



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – 25th March 2022

Attendance Information: Our target for attendance is 98%

**Please strive to make every effort to ensure your child gets to school every day to help us achieve
our target.**

	Wilfrid	Aidan	Cuthbert	Oswald	Bede	Overall
11.03.2022	90%	98.2%	94.2%	91.0%	95.0%	94.4%
18.03.2022	100%	93.6%	91.7%	84.8%	90.0%	90%

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been another fantastic week at St Mary's with beautiful weather continuing throughout the week. The children have really enjoyed using the field and visiting the Fr Warren Prayer garden which is now blooming with daffodils.



We have now reached the last two week run up for the Lenten Term and staff have planned some lovely activities for the pupils. COVID has prevented a number of events to which parents would have been invited but all is not lost and we have opportunities for parents in the next few weeks to get involved with. Please see below more information on these planned events.

Unfortunately, our planned Easter Fayre has been cancelled but we will be running a Chocolate tombola instead - please see below regarding this.

Our Y3 pupils attended Mass this week at St Mary's church and once again Fr Jeff commented on their exemplary behaviour. Well done Y3!

Passion Mass

On Wednesday 6th April all children will attend a Passion Mass in St. Mary's RC Church at 9:30am. Parents and carers are most welcome to join us for this service.



Next week we again welcome Fr Luke to classes at St Mary's as we continue to prepare our pupils for Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Our final afternoon, Friday 8th April, will be divided between a final Passion tide liturgy and an end of term celebration assembly.

I am delighted to announce that we are all working hard to move our library to a more centralised location in school so that it is more accessible. We have refurbished the old computer suite and we are looking to open our new library after Easter. Please can I ask if parents have any good quality reading texts to send them into school. We are looking for a major investment in our library books and next week I will announce a 2022 sponsorship idea for families who would like to take part. This will take the form of a £20.22 fundraising goal for pupils to try and achieve. This could be to walk a hill, ride to the quayside or swim 20 lengths of the pool. Families will have until the final weeks of July to complete their challenge. More information will follow next week.

Staff are now beginning to look at end of year trips for all our pupils. Once arrangements have been finalised and buses booked we will send you all the relevant information.

The Open the Book comes to a close soon and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to these fabulous assemblies every Tuesday morning. They are all amazing and truly bring the Holy Bible to life. We look forward to them starting again in the Trinity Term.

Finally, on another note - clocks go forward by one hour on Sunday, 27th March 2022, which is the official start of British Summer Time. We may be losing an hour but we gain the extra daylight in the evenings.

Happy Mother's Day to all mums and carers.



CAFOD:

Thank you to everyone who donated to our sponsored silence in aid of CAFOD. We raised £44.00 which will go towards reaching out to people living in hard-to-reach places, in war zones and those who are discriminated against. If you haven't yet donated, you can still do this via ParentMail Pay+

Penny Challenge

Each morning during collective worship, our Y3 Mini Vinnies will be encouraging everyone to bring pennies/coins into school and pop them into our special buckets ready for our end of term Lenten Penny Challenge for the Belauni Street Special School in Zambia. I realise that we perhaps have less money floating around our homes than we used to both

with COVID related payments mainly being card purchases now and less reliance on cash. There is also the fact that inflation is so high at present that many families can barely afford to give to charities. However, can I ask that we all do our best as even a few small pennies could make a difference. Parents will be invited to the Penny Challenge on the yard in the last week of term. Last year we raised over £250.00 in pennies.

Two children in Y2 decided on Saturday that they would sell sweets from their sweet shop they made in school to raise money for the penny challenge. They spoke to people passing outside their house explaining where the money would be going and about the long penny line at school. They were so polite to everyone who passed. They raised around £31. We are very proud of them. What a fantastic way to spend an afternoon!



Penny Challenge Finale - Thurs 7th April

We would like to invite parents to our yard to watch the Penny Challenge event. Children will enter school as normal that day before returning to the yard for the event at approximately 9:15am. Parents are asked to stand around the edges of the yard and encourage the children from there. Parents are politely requested not to take part in the event, this is a spectator event only and for safeguarding reasons we ask that adults do not approach the children for the duration of the event.

Easter Events

Easter Egg Decorating Competition - Friday 8th April 8.30am:

We would like to invite the children to design their own Easter egg using a hard boiled egg. Children could create a chick or their favourite cartoon character using the egg, the possibilities are endless! All egg entries need to be dropped off (by the hall fire exit door) on Friday 8th April from 8.30am. Please ensure the eggs are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. There will be a prize for the winner of each class judged by Fr Luke.

Easter Bonnet Parade - Friday 8th April 9:15am:

We would like to invite parents & carers to support their child in creating an Easter bonnet for our Easter bonnet parade that we hope will take place on our yard (weather depending) on Fri 8th April at 9:15am. Parents are asked to stand around the edges of the yard and encourage the children from there. Parents are politely requested not to take part in the event, this is a spectate event only and for safeguarding reasons we ask that adults do not approach the children for the duration of the event. Classes will circulate the yard several times before re-entering school. Hopefully we will be able to provide refreshments.



