



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – 25th June 2021

Dear Parents,

A big thankyou to Mr Thompson and Oswald, class for their class Liturgy today. The children sang, read and prayed beautifully. Well done Oswald class.

Unfortunately, due to the delay in the lifting of restrictions this month, we have had no alternative but to cancel some of the transition events that we had planned.

A decision has been made by the Hexham Schools Partnership to cancel the proposed Y4 Transfer Day after the DfE advised schools to, **“avoid hosting large group gatherings indoors for more than one bubble”**.

We are planning that our Y4 pupils will have their Transfer Day on Tuesday 7th September 2021 with the Y6 ,7 & 8 pupils returning to school on Wednesday 8th September.

St Joseph's have also had to cancel plans for their Welcome Evening for new Y5 parents.

Instead, there will be a virtual open evening on Tuesday 6th July at 6pm. You will receive a letter about this with further details.

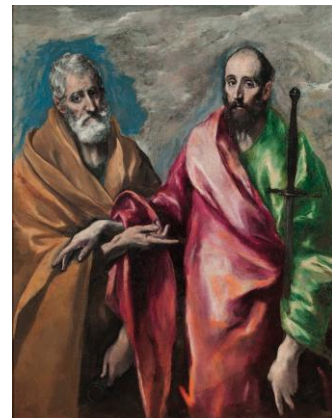
The Rounders Afternoon that was to take place at St Joseph's next week for our Y4 pupils has also been cancelled.

On a more positive note, we are extremely excited to be able to accommodate two classes, Y3 & Y4, for swimming lessons from September. Following a year of pupils missing many important swimming lessons we are setting ambitious targets for pupils to not only be fit and healthy but to be confident swimmers. We will also be scheduling a gym session to coincide with the lesson for each class. More details will follow.

Feast Day:

Tuesday 29th June - Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles

This is the feast day that honours the martyrdom of the two saints, sometime between AD 64 and 68. While the church recognises that they may not have died on the same day, tradition says that this is the day that they were both martyred in Rome by Emperor Nero.



Websites:

Both of our new school websites are now live. We hope that you find them informative and interesting. You can access them via the links below:

<https://www.hexhamstmarys.uk/>

<https://www.hexhamstjosephs.uk/>

New Pupil Welcome:

Over the last two weeks, we have been lucky enough to welcome 2 new children to our school. James who has joined Y2 and Jack who has joined Y1. Both boys seem to have settled in well and we hope that they enjoy their time at St Mary's.

Staff Farewell:

It is with sadness that today, we must say goodbye to Anna Hutchinson, our admin assistant at St. Joseph's Middle School.

Anna has been with us for 5 years, starting as an apprentice at St Mary's before moving to the reception at St Joseph's. We will miss her sunny disposition and her amazing computer skills!

We wish you well in your new role Anna, best wishes from all the staff and parents at both schools.



After School Clubs

Just a reminder that next week is the last week for after school clubs. There will be no after school clubs in the last 2 weeks of term. For morning clubs, the last running club will be Thursday 8th July but golf club will remain running until the end of term.

Bike Week

As Northumberland County Council designated June as Northumberland Bike Month, here at St. Mary's we decided to promote and deliver cycling initiatives. It has been an exciting week for the children bringing in their bikes and scooters to take part in Bike Week. During this week each class had the opportunity to bring either their bike or scooter and take part in class activities learning about road safety when on a bike, before spending time outside riding their bikes with their class. The children were very sensible with some of our children able to manage road signals whilst riding a bike. The children learnt about the importance of being visible, wearing a bike helmet and always letting a grown up know where you are when you're outside on your bike and/or scooter. The children enjoyed showing their friends their bikes and scooters whilst also learning about the importance of road safety.



Year 3 getting geared up for National Bike Week! Oswald class spoke about the positive impact of cycling for the environment, mental health and fitness. They also learned about many of the ways to stay safe when out and about on their bikes. What an afternoon - watch out Chris Hoy!





Wraparound Care - 'Kidz Zone'

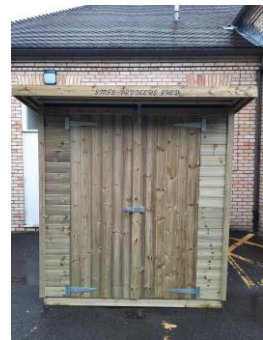
The school wraparound care facility will be available from 7.45 am to 8.50 am and 3pm to 5.45 pm. every day during term time from September. Child care vouchers can be used and our prices are extremely competitive. Parents will need to register to use the facility and 24 hours notice will need to be given for cancellations.

We will be sending out a registration form over the next two weeks for those families who wish to use the Kidz Zone facility in the next academic year.

For more information on Kidz Zone please see the school website under Parent Hub.

Toddlers@StMary's - Donations

Our toddler group will be up and running in September. This will be held in the school hall, every Friday from 9.00am - 11.00am at a charge of £1.00. We are still looking for donations of good quality games, toys, ride-ons and books. If you have any of these items that you would like to see put to good use, please bring them to the school office and we will store them in our brand new toddler shed!



