



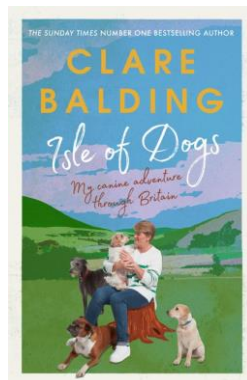
St Mary's Catholic First School Newsletter –  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

*We love, we learn, we live.*



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, pupils in year 3 & 4 attended Hexham Bookfest at the Queen's Hall Theatre, listening to broadcaster and animal lover **Clare Balding**. Clare discussed her new book **Animal All-Stars**, a hilarious and fact-packed non-fiction book exploring the greatest record breakers in the animal world. The children enjoyed being able to meet an author and also had the opportunity to take home a signed copy of her new book!



One of our core values at St. Mary's is in developing our understanding of being a 'Global Citizen'. Global Citizenship can be defined by an awareness of the wider world and how individuals have a sense of their own role as a world citizen. This week, the children have been appreciating our natural world as a source of wonder and inspiration and discussing how we can all play our part in maintaining & improving the environment. As such, we have planned our next open 'Art Day' on 8<sup>th</sup> May (further details below), in preparation for this we would be grateful for any junk modelling donations, particularly plastic bottle tops in the following colours: green, red, orange, blue and white.



We thank you Lord for the earth which is our home  
Help us to work together to protect the planet from  
harm.  
We thank you Lord for water which gives us life Help  
us to not to waste this precious resource.  
We thank you Lord for all the plants and creatures  
you have given us. Help us to not do anything which  
causes them harm.  
We thank you Lord for all the people we share the  
world with. Help us to work together to take care of  
each other and our home, so that no one suffers.  
AMEN



Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

### **Reception Celebration of the Word**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May Reception class will be holding their class Celebration of the Word in the school hall at 9.30am. Parents/carers are invited to join us for this event, access will be via the fire exit doors at the rear of the hall.

### **Art Afternoon:**

In order to celebrate World Oceans Day, we are hosting an Art afternoon within school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. We would like to invite parents and carers to attend between **2:10 and 2:50pm** to support your child/children in completing their artwork. As our theme is caring for our oceans, we are creating our artwork out of recyclable materials and therefore we would be grateful for any junk modelling donations, particularly plastic bottle tops in the following colours: green, red, orange, blue and white. We look forward to having you in school to support your child/children with their learning.

### **School Website**

The purpose of this letter is to promote our school website: [St Mary's First School, Hexham – Part of the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust \(hexhamstmarys.uk\)](http://www.hexhamstmarys.uk). The website has all the key information that parents/carers need, from curriculum information to term dates etc. Our weekly newsletters are always posted on the website (on the bottom of the home page) and have all the key dates and notices for events taking place in and around school.

### **School Meals**

If you would like to take a look at the new Summer Garden Kitchen menu, please use the following link- <https://www.hexhamstmarys.uk/parents/school-meals/>

### **Extra-curricular clubs**

Clubs will begin week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Summer 1 clubs are:

Fitness club	Tuesday lunch Y2-4
Singing club	Tuesday lunch Y1-4
Running club	Wednesday Morning 8.15-8.40 Y2-4
Eco-club	Wednesday lunch
Times table club	Thursday lunch – Y4 only.
Mini Vinnies –	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April (3.15-4.30pm) & Monday & Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May (3.15-4.30pm)

Class teachers will ask children to sign up for the clubs they wish to join. If your child would like to join running club, please inform the office to sign up.

### **Year 3 & 4 Swimming**

The Summer swimming payment is now available on the Arbor app, (under Clubs). Please ensure these payments are paid before Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.



### **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>

### **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	Jay	Suzie	Elsie
Year 1	Austin	Lumen	Olivia
Year 2	Phoebe	Ashton	Heidi
Year 3	Harrison	Jax	Ellie
Year 4	Sebastian	Spencer	Nils

St. Mary's Class Attendance	
This Week's Winners: Year 2!	
<u>Reception</u>	94.12%
<u>Year 1</u>	99.05%
<u>Year 2</u>	100%
<u>Year 3</u>	98.18%
<u>Year 4</u>	96.36%



## Attendance Ladder



## Diary Dates

<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Mini Vinnie's 3.15-4.30pm
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Reception class-Celebration of the Word in hall 9.30am- Parents/carers invited
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bank Holiday Monday-School closed
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<u>Art Afternoon-World Oceans Day</u> Parents/carers invited into school to support your child (ren) with their recyclable themed art project from 2:10-2:50pm
<b>Y4 Moor House Trip 9<sup>th</sup> &amp; 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	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 26 <sup>th</sup> April.