Easter



Chocolate



Tombola:

On Friday 8th April we will be holding a chocolate tombola in school. Tickets will be 20p each or 6 for £1.00. Children can bring money in on the day and will go class by class to the stall at playtime. All money raised will go towards the school library.

Any donations of chocolate items will be gratefully received and can be taken to the school office from Monday.

WOW Wednesday:

On Wednesday 30th March we will be hosting our first WOW Wednesday for Reception. This event will be child-led and is an opportunity for children to show their parents around our provision and show off their fantastic work.

Parents and children are invited to attend from 8:30am in the morning until 8:45am or after school from 3:00pm until 3:30pm. Parents will be required to enter through the main office and sign in.

A form was sent home via ParentMail, please sign up for the slot you would like to attend.

Please can I emphasise that this is a child initiated exercise that promotes interaction to celebrate and discuss your child's achievements within our early years provision. Whilst staff will be around the provision - parents are expected to spend time with their child rather than staff members. I hope you take the opportunity to visit. However, we will be holding WOW Wednesdays every half term COVID permitting.

Phonics Parent Refresher Workshop 6.4.22

Mrs Stansfield and Miss Kane will be hosting a phonics refresher workshop session for reception and Y1 parents on Wednesday 6th April from 3.15pm - 3.45pm. If you are attending the workshop, your child/children in reception and/or Y1 will be permitted to attend Kidz zone for the duration of the session. We will be showing parents how to support their children at home with phonics and will hand out valuable resources to support your child's reading.

Volunteers:

School Library - Can I ask for parent volunteers who could make themselves available soon to help re-catalogue and label our school library as we move our current reading library books across to Accelerated Reader. We will also be adding new books to our library and I would welcome any books that could be donated from existing bedroom libraries that are no longer loved or read. Books must be in excellent condition and age appropriate.

Forest School - Is there anyone who has any spare time to help us with the upkeep of our Forest School? The sunny weather has meant everything has begun to grow and if any parents would like to help with maintaining our Fr Warren Prayer garden I would appreciate a call. This would include some weeding and general tidying up.

Year 4 Moor House Adventure Centre

Please ensure that you have read through all the relevant documentation that was sent home with your child. Please complete the 'Personal Details and Consent Form' and return to school by Friday 8th April.

Art Day

On Wednesday we celebrated our Art Day which focused on the theme of 'nature'. Each class studied the artist Claude Monet and learnt about his artistic skills before applying these to their work. The children produced some fantastic paintings, from water lilies to river art and landscapes. During this Art Day we focused on the skill of painting and a range of different paints and techniques were used, including oil, acrylic and water paints.



Easter Golf Camps:

Please see the following information.

JJ Valley
PGA Professional - Mattfen Hall GC
England Regional Coach
Plane Truth Level 3 Instructor
Tel - 07899090777



Additional School Closures:

We have a Training Day on Friday 10th June 2022

Monday 27th June is an additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is because the official bank holiday falls within half term, therefore, schools were given an additional day of their choice.

Kidz Zone

- To book your child into Kidz Zone please call 07763930244 **before 1pm for attendance the following day**
- Bookings for Breakfast Club and After School Club **must be made 24hrs in advance**

If there is an emergency/exceptional circumstance and you need a place at short notice, please call the school office 01434 603791

- **Please do not take your child to Kidz Zone without a prior booking as they will not be admitted.**

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.

Baby & Toddler Group-

Unfortunately, due to a rise in COVID cases in the local area, we have decided to stop our baby & toddler group. We didn't want to do this again but we just want everyone to be safe. Thank you for your understanding.

After School Collection-

Just a reminder to parents that school finishes at 3.00pm and all children must be collected promptly. If you are going to be late for any reason, please contact the school office. If your child is not collected by 3.15pm they will be taken into Kidz Zone and this may incur a charge.

COVID

Just a reminder that if your child has any Covid symptoms or is generally unwell, we ask that you do a lateral flow test. We also ask that you inform the school office if your child tests positive for Covid as we have to submit data to the DfE.

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.

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:

18th March	25th March
Reception - Heidi for showing fantastic enthusiasm towards reading and writing independently.	Reception - Dominic for fantastic enthusiasm and discussions about our class caterpillars.
Y1 - Marcus for excellent independent work.	Y1 - Juliette for making a super effort and working independently.
Y2 - Freddie S and Zach for taking time out of their weekend to raise £31 for CAFOD. Amazing!	Y2 - Alex for fantastic effort in maths, well done!
Y3 - Charlie- Good try with swimming	Y3 - Sebby for fantastic use of speech in his newspaper report
Y4 - Iva for working more independently in lessons.	Y4 - Owen for a positive attitude and sunny disposition.