Year 2 Science Visit to the Sele Park

Y2 had a fantastic afternoon at the Sele Park. We explored our local area and had lots of fun identifying the trees in the park. We drew pictures of the trees and used our magnifying glasses to look closely at the leaves. Y2 can now name a range of different types of trees. We then used oil pastels to do bark rubbings, it was so much fun. We even saw a squirrel climbing up a tree, how exciting!



Summer Sports Camp Y2 - Y8:

We have had a great response to the St Joseph's Summer Sports Camp for children in Ys 2 - 8.

Those who have already signed up should have received information on how to pay for this. If you have not received this information, please email parentcontact@hexhamstmarys.uk



Armed Forces Week:

This week St Mary's have been learning about the armed forces and the importance of their role. Armed forces week takes particular attention to the reservists who are part of the armed forces and recognise their time and effort.

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. Don't forget to bring your teddy bear.

Social Media:

While we have not been able to hold these events this last year, I am happy for parents to take photographs of their own children during certain school events like Sports Day and Class Assemblies. However, parents must not take photos or videos of other children and under no circumstances should photos and/or videos be uploaded to social networking sites.

Guidance for parents/guardians

- Please refrain from the use of the school name, logo or images of any children/staff/parents on any social media platforms without the expressed consent of the Executive Headteacher of St Mary's First School.
- Do not make any derogatory, defamatory, rude, threatening or inappropriate comments about the school, or anyone at/or connected with the school.
- Please use existing channels for home-school communication and contact school if you feel ill-informed about school life, rather than using Social Media.

We understand that everyone uses Social Media platforms these days and that often Social Media posts are really positive about school, but on occasion we do hear about negative comments about school being posted on personal accounts and other local pages. We do pride ourselves in being a very open, approachable school and as you are all aware I am on the playground in all weathers, all of the time! Please do talk to us; especially if you have concerns. If you feel that the incident is serious enough to post for everyone to see please tell us about it, then we can and will do something about your concerns. Can I also please remind parents that our official school Facebook page is meant to be a place where we can share things about our school, what we do and to update parents and carers of our children. We welcome positive and constructive interactions with you and always look forward to sharing lots of information about our trips, lessons, visitors and activities. Any inappropriate comments that are left will be removed and may result in the user being blocked. Again, should you have any questions, concerns, complaints or queries about our school or your child's education, please contact the school directly so we can arrange a time to discuss things with you.

Homework:

Please note that the last date for homework being set this academic year is Friday 2nd July.

Healthy Schools Week:

The week commencing 5th July we are having our annual Health Schools Week. There are lots of exciting things covering all aspects of health and well-being. Please could children wear sportswear and suitable trainers for the entirety of the week as we will be running the daily mile. The only exception to this is the children will need to wear their **school PE kit on Sports Day (see below)**. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately and has a water bottle in school. Please ensure your child is protected with a sunhat and high factor sun cream as we will be spending a lot of time outdoors.

Sports Day- Update:

As promised, Sports Day will go ahead for the children however, because of government guidelines, we have decided that sadly, parents will not be able to attend any sports days in either schools. We understand that many of you will be disappointed but staff and pupil safety is our main priority together with children having a wonderful time. The planned day is the afternoon of Wednesday 7th July and the reserve day is the morning of Thursday 8th July. Children will need to wear their blue St Mary's PE kit on this day instead of home sports gear. Please ensure your child has a water bottle, sunscreen and a sunhat for this event.

Year 4 End of Year Picnic:

Y4 will be taking part in an end of year picnic the week beginning the 12th July (weather dependent) children will be able to showcase their many talents in putting on a talent show for their peers. There is no obligation for children to take part and all food and drink will be provided. Children will still require a packed lunch that day if they usually have one.

Reports Parents Evening:

Reports are due to go out the week beginning 12th July. If any parents wish to discuss their child's report with their class teacher staff will be available to contact on Wednesday 14th July between 3.30-5pm

School Uniform - Deadline Reminder

Please remember that all orders for school uniform for September, must be in by Monday 5th July.

Please find the link below to our school uniform page:

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

Sports Stars

18th June	25th June
Running Club - Sebastian S, Harry B, Jenson & Eliza	Running club - Briannon, Phoebe M, Oliver, & Elise
Bootcamp - Sebby & Tommy	Bootcamp - Jack

Headteacher Awards: Well done to the following children:

18th June	25th June
Reception - Parker for fantastic recall of odd and even numbers.	Reception - Bao for fantastic use of prepositional language in maths.
Y1 - Calum for super effort and presentation in writing.	Y1 - Jack B for trying really hard in his phonics.
Y2 - James for having a fantastic first week at St Mary's!	Y2 - Harry B for persevering with his writing in English.
Y3 - Emilie for amazing time telling skills!	Y3 - Fleur for fantastic reading during class liturgy.
Y4 - Jack for amazing spelling work!	Y4 - Ruby for a positive approach to all she does!

