



St Mary's R.C. First School

Weekly Newsletter – Friday 21st May

Statement to Live by



Dear Parents,

It won't be long now before parents will be able to finally return to our schools to watch their children in a variety of events. One of those occasions would have been today had it not been for COVID restrictions. This afternoon, we saw an example of how special our children at St Mary's are, in a beautifully conducted Liturgy by Y1. The children performed for KS1 and KS2 in two separate assemblies. The singing, readings and prayers were simply wonderful as they celebrated The Year of St Joseph, with the theme St Joseph the worker.

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. The children conducted liturgies across the school last week around this celebration. On Pentecost we are reminded to pay attention for the ways the Holy Spirit is guiding us, the church and all believers.

Can I remind parents that we are closed next Friday, 28th May, for our planned Teacher Training Day. The school will reopen on Monday 7th June.

Finally, for those pupils interested in golf we do have close partnerships with Hexham and Matfen Golf Club. I have attached some information regarding Friday night golf and a Half Term Golf Camp that parents may be interested in. Please see below.

For those parents wondering how they will keep children entertained for 6 weeks or so - I am delighted to announce we are running a two week Sports camp during the Summer holidays, for pupils in Y2 to Y8. All staff are qualified coaches including Mr Secker and Miss M Armstrong. Please see the information below.

Feast Days:

The Jewish **feast of Pentecost** (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek *pentekoste*, "fiftieth"). Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church and the start of the church's mission to the world.



Mission Team

The Mission Team wish you all a Happy Pentecost weekend. They have created a fantastic, eye-catching display on the altar this week and filled it with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wraparound Care - 'Kidz Zone'

We are still in the process of setting up our Wraparound Care provision at St Mary's. We are very excited about this and hope to have this up and running for the start of the school term in September. More information will follow in the coming weeks.



Toddlers@StMary's

If you would be interested in helping with the running of this new group, please email Helen Forster at parentcontact@hexhamstmarys.uk.

Summer Sports Camp Y2 - Y8

We will be holding a Summer Sports Camp at St Joseph's Middle School for pupils from Y2 - Y8. The sports camp will run from 9am until 3pm for two weeks.

Week 1 is from Monday 19th July to Friday 23rd July.

Week 2 is from Monday 26th July to Friday 30th July.



The daily price is £20 per child, whilst the price for a child attending every day for a week is £80. We believe that this compares favourably with other childcare providers. Our summer sports camp aims to provide children with a safe and familiar setting to be active with their friends. After the National lockdowns over the past year, the emphasis of the camp will be on enjoyment and children experiencing a wide range of different activities. The summer camp will be fully supervised by Mr Secker, PE teacher at St Joseph's and Miss Armstrong, teaching assistant at St Mary's.

You will receive a ParentMail form next week to enable you to sign your child/children up for this club.

Electric Gates

Our electric gates are now working. The gates will be opened at pick up and drop off times. If you have to come to school at any other time, you will have to request access via the intercoms at both the main gates and at the gate from the church car park.

Please note - there is no pedestrian exit via the main gate, to exit you must use the pedestrian gate. If you are leaving in a car, drive slowly towards the gates and they will start to open towards you.

Teddy Bears Picnic

On Friday 2nd July we will be having a Teddy Bear's Picnic-themed lunch at St Mary's. Weather permitting, we will eat outside on this day.



Year 3 & 4 Trip to Dukeshouse Wood

Next week we look forward to Y3 and Y4 having a wonderful outdoor experience at Dukeshouse Wood in Hexham. Our thanks must go to Kirsty Forster for helping arrange this visit. Kirsty worked at St Mary's as an administrator and Teaching Assistant whilst Dukeshouse Wood was closed.

The children need to arrive at Dukeshouse on time and be collected from Dukeshouse promptly, as stipulated in letters to parents last week. Can I thank all parents for supporting travel arrangements for this educational trip.

Year 4 will attend on Tuesday 25th May and Year 3 will attend on Wednesday 26th May.

If you have not given your permission for your child to attend, please do so via the form that was sent to you by ParentMail on Monday 17th May.



Please note that due to the Dukeshouse Wood trip next week, Y4 football club (Tuesday after school) and Y3 Zumba Club (Wednesday after school) have been cancelled. As Zumba sessions have already been paid for, the extra session owed will be on the first Wednesday after half term.

School Uniform

With another busy summer ahead of us, we want to let you know the deadline for ordering school uniform.

It will be important, this year more than ever, for orders to be placed on time due to the continuing supply issues from the Far East.

The deadline date for this years' uniform issue is - **MONDAY 5th JULY**

Please find the link below to our school uniform page:

<https://www.saltouk.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=59>

Following the advice from the government, Salto remain cautious regarding the trying on of clothes at their shop, and recommend orders are placed via their website as they have made it as easy as possible for customers to exchange where required.

Friday Night Junior Coaching at Matfen Hall

I am really pleased to confirm that the Friday night Junior coaching sessions will be recommencing from Friday 21st May.

It's felt like a long time but I can't wait to get started. I've been using the last year to improve what I do and I can't wait to run some amazing sessions that will not only be a lot of fun but will hopefully have a huge impact on your golfing development.

As before there will be two sessions, 5pm-6pm & 6pm-7pm. We will be covering lots of different aspects. These will include:

- 'Game-based' challenges to develop your skills
- Short game and putting skills
- Long game work
- Wedge play
- On-course sessions to develop course management & decision making skills.

Sessions are limited to 8 players in a group and the cost will be £10 for non-members and £8.50 for members. The booking for the next 6 weeks is now open!