	Please ensure all outstanding payments are made on Arbor <b>by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 24</b> . Many thanks.
<b>Thursday 16th May</b>	Pentecost Pupil celebrations of the Word-in class. Parents invited into classes. Rec: 2:10-2:20 /Y1: 2:20-2:30pm Y2:2:30-2:40pm/Y3:2:40-2:50pm/Y4 2:50-3:00pm
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Mini Vinnie's 3.15-4.30pm
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Years 3 & 4 Celebration of the Word in hall 9.30am- World Environment Day-Parents/carers invited.
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Years 1 & 2 Celebration of the Word in hall 9.30am- Aspirations-Parents/carers invited.
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Hexham Partnership Transfer Day

## **Safeguarding**

### **St. Mary's Safeguarding**

This month our E-safety theme is 'Privacy & Security'. The children will discuss the importance of privacy settings on the networks, devices, apps and sites they use.

Please take a look at the following information and advice for parents and carers on supporting your child in discussing 'Privacy & security': [Parental controls & privacy settings guides | 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](mailto:parentcontact@smfs.bwcet.com))

## Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SHOPPING PLATFORMS

For people looking to make purchases on their phones, several shopping apps – such as Temu – allow users to buy goods at reduced prices. Others, like Vinted and Depop, let you sell items you no longer want. As internet shopping continues to grow, however, so does the risk of scammers, hackers and breaches of privacy.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### MISSING ITEMS

Users of Vinted, Depop and Temu have reported not receiving their products despite payment being taken. Users can initially contact the seller to query a missing item, and they have between two and five days (depending on the app) to tell the company what has happened. However, once the money has reached the supposed 'seller', it can be quite difficult to get back.

#### SCAMMERS AND PHISHING

Scammers are always on the lookout for unsuspecting buyers or sellers. Common tactics include cancelling shipment of an item once the payment has been processed or asking to conclude the chat and payment outside of the app, where the victim is no longer protected by the buyer protection plan. This should, naturally, be avoided at all costs.

#### DATA MISUSE

Apps of all kinds frequently collect our data, often asking for more information than is necessary to set up an account. Data gathered in this way is then usually sold on to third parties for marketing purposes. Lately, certain apps have been under scrutiny for using spyware to track their members' activities – but all too often, the user's consent to this practice has been hidden away in the terms and conditions.

#### FAKES OR REPLICAS

It's certainly not unheard of for poor-quality products to be falsely marketed as luxury items, using misleading pictures or clever wording. These disingenuous sales are sometimes outed by suspiciously low price tags, but this isn't always the case. For children and young people especially, there's a risk that the promise of bagging a high-end item for a fraction of its usual price will outshine any suspicions they may have.

#### SLOW REFUNDS

While all apps offer a refund if the product is damaged or doesn't match the description, it can take up to a month to be compensated for this. For many people (especially during a cost-of-living crisis) that can be a long time to be without both the product you bought and the hard-earned cash you spent on it.

#### MISLEADING DESCRIPTION

Some people will be able to notice when, say, a product's photo and its description don't seem to match. This isn't a reliable means of picking up on misleading marketing, however – especially not for children and young people, many of whom may not yet realise that such practices even exist. While it's illegal to advertise one thing and sell another, plenty of shady traders use clever wording and omissions to get around this.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ALWAYS STAY ON THE APP

It's vital that users pay for any goods through the same app on which they found them, to ensure they are covered by buyer protection. This means users can access support if the item arrives damaged, isn't as described, or doesn't arrive at all – allowing them to seek compensation for the loss. Such regulations can't protect you, however, if you didn't do the deal through the app in question.

### BE WARY OF PHISHING ATTEMPTS

Scammers frequently send messages within these apps to steal personal and financial information from other users. Don't respond to these messages – and under no circumstances should you follow any links they contain. Check for spelling errors, as well as inspecting the name of the sender. Report any suspected phishing emails to the app's help centre – and notify your bank if you think your financial information has been compromised.

### CHECK REVIEWS

Take time to read the reviews and comments left by other users – not just of products, but of sellers and buyers, to ensure they're legitimate and reliable. Before buying an item online, check the reviews for comments about the product's quality, the seller's communication and the delivery time. If you're selling, check the reviews of your buyer for red flags such as frequent requests for refunds or claims of 'missing' items.

### KEEP SAFE AS A SELLER

Sellers can be exploited just as much as buyers. Some users may purchase an item, for example, then pretend it didn't arrive to secure a refund. Always take photos of the shipping label, along with a picture of you posting the item. Send the package's tracking number to the buyer and keep a copy for yourself, letting you investigate any future claims that it never arrived. When taking photos of items you're selling, ensure nothing personal is in the background.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/shopping-apps)

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