Good Work:

18th June	25th June
Reception - Harrison for writing a fantastic independent letter to Jack from the Giant.	Reception - Oliver for writing a superb plot twist for the story of Hansel and Gretel
Y1 - Tyler and Archie for absolutely fantastic progress with phonics blending, well done!	Y1 - Nils, Vinnie and Kaylin for fantastic effort in their arithmetic.
Y2 - Isaac K, Brody and Sebastian S for amazing independent learning this week.	Y2 - Ronnie and Charlie for fantastic handwriting improvement.
Y3 - Seamus for a fantastic diary entry in role!	Y3 - Tommy for a great letter of apology to Starbird as the Moon King!
Y4 -Ruby for excellent work at home on time.	Y4 -James for an amazing tagline in English!

Golden Chair: Congratulations to the following pupils:

18th June	25th June
Reception - Archie for having a huge smile on his face all week!	Reception - Artie for having an extremely positive attitude this week.
Y1 - . Ollie for enthusiasm and great general knowledge in class discussions.	Y1 - Jack H for a very confident start to his time at St Mary's!
Y2 - Sebby R for fantastic effort in maths to read the time in five minute intervals.	Y2 - James for an amazing attitude to learning, well done!
Y3 - Iva for wonderful creativity in her written work!	Y3 - Harley for giving Mr Thompson a run for his money on bike day!
Y4 -Taylor for amazing Motocross achievements!	Y4 -Amelia for amazing attitude during Bike Day!

Our Week in School:

Reception

Last week, reception enjoyed the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We discussed the things that Jack stole from the Giant and the children wrote a letter to Jack pretending to be the giant, explaining why he needed the items back. This week in English our story focus has been Hansel and Gretel and the children have enjoyed using their imagination to twist the plot of the story. In maths last week we learnt about odd and even numbers and this week we have been focusing on prepositional language and replicating different models. We have finished off our week by riding around the yard on our bikes and scooters this afternoon, which has been a fantastic treat! Well done Wilfrid class, keep up all of your hard work.

Year 1

Year 1 have been busy bees as usual. We have done lots of writing in our English lessons and have been using verbs and adverbs to describe the poor little penguin that is lost in our classroom. In maths, we have been comparing numbers up to 100 using the greater than and less than symbol. In geography this term we have been observing the weather and there has certainly been a lot to see. In science we have been looking at plants, we planted some pea seeds and they are now flourishing, it is lovely to watch! We finished off this week with Bike Day on Thursday. All of us were able to ride around the yard and we had a great time, there were lots of friendly races and some high speeds reached!

Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic time at the Sele Park last week and can now identify a range of different trees in our local area. In English, we have finished our class reader 'Lights on Cotton Rock' by David Litchfield. We loved the illustrations and imaginative ideas the author used. We have been using prefixes and suffixes in our writing too. In maths, we have been learning about five minute intervals when reading the time. In science this week, we have all planted our own sunflower seed and we are doing a whole class comparative test to see what plants need to grow. Last week in R.E we reflected on why rules are important and took part in a whole class liturgy. We also learnt all about Islam and how Muslims pray. We found Kenya on a world map in geography and researched facts all about Kenya. In P.E, we learnt how to play 'Bucketball' which is a bit like rounders, it was so much fun! Another fabulous week Cuthbert class, well done!

Year 3

Continuing in English with our class reader, Starbird, Year 3 have been writing for a range of purposes including a wanted poster to help Starbird find a place to call home, a diary entry in role as Starbird, giving advice in the form of a song and a letter of apology from the Moon King to Starbird! In maths, we are continuing to tell the time and have even looked at telling the time to the exact minute! We have looked at converting times between the 24 hour clock and the 12 hour clock and have realised the significance with adding and subtracting 12. In R.E. we learnt about the importance of the Quran to Muslims and even discussed the story about how Mohammed became a prophet. Oswald class thoroughly enjoyed Bike Day as we raced around the playground on our bikes and scooters! We finished off the week with our class liturgy, celebrating the Year of St. Joseph, focusing particularly on Joseph as a beloved and dedicated father and husband.

Year 4

Last week we completed our English using punctuated dialogue to create a fictional conversation between two book characters. We started our new mathematics topic on 'Time' and discussed the difference between AM and PM. In R.E. we celebrated 'Islam Week' by learning some of the 99 beautiful names for Allah and made our own Subha prayer beads. This week we have been super sporty with golf, sports coach and Bike Day. We thoroughly enjoyed biking round the yard and learning about how to be safe and visible on the roads. In English, we created some amazing taglines for the book 'A Town is by the Sea' that we have recently finished reading and in maths we have started revising the 24 hour clock. Busy as ever Bede class-well done!

Gospel

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. A woman, who had suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Jesus and touched his cloak. "If I can touch even his clothes," she had told herself, "I shall be well again." And the source of her bleeding dried up instantly and she felt in herself that she was cured. Immediately aware that power had gone out from him, Jesus turned round and said, "Who touched me?" Then the woman came forward frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at his feet and told him the whole truth. "My daughter," he said, "your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint."

Adapted from Mark 5:21-43
The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

God Bless,



Mr P Naughton

Fr Chris