To book please call the driving range on 01661886400 (selecting Option 3) to reserve your spot at whatever weeks you can make in either the 5-6 or the 6-7 hour. They will just need your name and contact number. There will also be a reserve list if it's full as per usual.

Cancellations inside of 24 hours will be charged.

The dates are:

Friday 21st May 5-6pm & 6-7pm
Friday 28th May 5-6pm & 6-7pm
****miss a week, I'm away ****
****miss a week, I'm away****
Friday 18th June 5-6pm & 6-7pm
Friday 25th June 5-6pm & 6-7pm
Friday 2nd July 5-6pm & 6-7pm
Friday 9th July 5-6pm & 6-7pm

JUNIOR GOLF CAMP IN HALF TERM HOLIDAYS

I am excited to be hosting a Junior Golf Camp this half term holiday at Matfen Hall. The date is Thursday 3rd of June (10am-3pm). Please see attached poster below for details and if you are interested in booking a place or want more info call me on 07899090777 or email me at jjvallely@yahoo.co.uk
Spaces are limited so book now to guarantee your place!
More Junior Camps to follow in the Summer....dates to follow!
It promises to be a lot of fun!



Looking forward to seeing you all and excited about helping you all improve.

Headteacher Awards: Well done to the following children:

Reception – Scarlett for a fantastic improvement with listening on the carpet.

Year 1 – Tyler and Archie for being extremely kind, well-mannered and attentive during their phonics sessions.

Year 2 – Lilly for an amazing attitude towards learning, well done!

Year 3 – Mia for great application in maths and working independently on tasks.

Year 4 – Alisha for fantastic independent work in her extended writing task this week!

Good Work:

Reception – Corey and Archie for a fantastic effort in phonics this week.

Year 1 – Jack, Mason, Emily and Alex for excellent comic book writing.

Year 2 – Sebastian, Sophia, Phoebe, Jack and Spencer for super progress in reading.

Year 3 – Ava and Elise for superb presentation in their maths books.

Year 4 –Max for the effort and detail he added to his extended writing task!



Golden Chair: Congratulations to the following pupils:

Reception - Olivia for fantastic contributions during small group and whole class activities.

Y1 – Kaylin for perfect listening and trying hard to answer questions.

Y2 - Sebby for brilliant fluency in guided reading.

Y3 - Max for showing resilience whilst treading water during his swimming lesson.

Y4 – Eli for fantastic independence and pace in English this week!



Our Week in School:

Reception

This week, reception thoroughly enjoyed the story 'Eliot the Midnight Superhero'. They have used their imagination to decide if they were a superhero, what superpower they would have. In RE, we have begun our 'friends' topic, we listened carefully to the story of the selfish crocodile and the children spoke about the wrong choices that the crocodile made and how he changed these choices at the end of the story. We have drawn pictures of our friends and even created our own friendship bracelets, whilst continuing to practise being a good friend throughout the day. We have made the most of being outside in the sunshine, exploring our garden themed tuff tray where the children have been able to plant their own seeds. Well done reception, keep up the hard work!

Year 1

Year 1 have had another busy week, finishing with our whole school class liturgy for the Year of St Joseph. We focussed on the theme of St Joseph as a hard worker and reflected on how we can strive to work hard for our families too. In English this week we have written, edited and illustrated our own comic books about superheroes which was great fun. There were plenty of evil laughs and tricks from the baddies afoot! In maths, we have used our knowledge of quarters and halves to describe position and direction. We played the Simon Says with quarter, half, three-quarter and full turns. In history this week we learnt all about Richard III and we decided that he wasn't a very nice man. We decided as a class which historical sources were reliable and which weren't, and we were fascinated to find that his body was found in a car park in 2012. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have been learning all about the famous deep sea diver Jacques Cousteau in English this week. We have been researching facts and have been able to turn our notes into super sentences. In maths, we have been learning about measuring length and height and have enjoyed going on a measuring hunt. In science, we all created our own food chain booklet and know the difference between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We have started our next topic in R.E all about Rules. We worked in groups and role played situations and talked about making good choices. Another fantastic week, well done Year 2.

Year 3

Another busy week in Year 3! Beginning our week with swimming on Monday and what fantastic progress has been made in such a short space of time! Starting a brand new topic in English, Oswald class have been learning all about the language and features of adverts and the kinds of things companies use to persuade the customer to buy their product. Having almost completed their fractions topic, Year 3 have been working hard comparing and ordering fractions, sometimes having to create equivalent fractions to do so. In science, we have been learning all about the life cycle of plants; at seed dispersal and seed formation. In R.E we have been exploring some of the day to day choices we make and the consequences that may come with this. Cracking week Year 3!

Year 4

We have been using our imaginations and have created our very own additional chapter for the story 'The Butterfly Lion'. Year 4 made sure they were using varied sentence starters and fronted adverbials to ensure their writing was as imaginative and detailed as possible. In science, we discussed the dangers to different

animals habitats and what we can do as humans to prevent/reduce this damage on local wildlife. The children came up with some fantastic solutions and we heard about lots of 'bug hotels' that many of the children have created in their own garden at home. In maths, we tried some times tables questions on the iPads and the class was very focused having only 6 seconds to answer a question! Well done Bede class.


Gospel
John 20: 19 - 23.

'In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you", and showed them His hands and His side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and He said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this He breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Prayer

Let us pray
[that the Holy Spirit
may bring peace and unity to all mankind]
Almighty and ever-living God,
you fulfilled the Easter promise
by sending us your Holy Spirit.
May that Spirit unite the races and nations on earth
to proclaim your glory.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

God Bless,



Mr P Naughton

Fr Chris

