



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 1st December 2023

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was fantastic to see so many parents in school this week taking the opportunity to look at the children's books and discuss with their child(ren) the progress they have made this term.



Tynedale Hospice are holding their annual 'Light Up a Life' remembrance service at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 3pm on Saturday 2nd December. This service offers a chance for everyone to come together and remember loved ones no longer with us. People from all faiths are welcome, whether or not you or your loved one have ever received care from Tynedale Hospice. Please feel free to join in with this beautiful and uplifting service. Today in school, every child has written or drawn on a silver star anyone they would like to remember as we approach this Advent season. We are hanging the stars in our foyer throughout Advent. Tonight, each child will be bringing home another silver star, on the back of the star, we invite families to write down anyone they would like to remember this Advent. It would be lovely if the children could return the star to school next week to join the children's stars already on the tree.

As we are now in our Advent season the children will have the opportunity to take home 'The Travelling Nativity' for the night. Inside the bag that the children take home there will be several items including a candle, a story of the first Nativity, purple cloth, a crib and a book called 'Tales of the Travelling Nativity'. The idea is to help us remember the journey Mary & Joseph made to Bethlehem, and as a family to take time together to think about the true meaning of Christmas. The children will be able to set up the crib and take a few moments to reflect on what Christmas means to them, before writing or drawing a picture about the night the Travelling Nativity was in their home. For families with multiple siblings at St. Mary's, it will be the youngest sibling that will take the Travelling Nativity home to share with the family. In school, we look forward to sharing the 'Tales of the Travelling Nativity' with the class each day!

As we are now in December, we have our Christmas post box available in school. If your child would like to send cards to their friends, they can deliver them here each day. Please can we ask that the class and first name of the recipient be written on the front of the envelope before posting in the post box.



Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

KS2 Parents Notice-School Uniform Request

On Monday we have a photographer and videographer filming in and around school. Please can all children in years 3 and 4 come to school on Mon 4th December wearing their school uniform (not their PE kit), bringing their usual school PE & swimming kit in a bag to change into. Apologies for any inconvenience, this is just a one off to accommodate the filming and photography.

Wild Passport

Just a reminder as the weather gets cooler, please can children in years 1-4 bring suitable clothing to participate in their weekly Wild Passport session each Tuesday. Children need a warm coat, hat, scarf, gloves, additional thick socks and a change of clothes in case they get wet/muddy. The children really enjoy the sessions, it is important that they are appropriately dressed to remain as warm as possible.

Blast Off With Books

Next week, we are inviting parents into school on designated days to spend some quality time reading with their child before school from **8.15-8.35am**. Feel free to read one of our schoolbooks or bring a favourite from home if you prefer. Once the session has finished your child can remain in school when you leave. The designated days are as follows:

- **Reception-Monday**
- **Year 1-Tuesday**
- **Year 2-Wednesday**
- **Year 3-Thursday**
- **Year 4-Friday**

Christmas Class Advent Celebration of the Word

On the morning of Wednesday 6th 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 6th 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.

Reception	Reindeer food and reindeer hot chocolate – Donations of hot chocolate, mini marshmallows, oats & clear cone bags.
Year 1	Snowballs in the jar- Donations of Cadbury's Snowballs.
Year 2	Guess the name of the teddy – To help with any donations of the other classes.
Year 3	Chocolate Tombola – Any chocolate donations.
Year 4	Hook a bag – 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 8th 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 (13th 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 Pantomime

On Wednesday 20th December at 1:30pm the whole school will be visiting the Queen's Hall in Hexham to watch the performance of Snow White. A payment of £10 has now been set up on the Arbor App, the deadline for this trip is on Monday 18th December.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 13th 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, before Wednesday 29th 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 13th 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

Thank you to everyone who brought their unwanted items for Bag 2 School, we raised £23.00.

