTA Christmas Fair- More information to follow</p>	<p>Wednesday 6th December-2.30pm onwards</p>
<p>Year 1 & Reception Class in St. Mary's Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend</p>	<p>Friday 8th December at 9.30am</p>
<p>Santa Dash/Christmas Jumper Day School uniform plus a Christmas accessory</p>	<p>Friday 8th December during school day</p>
<p>FORUM- Arthur Christmas more information to follow</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am</p>
<p>Christmas Lunch in school</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th December</p>

Whole school Christingle service in St. Mary's Catholic Church-all parents/carers welcome to attend	Thursday 14 th December at 11am
Nativity (2 Repeat productions-9.30am & 2pm) More info to follow	Monday 18 th December
Whole School End of Term Mass St. Mary's Catholic Church-all parents/carers welcome to attend	Wednesday 20 th December 9.30am
Whole School Panto Visit-Snow white-Queen's Hall	Wednesday 20 th December 1:00pm
Last day of term-School closes at 1.30pm	Friday 22 nd December-1.30pm

Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Online Bullying.' Pupils will learn the ways people can be bullied through a range of media and will learn how to think carefully about how content they post might affect others and how others feel about them.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online: [Helping Children Deal with Bullying & Cyberbullying | NSPCC](#)

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)

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