Good Work:

18th March	25th March
Reception - Zach for a fantastic effort with reading o'clock times on an analogue clock.	Reception - Esmee for fantastic letter formation and for really controlling her letter size.
Y1 - Artie for working hard to improve his work ethic.	Y1 - Olivia for working hard and engaging in her maths.
Y2 - Vinnie for fantastic effort in English.	Y2 - Elsie for super effort and determination in English.
Y3 - Layton - Trying hard with his newspaper report	Y3 - James - Excellent handwriting!

Y4 - Rosa for making a consistent effort across subject areas.	Y4 -Fraser for fantastic art work on Monet.
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Golden Chair: Congratulations to the following pupils:

18th March	25th March
Reception - Daniel for being kind and helpful around the classroom.	Reception - George for being kind and considerate to others.
Y1 - Corey-Jo for excellent stamina and enthusiasm for writing.	Y1 - Ellie for being kind and helping her classmates.
Y2 - Kaylin for being very caring and helpful towards others.	Y2 - Ariella for fantastic resilience during independent writing.
Y3 - Tommy - Good writing	Y3 -Oliver for fantastic report writing
Y4 -Amelia for showing kindness to younger children throughout school.	Y4- Fleur for persevering and being determined during maths this week.

Our Week in School:

Reception

What a fantastic two weeks' reception have had! We have had a delivery of some very exciting class pets, our caterpillars and we have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow. They are currently transforming into chrysalis and we can't wait to see them grow into butterflies. Last week we celebrated British Science Week, all about growth. The children planted their own cress and sunflower seeds which they have enjoyed caring for. The children practised lots of scientific skills and it was fantastic to see so many of the children being creative, observant and curious. In English, we began reading our new story, The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle. The children loved learning the song '5 little seeds sailing through the air' to the tune of ten green bottles. On Wednesday, we celebrated our half termly Art Day and we focused on the artist Claude Monet. The children created some fantastic landscape paintings using sponge painting which they are very excited to show during our WOW Wednesday sessions next week. Well done reception, keep up the fantastic work!

Year 1

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed science week last week, all about growth. We practised the skills needed to be a good scientist such as being patient, observant, creative and curious. We created our own seed bombs, experimented with how tall we could grow a tower of shapes, and experimented with how quickly different seeds would germinate amongst others! In maths, we continued the theme of growth and measured our bodies using all sorts of different objects. In English, we have been busy learning all about the environment and thinking of ways that we could help make the planet a bit healthier. We have been busy constructing an extended piece of writing with a guide to saving the planet. This Wednesday we had our half-termly Art Day in which we studied Monet and his famous paintings. We had a go at creating our own bridge pictures using splodges of paint blended together, they look great!

Year 2

A fantastic few weeks in Cuthbert Class. We read the last part of The Minpins in English and used our imaginations to write a sequel to the story. In maths, we have started a new topic all about fractions. We used our problem solving and reasoning skills to consolidate our understanding of equal and unequal groups. In R.E, we are continuing to learn about the opportunities we have during Lent. Cuthbert class has collected lots of pennies so far for the Penny Challenge, keep it up! Last week we had a fantastic time celebrating Science Week and focusing on 'Growth'. We looked at how plants grow and started an experiment using our school greenhouse. We also dissected tulips and learnt about the function of each part of the plant. It was Art Day on Wednesday and we learnt all about Claude Monet. Year 2 enjoyed using watercolours and other paints to mix primary colours to create water lily paintings.

Year 3

This week we have enjoyed dipping our paintbrushes into some Impressionist art as we have learned about Claude Monet and practised our palette skills in mixing colours using the colour wheel. We have been learning about interpreting data through bar charts and graphs and begun a new maths topic on measurement. This fortnight In English we finished our Escape From Pompeii book with a bang as we wrote news reports from 76AD announcing the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius. In RE we read The Beatitudes and reflected on which one we thought was most important. The children role played being peacekeepers, not holding grudges and not making fun of people for their beliefs - all fantastic life lessons. On Wednesday it was our class' turn to attend the Lenten Mass with Fr Jeff. The children participated beautifully in the service and Fr commented that they were a credit to the school and were all 'Young Theologians'. Well done Oswald Class!

Year 4

Last week Year 4 completed several tasks linked to Science Week, designing our own creature that could survive on Mars after finding out what conditions on the planet are like. We created our own acrostic poem in English based on the science week theme of 'Growth'. In maths, we constructed graphs using Purple Mash to see if there is a link between a person's height and their age. This week we have added fractions and in geography we have studied land use and how land is used for farming. Wednesday was Art Day where we learnt about Claude Monet before creating our own River Thames landscape picture in the style of Monet.

Gospel

Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have the inheritance that would come to me.' So the father gave him his share and his son then left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of shameless living. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and he began to be in need and he had to hire himself out to feed pigs. So he decided to go back to his father. When his father saw him, he ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him and kill the fattened calf. For this son of mine was lost and is now found.' And they began to celebrate."

Luke 15:1-3.11-32

God Bless,



Mr P Naughton

