



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, there were lots of Pudsey Bears in school as we are took part in Children in Need. Thank you so much for the kind donations of baked goods, the children enjoyed their tasty treats at break time and in doing so have raised money for this amazing cause. Many children also donned a pair of mismatching socks today, to celebrate 'Odd Socks Day' marking the end of anti-bullying week, all week we have focused on highlighting how everyone is different and how this is something to celebrate.



Just a reminder about the Lantern Parade, a free event that takes place today Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November at Hexham Bandstand. It would be lovely for some of our key stage 2 children to illuminate the lanterns they made last week at this event. Feel free to create your own lantern with a battery powered candle (no naked flames please). The event starts at 6pm.

This week, we have been discussing and praying about the importance of following Jesus' instructions to love God and one another so that we can 'be ready' for God:

**Holy spirit  
Help me to follow Jesus  
By being kind, helpful and loving today.  
Amen**

The children of St. Mary's know that we are all different, different but the same, and are a real credit to you all as parents/carers.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

### Open Art Afternoon

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December we would like to invite all parents/carers into school from 2:00-2:45pm to join you child(ren) in making some festive artwork. The children (& parents) really enjoy spending this time together in school, working together on a creative project. From 2:45-3:15pm while the children are finishing and tidying up, parents are welcome to have a catch up and a festive treat in the school hall while waiting for the children at the end of the day.

### PTA Christmas Fair

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we are holding our Christmas Fair in the school hall. Each class will be responsible for organising a stall. Funds from the fair are used to support the children in school, so we would be extremely grateful for the following donations for each year group:

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Reindeer food and reindeer hot chocolate</b> – Donations of hot chocolate, mini marshmallows, oats & clear cone bags.
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Snowballs in the jar</b> - Donations of Cadbury's Snowballs.
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Guess the name of the teddy</b> – To help with any donations of the other classes.
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Chocolate Tombola</b> – Any chocolate donations.
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Hook a bag</b> – Donations of gift bags, sweets, little soft toys. (stocking filler type gifts)

**Christmas Hampers**-Raffle tickets will be sold prior to the Christmas Fair for a variety of prizes. The PTA would like to create 5 gift hampers and would be grateful for donations of suitable items for the hampers such as chocolates, bubble bath etc (no alcohol please) etc. These can be delivered to our main office or brought into school by the children and handed to their class teacher.

### Bag 2 School

Today, your child will be bringing home a 'Bag 2 School' bag, if you have any unwanted clothing items, please pop them into the bag and bring them back to school on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**.



## **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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 should apply.

The portal opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and will close on 15<sup>th</sup> 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](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	Aanika	Alfie L	Jay
Year 1	Freddie	Beauden	Raffy
Year 2	Heidi	Riley	Miya
Year 3	Gabriel	Erin	Bao
Year 4	Jenna	Daniel	Freddie H

## Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year -Y2 & Y4	
<u>Reception</u>	96.47%
<u>Year 1</u>	98.64%
<u>Year 2</u>	100%
<u>Year 3</u>	90.91%
<u>Year 4</u>	100%

### 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.

<b>Year 3 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend</b>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Parents to look at books in classrooms</b>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> 3.20-4pm
<b>Year 2 Class Mass in St. Mary's Church. All parents/carers welcome to attend</b>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December at 9.30am

<p><b>PTA Christmas Fair-</b></p> <p><b>More information to follow</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December-2.30pm onwards</p>
<p><b>Year 1 &amp; Reception Class in St. Mary's Church.</b></p> <p><b>All parents/carers welcome to attend</b></p>	<p>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am</p>
<p><b>Santa Dash/Christmas Jumper Day</b></p> <p><b>School uniform plus a Christmas accessory</b></p>	<p>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December during school day</p>
<p><b>FORUM- Arthur Christmas more information to follow</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am</p>
<p><b>Christmas Lunch in school</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</p>
<p><b>Open Art Afternoon</b></p> <p><b>2:00-2:45pm-Parents invited into classes to join in making some festive artwork. From 2:45-3-15pm parents are welcome to have a catch up and a festive treat while waiting for the children at the end of the day.</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</p>
<p><b>Whole school Christingle service in St. Mary's Catholic Church-all parents/carers welcome to attend</b></p>	<p>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 11am</p>
<p><b>Nativity (2 Repeat productions-9.30am &amp; 2pm)</b></p> <p><b>More info to follow</b></p>	<p>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December</p>
<p><b>Reception, Year 1 &amp; Year 2</b></p> <p><b>Class Christmas Party</b></p> <p><b>(If they wish, children can bring party clothes to change into for this event)</b></p>	<p>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December (in school time)</p>

<b>Whole School End of Term Mass St. Mary's Catholic Church-all parents/carers welcome to attend</b>	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 9.30am
<b>Whole School Panto Visit-Snow white-Queen's Hall</b>	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 1:00pm
<b>Year 3 &amp; 4 Class Christmas Party (If they wish, children can bring party clothes to change into for this event)</b>	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December (in school time)
<b>Last day of term-School closes at 1.30pm</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com)