



## St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have been focusing on Road safety week with the children. Road safety for children is really important, especially in winter. This is because children have to walk to and from school when it is darker. And it's why we have Road Safety Week in November. That way we can work together to help children be safe when walking to and from school and to be aware of dangers on our roads and how to use roads safely. Despite the children receiving some road safety education in school, it is still vital that parents build on this, to reinforce the learning and set a good example. Please take a look at the following information from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), to identify the ways in which you as parents & carers can reinforce road safety with your children in an age-appropriate way: [Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents \(rospa.com\)](https://www.rospa.com/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents)



On Sunday 26th November, the Feast of Christ the King, Pope Francis invites the global Church to celebrate and pray for young people. It is a day to celebrate the role of young people in the Church, to pray for and encourage young people to deepen their relationship with Jesus and explore various opportunities within the Church. Today, marks 'Youth Funday' [WYD Website \(worldyouthsunday.org\)](https://www.worldyouthsunday.org/), to mark World Youth Day in school, as such, we have participated in an interactive live-streamed day with prayer, special guests, activities, and faith in action for all ages.



**"Jesus never closes the door, never, but invites you to enter: Come and See."**

Pope Francis, WYD Lisbon 2023

Just a reminder that Hexham's Christmas Lights 'switch-on' event starts tonight from 4.30pm, with lights be turned on at around 5.40pm at the Bandstand. The Christmas tree lights will be switched on from 6pm in the Marketplace. Hexham's Christmas lights are extra special this year with all-new designs spanning the town centre. For the first time, they'll also run along beautiful Hexham Bridge. Enjoy!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

### **Church Parking Notice**

We have received the following message from St Mary's Parish office regarding the church car park. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December we will be closing the car park all day from 8.00am in the morning until 7.00pm that evening. We have a very large private event taking place at the Church that day which would not make the normal car parking arrangements safe for Parents, children, school and nursery staff. We will put bollards out but would ask that staff and parents do not park or drop off at any time on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Christmas Class Advent Celebration of the Word**

On the morning of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, we would like to invite parents into classes to participate in the children's RE Advent topic Celebration of the Word. These are short classroom-based celebrations where the children, gather, listen, respond and say how they will 'go forth' with their Advent mission. The children love seeing their parents/carers in class, so please join us if you are available. Timings are as follows:

- **Reception:** 9.30-9.40am
- **Year 1-** 9.40-9.50am
- **Year 2-** 9.50-10.00am
- **Year 3-** 10:00-10:10am
- **Year 4-**10:10-10:20am

### **PTA Christmas Fair**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we are holding our Christmas Fair in the **school hall after children have been collected**. 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:

Please bring any donations to the school office or hand them into the class teacher.

<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.

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, children can come to school wearing their school uniform, exchanging their usual school jumper/cardigan for a Christmas jumper if they wish. As the children also take part in a Santa Dash funrun that day, we also recommend that children in key stage 2 attend school wearing their school PE kit, plus their Christmas jumper. For Reception and Key Stage 1 who retain their PE kit in school, we suggest they come to school in school uniform and change into their PE kit at school. **If anyone has donations of pre-loved Christmas jumpers that they would like to donate to other children in school, then please deliver these to the main school office.** Children will also be permitted to wear their Christmas jumper during our Christmas lunch day (13<sup>th</sup> December). If possible, can children also bring in £1 donation for the charity 'Save the Children'.

### **Christmas Cinema Trip**

A payment of £6.50 has now been set up on the Arbor App for the Arthur Christmas movie. **The payment deadline is Monday 11th December at 7pm.** Please pay before this date to ensure your child(ren)s place on the trip.

### **Christmas Lunch**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December we are having our school Christmas lunch in school. Children who are not usually on school dinners will be permitted to purchase this meal for the one day, whilst remaining on packed lunch for the rest of the week. **If your child is usually on packed lunch but wishes to have a Christmas dinner, please let the office know as soon as possible and before Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November.** Children are permitted to wear their school uniform, exchanging their usual school jumper/cardigan for a Christmas jumper on this day if they wish.

