



# St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – 21st January 2022

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Dear Parents / Guardians

We have had a wonderful week at St Mary's this week with lots happening in so many ways.

Firstly, well done to Miss Kane's class for their splendid behaviour in church on Wednesday. Fr Jeff was super impressed with how they responded to the Gospel and answered questions so well. Next week, Fr Luke will spend a day in school preparing the children for the beginning of Lent which is not far away. Fr Luke will start with Y3 and Y4 and then spend the afternoon with KS1.

On Friday, Y3 will welcome Mrs Pat Brown from St Mary's Parish SVP to plan our events for the Lenten term, following an amazing end to the Advent Term which included carol singing at St Cuthbert's and exchanging letters with the sick and vulnerable in our parish.

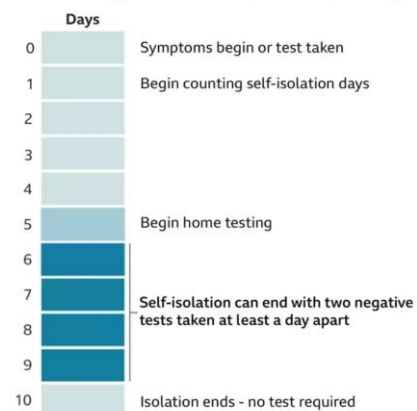
Our Y3 and Y4 swimmers have made brilliant progress since the beginning of term and we have many pupils who are now confident swimmers and are perfecting their stroke technique. Many thanks to all parents that contribute to swimming as it is much appreciated.

We still have some space in a range of clubs both in the morning and after school. Please contact the school office to see what is available.

Kidz Zone is absolutely thriving and is now just over a term old. It is staffed by St Mary's school staff and runs from 7.45 am to 5.45 pm with some of the cheapest and most competitive child care prices in Hexham. For details on what's on and how to book please see our Kidz Zone paragraph further down.

May I take this opportunity to again remind parents of the changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19. From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue

How five-day isolation rule works in England



Source: NHS



to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation. If any parents are unsure then please ring our school office and we will advise.

Many thanks to the majority of parents who continue to be considerate when parking within the grounds of St Mary's church. However, we still have parents who park and block Fr Jeff's drive which happened on two occasions this week. The drive must be accessible to our parish priests at all times. Can I also ask that parents do not use the church car park after 8.50 am to drop off pupils as parents begin to exit the car park at this time. Please could parents also not park on the double yellow lines within the car park for obvious reasons. There is plenty of parking nearby and I ask that parents park and walk as they do at St Joseph's Middle School and other local schools. I am doing the best I can to steward the car park on the request of Fr Jeff but I cannot do this every day. If any parents or grandparents would like to assist me I would be very grateful.

#### **Year 4 Residential trip to Moor House Adventure Centre**

Just a reminder to year 4 parents. If you would like your child to participate in the residential to Moor House Adventure Centre from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, please complete the ParentMail permission form you were sent and pay the deposit of **£25** no later than **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.**

The Moor House Adventure Centre will include five activities led by trained Moor House staff, all meals plus overnight accommodation and transport. Examples of activities include bush-craft and shelter building, Bus Caves as well as roasting marshmallows on a campfire! Children will sleep in small indoor 6-8 bed dormitories and will be allocated with at least one friend of their choice. More information regarding Moor House Adventure Centre and the activities provided can be found at: <https://moor-house.org.uk/activities/>

School is funding over half the cost of the coach transfers making the actual cost of the residential stay (including transport) **£117.00** per child. To support parental payments for this trip we have allocated payments into more manageable monthly instalments:

- Jan 31<sup>st</sup>-£25 Deposit (Non-refundable)
- Feb 28<sup>th</sup>-£30 (Payment 1)
- Mar 31<sup>st</sup>-£31 (Payment 2)
- April 29<sup>th</sup>-£31(Final Payment)

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you wish to discuss this further. Payments must be made via ParentMail +Pay.

#### **Bikeability**

Year 4 are due to take part in the Bikeability course on Thursday 3rd February. Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme. It helps children learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads. All year 4 children will be required to bring in a bike and a suitable bike helmet for this day. Please contact Mrs. Oakes before Friday, January 14th, if you are unable to obtain a suitable bike and/or helmet for this event. We also ask that parents



check their child's bike is roadworthy and that saddles are appropriately placed for the child riding the bike that day.