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](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	Ella-May	Erin	Aanika
Year 1	Dexter	Frankie H	Eabha
Year 2	Ollie	Esmee	Riley
Year 3	Jax	Parker	Zayn
Year 4	Alex	Harley	Ollie

Attendance Ladder



St. Mary's Class Attendance This Week's Winners: Year –4	
<u>Reception</u>	95.28%
<u>Year 1</u>	95.3%
<u>Year 2</u>	95.56%
<u>Year 3</u>	95.1%
<u>Year 4</u>	95.69%

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.**

<p><u>Blast Off with Books</u></p> <p>Join your child in class on their designated day and start the day reading a favourite story.</p>	<p>Every morning 8:15-8.35am as follows:</p> <p>Mon-Reception class</p> <p>Tues-Year 1</p> <p>Wed-Year 2</p> <p>Thurs-Year 3</p> <p>Fri-Year 4</p>
<p>PTA Christmas Fair-</p>	<p>Wednesday 6th December- After children have been collected.</p>

<p>Class RE Advent Topic</p> <p>Celebration of the Word in class- Parents/carers invited</p>	<p>Wednesday 6th December</p> <p>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</p>
<p>Year 1 & Reception Class in St. Mary's Church.</p> <p>All parents/carers welcome to attend</p>	<p>Friday 8th December at 9.30am</p>
<p>Santa Dash/Christmas Jumper Day</p> <p>School PE uniform (see note above) plus a Christmas jumper</p> <p><u>Donation of £1 to Save the Children</u></p>	<p>Friday 8th December during school day</p>
<p>FORUM- Arthur Christmas</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th December at 9.30am</p>
<p>Christmas Lunch in school</p> <p>School uniform (see note above) plus a Christmas jumper</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th December</p>
<p>Open Art Afternoon</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th December</p>
<p>Whole school Christingle service in St. Mary's Catholic Church-all parents/carers welcome to attend</p>	<p>Thursday 14th December at 11am</p>
<p>Nativity (2 Repeat productions-9.30am & 2pm)</p> <p>More info to follow</p>	<p>Monday 18th December</p>

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 Class Christmas Party (If they wish, children can bring party clothes to change into for this event)	Tuesday 19 th December (in school time)
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
Year 3 & 4 Class Christmas Party (If they wish, children can bring party clothes to change into for this event)	Thursday 21 st December (in school time)
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

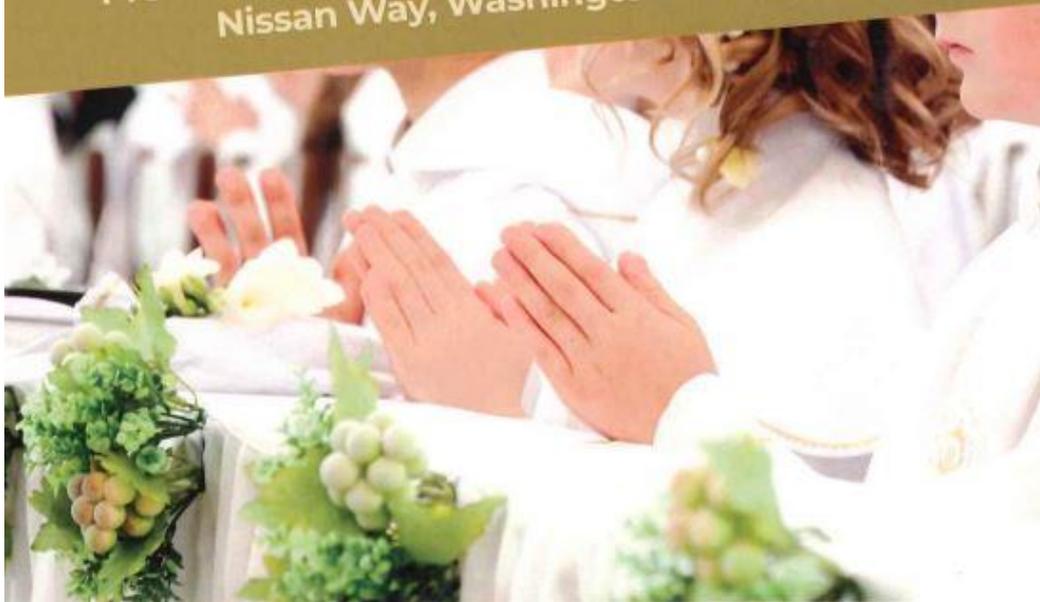


PRE · LOVED

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

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.