### **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 your 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, having a go at making your own Christingle (in preparation for our Christingle service the following day), while waiting for the children at the end of the day. **If parents/carers can bring an orange for making the Christingle, school will provide the rest!**

### **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!

<b>Class</b>			
<b>Reception</b>	<b>Ella-May</b>	<b>Erin</b>	<b>Layton</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Dani - Skye</b>	<b>Olivia W</b>	<b>Florence</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Esmee</b>	<b>Luca</b>	<b>Gracie</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Juliette</b>	<b>Corey</b>	<b>Charlie</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Grace</b>	<b>Tyler</b>	<b>Ariella</b>

## Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year -4!	
<u>Reception</u>	95.17
<u>Year 1</u>	95.45
<u>Year 2</u>	95.4
<u>Year 3</u>	95.8
<u>Year 4</u>	96.59

### 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>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
<b>PTA Christmas Fair-</b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December- After children have been collected.

<p><b>Class RE Advent Topic</b></p> <p><b>Celebration of the Word in class- Parents/carers invited</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p><b>Reception:</b> 9.30-9.40am  <b>Year 1-</b> 9.40-9.50am  <b>Year 2-</b>9.50-10.00am  <b>Year 3-</b> 10:00-10:10am  <b>Year 4-</b>10:10-10:20am</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 PE uniform (see note above) plus a Christmas jumper</b></p>	<p>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December during school day</p>
<p><b>FORUM- Arthur Christmas</b></p>	<p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am</p>
<p><b>Christmas Lunch in school</b></p> <p><b>School uniform (see note above) plus a Christmas jumper</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, make Christingles 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>

<b>Reception, Year 1 &amp; Year 2</b>  <b>Class Christmas Party</b> <b>(If they wish, children can bring party clothes to change into for this event)</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December (in school time)
<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</b>  <b>Class Christmas Party</b> <b>(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)

### Parent Communication

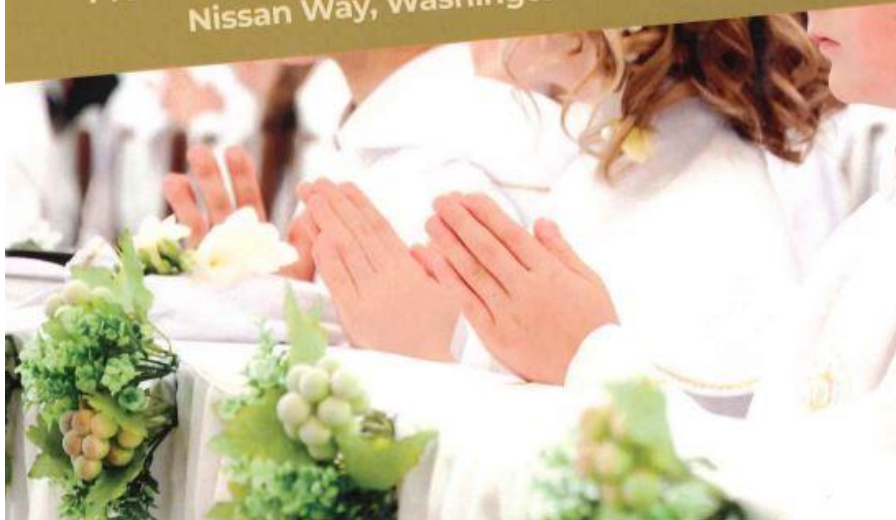
Please can we kindly remind parents and carers that all emails sent by parents should be sent to the [parent contact address only](#). This is to ensure that the admin staff can forward emails to the correct member of staff to deal with your queries. [parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com](mailto:parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com)



## PRE · LOVED

First Holy Communion Wear for BWCET

**OPEN 10am until 4pm**  
**Saturday 10th February 2024**  
Pre.Loved, BWCET HQ, Turbine Business Park,  
Nissan Way, Washington SR5 3NY



Visit **Pre.Loved** to browse and select from our range of outfits on Saturday 10th February 2024, 10am to 4pm.

To arrange a visit please email: [ethos@BWCET.com](mailto:ethos@BWCET.com)

There will be no cost to borrow the items, although we ask for them to be returned in excellent condition.

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

