



St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –
Friday 9th February 2024

We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week at St. Mary's this week, on Wednesday parents were invited to join us as Year 2 took part in their Celebration of the Word with the focus on mental health, they all spoke and sang brilliantly! As this week is Children's Mental Health Week, we have been discussing 'Our Voice Matters' with the children, where children have a right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously. As part of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we also discussed Article 31, where all children have a right to 'rest'. In school, we regularly try and provide opportunities for children to rest such as prayer, meditation and brain break opportunities.



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**Dear God,
You Created and you love us.
You care about how we are feeling.
Thank you for the special people who look after
our minds and bodies.
Help us to find joy in expressing ourselves.
Amen**



Today is the start of Chinese New Year, several year groups in school have done some work on this. We also had our Chinese New Year themed lunch in school today which was delicious!

On Thursday, as part of their other faiths topic focusing on Islam, Key stage 2 children visited Newcastle Central Mosque. The children found out about the place of worship, and its importance to believers and the community. The children behaved impeccably and were a credit to St. Mary's.



Just a reminder that next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and marks the start of Lent. St. Mary's will be taking part in the Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's church at 9.30am. All families are welcome to join us for this service. Also, just a reminder that children's last day in school for this half term is **Thursday 15th February** as Friday 16th February is a Teacher Training Day.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

Winning With Numbers

Letters have gone out with your child this week on our new approach to maths homework - Winning With Numbers. Children have been using this in school since the start of this academic year and are very familiar with the programme. Winning With Numbers (WWN) is described as the 'phonics of number' as it focuses on number - the most important parts of mathematics. Many parents joined us for the 'Winning With Numbers' Parent Sessions where we launched this with parents. Instead of weekly maths homework sheets, moving forward children's maths homework will now be centred on WWN. On a regular basis (daily is possible), children should log on and complete at least 10 questions for number which their teacher will have set for them. There are short teaching videos to accompany the questions, making it easier for parents to support children in their learning. The daily WWN bitesize maths should be quick, and the children should increase in their automaticity as they progress. After half term, school is looking to arrange another slightly later WWN parent session to accommodate any parents who were unable to make the previous two sessions.

Mini Vinnies Bake Sale - CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal

Friday 23rd February (during half-term) is Family Fast Day, which is a CAFOD appeal to help millions of people around the world struggling to put food on the table. During Mini Vinnies meeting this week, the group decided that our current aim is to make poverty a priority! In order to achieve this, the Mini Vinnies have decided to host a bake sale on **Monday 12th February** at break time to raise funds for those in need. We kindly ask that children bring in donations of cakes and baked goods, as well as 50p on Monday so that they are able to purchase a cake and support our Mini Vinnies in achieving their goal!

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings are taking place next Tuesday 13th February (3.30-6pm) and Wednesday 14th February (3.30-5pm) in school. During the parents evening your child's Interim report will be shared with parents/carers. Instructions for booking a slot with your child's class teacher have been sent to parents via Arbor. Any issues with booking a slot, please contact the main office.

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

World Book Day is back again after half term. Children are welcome to come into school dressed as their favourite story characters on Thursday 7th March. We will be celebrating books throughout the day, and we will be enjoying a visit from Cogito Books where we can use our World Book Day vouchers to get a new book to take home.



Year 4 Moor House Adventure Trip – Thursday 9th and Friday 10th May 2024

The final payment balance of £103.87 for the Moor House Adventure trip is now on Arbor. Regular payments can be made to clear the balance up until 26th April. Please ensure all outstanding payments are made on Arbor **by Friday 26th April 24**. Many thanks.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Registers for extra-curricular clubs taking place during the school day will be managed by teachers during the school day. Please let the office know as soon as possible, if you wish your child to attend a club that is before or after school.

Extra-curricular clubs will commence the week commencing 15th January 2024, as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		MORNING		
		Art Club, Miss Lawson Y1/Y2 8.15-8.40am		
		BREAK TIME		
		Prayer Club, Mrs Oakes 10.30-10.45am		
		LUNCH TIME		
	Board Game Club, Miss Stoves 12.30-1.00pm Y2-Y4	Lego Club (Rec,Y1) Miss Baird 12.30-1.00pm	Homework Club Mrs Stansfield 12.30-1.00pm	
	Times Table Club Miss Carr Y4 Only 12.30-1pm	Eco Club, Miss Kane 12.30-1.00pm		
		AFTER SCHOOL		
Mini Vinnies, Miss Baird 3.15-4.30pm Monday 22 nd January	Mini Vinnies, Miss Baird 3.15-4.30pm Tuesday 6th February	Eco Club*, Miss Kane 3.15-4.00pm Wednesday 24 th January		

*Eco Club has changed and will now run during lunchtimes with one longer after school session each half term.



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>

Themed School Lunches-



If your child is in Y3 & Y4 and has a packed lunch, but would like a themed lunch, please let the office know as their meal option would have to change for the week.

- **Wednesday 14th February** – Valentines Day (School uniform)

- **Thursday 7th March** - World Book Day (Fancy dress)

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	Erin	Elizabeth	Alfie L
Year 1	Raffy	Freddie	Noah
Year 2	Kacey	Frankie	Miya
Year 3	Jax	Joe	Olivia
Year 4	Ollie A	Daniel	Archie



St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year - 4!	
<u>Reception</u>	97.39%
<u>Year 1</u>	94.44%
<u>Year 2</u>	97.69%
<u>Year 3</u>	90.91%
<u>Year 4</u>	97.98%



Diary Dates

Parents Evening-Interim Reports to be discussed with parents at meeting.	Tuesday 13 th February (3.30-6.00pm) & Wednesday 14 th February (3.30-5.00pm)
Whole school Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Wednesday 14 th February
Last day of half term for children	Thursday 15 th February
Teacher Training Day-School closed to pupils.	Friday 16 th February



Spring 2 starts	Monday 26 th February
Reception class Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church 9.30am (all parents/carers welcome to attend)	Friday 1 st March
World Book Day (Children can come to school dressed as their favourite story character)	Thursday 7 th March
Year 1-Celebration of the Word 9.30am in school hall (All parents/carers invited to attend)	Wednesday 13 th March

Safeguarding

This month our E-safety theme is 'Online Reputation'. Pupils will learn about what anyone may or may not be willing to share about themselves online and explore the need to be careful before sharing any personal online.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting your child in discussing 'online reputation': [Resources to deal with online reputation - Internet Matters](#)

Pupil Support & Safeguarding

Designated safeguarding Lead- Mrs. Oakes

Deputy safeguarding Lead-Miss. Baird & Mrs. Stansfield

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 (parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com)



Dad Talk

This is a newly developed workshop that is currently being trialled in Northumberland.

The next session is Thursday 15th February 18:30-20:30

Text to book your place, with your name, email and date of workshop: 07729 080 263.





DAD TALK

Preparing for your new arrival

for dads during pregnancy and beyond, mums and partners welcome



TOPICS:

- the importance of 'Dad'
- the rollercoaster of change
- crying, changing, sleeping, feeding
- where to get more help and support
- celebrating fathers



WHERE?
Learn at home: using your phone or laptop
Text 07729 080 263 with your **NAME, EMAIL & DATE**
You'll be contacted and invited to one of the workshops

PICK A WORKSHOP

Monday 15th Jan 6:30 - 8pm	Thursday 15th Feb 6:30 - 8pm	Saturday 23rd March 10-11:30am
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Family Hubs
Here for everyone