### **Art Day**

On Wednesday 26th January we will once again be collapsing the timetable for our half termly 'Art Day'. This half term the theme is animals so we will be using a variety of animals and their habitats as a stimulus for our art work. In addition, we will also spend part of the day preparing our class entries for the Hexham High Street Heritage Action Zone competition where we have been asked to: *'Create a representation of Hexham High Street in 1922 and a representation of Hexham High Street in 2122'*. Judging will take place in school during the week beginning 14 February 2022 and be carried out by a small group of County and Town councillors.

### **Holocaust Memorial Day**

On Thursday 27th January, St. Mary's RC First School will take time to recognise the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) which encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. We will be supporting Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.



### **Covid-19 Isolation Work**

Any children that are isolating will have a learning pack made available on Purple Mash. The expectation is that children attempt at least one page of English and mathematics each day if they are well enough to work. The workbooks can either be marked at home or they can be brought into school when the child returns and marked by the class teacher.

### **Training Day Reminder:**

Please note that Friday the 4th February will be a staff training day and school will not be open to pupils on this day.

### **Junk Modelling**

Reception class would appreciate any donations of junk modelling materials to be used on our art day on Wednesday 26th January.

As a school we would appreciate any donations of old newspapers to be used on our art days to protect the surfaces in our classrooms.



### **Kidz Zone**

What a busy week the children have had this week! They have been doing some table tennis practice, playing dodgeball and swampball, reading, playing with lego and drawing with Rob!

Breakfast Club runs from 7.45 - 8.50am and after school club runs from 3.00 - 5.45pm. Breakfast and a hot meal after school are included.

#### **Please note:**

To book your child into Kidz Zone please ring 07763930244 giving **24 hours notice**. We do ask that you do not ring the Kidz Zone phone during school hours (9 am to 3pm) as Miss Armstrong will be in class and will not have the opportunity to answer the phone. Send a text message instead and she will reply as soon as possible.

Many thanks, Kidz Zone team.

### **Burn Brae House:**

We have received a letter from the managing agent of Burn Brae House. This is the property on the left at the bottom of the school lane.

They have asked us to remind all children and parents that the bin store for the property is private and that children should not enter this area for any reason. This is particularly a problem while children are waiting to enter school in the morning. Please ensure that your child does not enter this area. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

### **Amazon Smile**

Help us fundraise from the comfort of your sofa! Friends of St Mary's Hexham (PTA) is now a registered charity with Amazon Smile, an Amazon fundraising initiative. It costs you absolutely nothing, but Amazon donate 0.5% of the cost of your Amazon purchases to the PTA. It only requires setting up once and then every time you shop Amazon donates money to the PTA for us to spend on the school.

So please consider changing your Amazon charity to Friends of St Mary's Hexham (PTA). It is easy to set up:

- Amazon App: go to the bottom right corner and click Menu (3 lines) -> Settings -> Amazon smile -> Change Charity

- Web browser: follow this link <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1047746-0> and click on your account name -> Your Amazon smile -> Change your charity

### **Headteacher Awards: Well done to the following children:**

14th January	21st January
Reception - Ashton for trying a new food at lunch time for the first time!	Reception - Phoebe for having a constant smile on her face whilst being at school!
Y1 - Ruby for participating in class discussions.	Y1 - Erin for fantastic effort with all her work.
Y2 - Tyler for super effort in R.E.	Y2 - Mason for a fantastic attitude towards learning.
Y3 - Oliver for super multiplying.	Y3 - Isaac K for fantastic Roman Road making.
Y4 - Rosa for attempting work more independently.	Y4 - Elise for an amazing effort with this week's homework.

### **Good Work:**

7th January	21st January
Reception - Daniel for fantastic letter formation during phonics this week.	Reception - Riley for fantastic understanding of number bonds to 5.
Y1 - Charlie for excellent handwriting.	Y1 - Oli for trying hard with his work.
Y2 - Emily for fantastic reflecting in English.	Y2 - Archie for amazing writing effort in R.E.
Y3 - Sophia for working hard to improve handwriting.	Y3 - Marshall for improved handwriting.
Y4 - Flynn for using emotive language in English writing.	Y4 -Leila H for seeking out help when required in maths and producing great work as a result.

