



St Mary's R.C. First School

Weekly Newsletter – Thursday 27th May

Statement to Live by

The Last Supper

Dear Parents,

Summer half term has finally arrived after a really successful half term. At this point can I express my gratitude to all parents for ensuring pupils are collected and dropped off safely in the mornings and afternoon periods and ensuring that social distancing has been maintained.

As a result of everyone's commitment to government safety measures including wearing masks, washing hands and regular testing - our schools have remained COVID free of any variants.

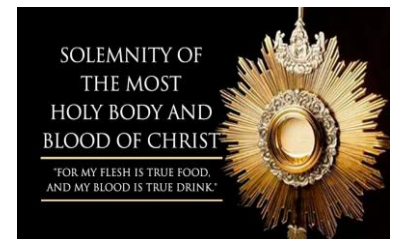
Can I urge everyone to remain cautious during the holiday and follow the guidelines now in place. If anyone does feel unwell with COVID symptoms can I ask that you notify school at the earliest opportunity by email to parentcontact@hexhamstmarys.uk

The Summer Term is both an exciting and sad time for many with school leavers preparing for the next stage of their educational Journey. Both Y4 and Y8 will have transition opportunities in the coming weeks and more information will follow after half term. Our new reception/Y5 parents will also have an opportunity to visit school in a presentation evening at the end of June. More details will follow.

Feast Day:

Corpus Christi for the year 2021 is celebrated/ observed on **Thursday, June 3rd.**

Corpus Christi is a feast that is celebrated on the second Thursday after Whit Sunday. It is a Catholic holiday that celebrates the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ through Holy Communion (Eucharist).



Parent/Teacher Telephone Call

During the week beginning 14th June 2021, you will receive a telephone call from your child's form teacher.

To enable this to run smoothly and to ensure that we have the correct details, you were sent a form on ParentMail asking you to provide the name and telephone number of the best parent contact for the parent/teacher call.

If you have not yet completed this form, can I please ask that you do this as soon as possible so that we can arrange the time for the calls to take place. The form can be found on ParentMail Forms dated Monday 17th May. If you have any problems completing this form, please email parentcontact@hexhamstmarys.uk

Wraparound Care - 'Kidz Zone'

We are still in the process of setting up our Wrap Around 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.

The school wraparound care facility will be available from 7.45 am to 8.50 am and 3pm to 5.45 pm. 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. After half term we will be sending out registration forms for those families that would like to sign up to the Kidz Zone in the next academic year.

Toddlers@StMary's - Donations

If you have any unwanted toys/books/games that are in good condition and they are just taking up space, we would gladly take them off you for our new baby and toddler group. Any donations can be brought to school in plastic/bin bags.

If you would be interested in helping with the running of this 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.



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.

Year 3 & 4 Trip to Dukeshouse Wood

Years 3 & 4 had a fantastic time at Dukeshouse Wood Activity centre this week. Staff at the centre were very impressed at the behaviour and positive attitude of the children who were a credit to our school. The children took part in the challenging high ropes and the 3G Swing as well as firing shots in archery and braving a muddy, wet assault course. A fantastic couple of days, once again many thanks to Kirsty Forster for organising this for us.

We are looking forward to organising further visits before the end of the academic year for classes following this week's successful trips. Please see our Facebook page for more pictures.



Year 4 Transition Visits - Reminder

Y4 children will be visiting St Joseph's on the following dates:

Wednesday 9th June 2021 between 1:30-2:30pm. During this visit children will get a tour of the St. Joseph's School Site and meet some of the staff.

Wednesday 30th June 2021 between 1.30– 2.30 pm. During this visit children will participate in a game of rounders, meeting children from other schools who are also starting St. Joseph's R.C. Middle School in September. Please can you ensure that your child has their P.E kit that day, a coat and their water bottle. If it is sunny please could you provide your child with sun cream in a clearly labelled bottle.



I will also be doing a welcome evening for new parents with a selection of school meals and uniform samples being available to order. All class information for Sept 2021 will be sent out later in the Summer Term.

Year of St. Joseph

The Vatican announced that this year (December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021) would be a year dedicated to St. Joseph, husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ. Each month is dedicated to one of St. Joseph's many virtues. Throughout the month of May we have been focussed upon how hardworking St. Joseph was. Our Year 1 children shared a Liturgy with each class that focused upon the 'hardworking' virtue of St. Joseph. It was beautiful to be a part of and the pupils deserve a huge round of applause. Thank you to Miss Kane for all her hard work too.



World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated every year on June 5th. On this day, people are supposed to do good things for the environment and sustainability. These acts help to protect nature and the planet Earth. It is run by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). As we are on holiday on June 5th we will celebrate WED on Monday 7th June exploring this year's theme of 'Ecosystem Restoration'. However, if any of the children take part in any activities over half term where they do good things for the environment and sustainability please feel free to share their good deeds with their class teacher by sending any photographs to parentcontact@hexhamstmarys.uk

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.

Organ Scholarship – 2021-22

Already play the piano – interested in learning the organ?

St Mary's is planning to appoint an organ scholar for the coming school year. This is a wonderful opportunity for a young person to receive free, expert tuition from one of the region's foremost organ teachers, and learn some valuable professional skills. The organ scholar will help by playing at Mass and other services, and be an important part of the parish's musical life.

No experience of playing the organ is necessary, but applicants will need have well-grounded piano/keyboard skills, typically with good exam results at grade 5 or higher, and show promise as confident all-round musicians. Anyone interested in applying, or wanting further information, should email music@stmaryshexham.org.uk by Friday 11th June.

Headteacher Awards: Well done to the following children:

Reception – Erin for being a kind friend to others.

Year 1 – Sebastian for impressive knowledge in all his subjects.

Year 2 – Harry B for writing a fantastic biography in English.

Year 3 – Max and Jason for conquering their fear of heights!

Year 4 – Will G, Ashika, Henry, Alisha, Mollie, Ruby for maintaining a positive attitude on a muddy assault course!

Good Work:

Reception – Parker and Ellie for super recall of doubles to 10.

Year 1 – Freddie S, Ollie and Calum for great knowledge of animals in science.

Year 2 – George and Feebie L for fantastic teamwork this week.

Year 3 – Emilie for creating a convincing advert using persuasive techniques.

Year 4 – Cole, Lucy & Ralph for making a concerted effort with their presentation & handwriting.

Golden Chair: Congratulations to the following pupils:

Reception - Juliette for trying hard to write simple words independently.

Y1 – Vinnie for great listening and attention on the carpet.



Y2 - Eliza for always trying her best and using her growth mindset to encourage others.

Y3 - Fraser for conducting himself in a very polite manner around the Dukeshouse Wood..

Y4 – Will A for a caring attitude in supporting a friend in need.

Our Week in School:

Reception

Reception have had a fantastic final week of this half term! Our focus book this week has been 'Supertato'. The children enjoyed exploring making 'vegetable soup' in the tuff tray and saving the vegetables from the slime that the evil pea had put them in! The children also loved creating their own supertato character on Wednesday afternoon. In maths, the children have been learning how to double and have become very confident with doubles to 10. The children have thoroughly enjoyed watching their sunflowers grow and have been taking care of them by watering them every day, ready to bring home and plant in their garden. We hope you have an amazing half term and return to school rested and ready for the final half term in reception.

Year 1

Year 1 have been working hard again this week. As part of our 'Saying sorry' topic, we have been finishing our stories about Zacchaeus in the tree and have looked at all the ways we can shine like Jesus and be kind. In phonics we have been practising reading tricky words using our sound buttons to help sound them out, and chunking them up in the middle when they are long. In maths we have been learning the vocabulary associated with position and direction, we know our lefts and rights and can describe where things are in relation to one another. In science this week we learnt all about grouping animals into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Well done for working so hard this term Year 1, have a lovely break and I can't wait to hear about all your adventures when we come back!

Year 2

Another busy week in Year 2. We have written biographies all about Jacques Cousteau in English. We have been measuring in centimetres and metres in maths. In history we thought about how people might travel in the future and created our own designs. Year 2 have fantastic imaginations. Cuthbert class enjoyed a fun, creative last day of the half term; decorating pebbles to make a class 'path to forgiveness' in RE and designing and exploring early aviation and the legacy of the Wright Brothers by making wooden peg aeroplanes in their transport topic. We hope you have a lovely, restful break and are ready for the last half term of Year 2. (If you have any spare, clean cardboard boxes at home please bring them in on the first day back, thank you).

Year 3

A fantastic week to conclude our half term! We began the week by creating an advert for a product of our choice using persuasive language and key features of adverts including catchy slogans, hyperbole and customer quotes. We rounded off our fractions topic in maths by adding and subtracting fractions, created an Ancient Greek vase in history and explored our conscience and our notion of right and wrong in RE. We had a fantastic day at Kingswood on Wednesday taking to the great heights of the ropes, our best Robin Hood impressions during archery, had a taste of the army on the obstacle course and conquered our fears on the 3G swing. What a way to end! Have a restful week Year 3, you all deserve it!



Year 4

What an amazing week we have had! We started the week exploring our new English topic based on the book 'Town is by the Sea' by Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith. We used prepositions and conjunctions to create expanded noun phrases and created questions for the nouns we could see in the front cover of the book e.g. I wonder if the boy is sad? Tuesday we had an amazing day at Dukeshouse Wood braving the high ropes, archery, the 3G Swing and an assault course. Everyone took part in the activities and supported one another throughout the day. On returning to school we have been adding and subtracting fractions and even had time to learn about the Sacrament of Confirmation, create a Greek vase as well as create a fact file for an endangered animal in science. You all deserve a well earned rest Bede class, have a fantastic half term!

Gospel

Mark 14: 12 - 16 and 22 - 26.

'On the first day of the Passover, Jesus said to two of His disciples, "Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, 'The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as He had told them and prepared the Passover.'

Prayer

Gracious and Holy Father,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

God Bless,



Mr P Naughton

Fr Chris