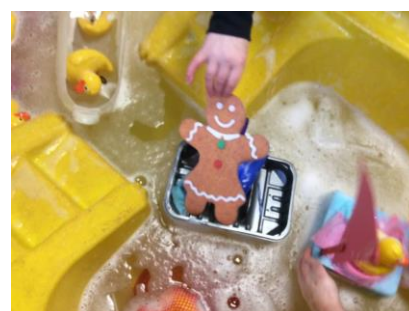
### **Golden Chair: Congratulations to the following pupils:**

7th January	21st January
Reception - Miya for a fantastic understanding of the days of the week.	Reception - Dominic for always being kind and considerate to others.
Y1 - Harrison for excellent effort when using subtraction.	Y1 - Olivia for amazing stamina for writing.
Y2 - Daniel for amazing effort in English.	Y2 - Elsie for amazing effort and kindness shown this week.
Y3 - Eliza for pushing herself and never giving up.	Y3 - Brody for fabulous independent maths
Y4 - Owen for persisting in the improvement of his handwriting.	Y4 - Peyton for a great effort writing limericks in English.

### **Our Week in School:**

#### **Reception**

Wow! I am blown away with the effort Reception are putting into their learning. I can't believe how far they have progressed since starting school in September. In English, we have been reading the story of 'The Magic Paintbrush'. The children have created their own dragons and their own 'monster's in preparation for writing their own version of the story next week. In maths, the children have been securing their knowledge of number bonds to 5 using numicon and part whole models. The children have enjoyed this week's PE lessons where they have explored the apparatus and practised their balancing skills. Lots of the children were unsure about using the apparatus at first but



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it is fantastic to see how much they have built their confidence throughout the week! Keep it up Reception, I can't wait to see what fun we get up to next week!

### **Year 1**

Year 1 have had a fantastic week, working really hard as usual! This week they have been writing all about their alien puppets in English, using adjectives and conjunctions in their writing. In maths, they have begun to recognise and sort 2D and 3D shapes. They loved getting the shapes out and making towers, naming the shapes and their simple properties as they go. In science, they continue to learn all about animals including humans, this week classifying animals in mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians. In RE, they learned about the two stories from the Bible, when Jesus was presented to Simeon and Anna who recognised him as the Light of the World, and when Jesus stayed behind at the temple and was recognised as a very special person, the Son of God.



### **Year 2**

Another fantastic few weeks in Year 2. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading the story 'The Bear Under the Stairs' by Helen Cooper in English. Year 2 have written their own amazing versions of the story and put in lots of effort to include a range of sentence types, punctuation and adventurous word choices. In maths, we have learnt how to use arrays for multiplication and division. In science, we are learning about animals and humans. On Thursday we went into our school allotment and built bug hotels, it was so much fun! In R.E, we retold the story of Jesus' baptism and had a fantastic discussion about the books we use at church. Year 2 were fascinated by the story of Florence Nightingale in history. This week we watched a fantastic dramatisation of her life and wrote descriptive diary entries about her experiences during the Crimean war.

### **Year 3**

Year 3 have been learning about using paragraphs and writing non-chronological reports on rats from the Pied Piper of Hamelin. They have been multiplying and dividing in maths and exploring practical uses of this during Swimming in Maths. We attended mass with Fr Jeff last week and the children participated spiritually in the service, contributing ideas to Fr Jeff for the prayers for the faithful and joining in the responses where they could. We were extremely proud of them all; they were fantastic ambassadors for the school! We have been designing a Roman Road in history and learning about different skeleton types in science. We learned about the mysteries of the Rosary in RE and pilgrimages.

### **Year 4**

Year 4 started the week discussing emotive language in English and continued to look at different ways to multiply two digit numbers by one digit numbers. In French, we learnt how to say 'I don't feel well' and how to explain what is wrong with us. In science, we watched digestion in action as we followed the journey of some Weetabix through our digestive system all the way to excretion! We also set up a tooth decay investigation to see what happens to the shells of boiled eggs when you leave them in different liquids for a week. In music, we learnt about the composer Strauss and we listened to the Radetzky March. In French, we learnt about jungle animals and created descriptive sentences about them. Another busy week!



## **Gospel**

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: 'The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to prisoners and new sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.' He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, "This scripture is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

**Have a lovely weekend,  
God Bless,**



**Mr P Naughton**

