



We love, we learn, we live.

St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – 9th



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

1926-2002

To mark the sad news about the death of Queen Elizabeth II we looked back at her remarkable life and legacy with the children in class today. We have created a St. Mary's memory book where the children have added their own pictures and messages. We will display this in our foyer. If any parents wish to add to our commemorative book please hand in any messages to the office and they will be added on your behalf.

Welcome Back!

What a superb start to the new school year! It has been a fantastic week and the children have settled into their new classes with ease. I felt extremely proud of all the pupils on Tuesday when we had an unexpected fire alarm to start off the term. The children behaved impeccably and waited patiently throughout. There has been a lovely 'buzz' around school this week and we are delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families to our St. Mary's family.

This week's newsletter is a hard copy as we transition between ParentMail to WEDUC parent communication systems.

With Best Wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

Rewards: In school we work to develop self-esteem, self-efficacy and self-advocacy within our learners through consistent use of modelling, encouragement, praise and positive reinforcement. We feel it is important to reward pupils who demonstrate that they are living out our schools Mission Statement: **'We love, We learn, We live as followers of Christ'** both at home and at school.

Each week class teachers and/or parents can award children who have demonstrated our Mission Statement using a 'Value Card'. In the coming weeks, a copy of the Value Card we use in school will be sent home with your child (we will also have extras in the school office) so that parents who wish can return them to school for the attention of the class teacher. They will then be awarded their 'Value Card' card in Celebration Assembly each Friday.

'We love'-To be awarded this a child will have demonstrated an act of kindness to others e.g. helping a friend who has fallen over, inviting others to play, compromising in a game etc.

'We learn'-To be awarded this a child has demonstrated that they have made a concerted effort in their learning and/or the learning of others e.g. giving a class/school presentation, improving a piece of work, showing resilience etc.

'We live'-To be awarded this a child has demonstrated that they have participated fully in extra-curricular activities either within or outside of school (including charitable events) e.g. running club, swimming badges, charity run etc.

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of our wonderful children in partnership with their families!

Reception: Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming all our Reception children into school each morning. School gates open at 8.45am and pupils will finish at 1.45pm for the duration of next week.

KS2 Swimming: Important Notice

Years 3 & 4 are due to start their swimming and PE sessions at the Wentworth on Monday 12th September. Pupils in these year groups should come to school in their school PE kit each Monday bringing with them a separate bag with a swimsuit, towel & goggles. We will be walking to the Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham so it is advised that pupils always bring a coat with them to school on this day. We have been informed that the last swimming session finishes at 2.45pm so children will be slightly delayed returning to school and will have a **later collection time of 3.15pm**. If there are any issues with this slightly later collection time please contact the school office.

Reading Records: In the coming weeks, your child will be issued with our new school Reading Records. These new Reading Records have several useful sections such as phonics speed sound charts, common exception words, times tables, reading log pages and lots of information about the school day. Once we have carried out some baseline reading assessments children will be sent home with their Reading Record in a named plastic wallet along with their reading book. Reading books go out on a Monday and are returned on a Friday. We would encourage parents to listen to their children read each day and to make a record of their child's reading each week so that we can monitor their progress in school. KS1 to be heard reading for at least 15 minutes a day. KS2 to be heard reading for at least 20 minutes a day. Your child's vocabulary will grow and expand the more they read at home in addition to the reading they do at school.

Homework: Homework will commence for KS1/2 on Friday 16th September. Homework will usually consist of either a maths or English task and another piece from one of the other subject areas. Homework may be set using Purple Mash or pupils will be given a paper copy. Your teacher will keep you updated each week via Marvellous Me.

Clubs: We are delighted announce that extra-curricular clubs are due to start next week, with the exception of Running Club all children will be given the opportunity to sign up to any applicable clubs within school:

Tuesday-8.15-8.45am Running Club Years 2, 3 & 4
-12.30-1:00pm-Football Club

Wednesday-12.30-1:00pm Arts Club All years

Thursday-12.30-1:00pm Rugby Club, Mission Team & Mini Vinnies KS2

Please inform the main office on **Monday 12th Sept** if you have a child in Years 2-4 who wishes to attend Running club on Tuesday morning.

PTA: We would like to invite any parent/carer volunteers who would like to play a part in our PTA. The aim of our PTA would be to plan fun events over the year for our children whilst raising money for our school. We will aim to make events affordable and enjoyable for everyone. Successful events could include: discos, movie nights, fairs, pop-up gift shops, uniform sales and second hand clothing collections as well as providing refreshments at other school organised events. I would like to invite any interested parents/carers into school on **Wednesday 21st September from 9.15-9.45am** so we can discuss ideas for developing our PTA this year.

Jewellery: Children are permitted to wear stud earrings (which must be removed for PE/Swimming), and a crucifix or cross necklace. Watches are permitted but we request that there are no Smart Watches with camera facilities and independent access to the internet. We also request that no nail varnish is worn in school.

WEDUC: From Monday 12th September we will be using our new online communication system WEDUC.

WEDUC replaces ParentMail and will be our primary method of communication with parents, therefore, we urge you all to download the app weduc.co.uk/mobile-app over the coming weekend.

You should by now have been sent an enrolment code. If you have not received this or you are having problems registering with WEDUC, please email parentcontact@hexhamstmarys.uk

Within the app, there is a payment facility run by Squid. This will be where all payments for school lunches, trips etc will be made. This is currently being updated and once it is running you will receive a notification through WEDUC. Please do not use ParentMail Pay+ for any payments from now on, once Squid is complete you can pay any outstanding payments then. Thank you for your patience.

Dates for Diary:

*The Curriculum workshops will help you gain further insight into the year ahead for your child. The workshops will be at 3:15-3:45pm. If you are unable to attend due to work commitments please contact the school office to discuss an alternative time.

<u>Thursday 15th September</u>	<u>Reception Parents Workshop 2:00 pm</u>
<u>Monday 19th September</u>	<u>*KS1 Parents Curriculum Workshop 3.15pm-Y2 Classroom</u>
<u>Tuesday 20th September</u>	<u>*KS2 Parents Curriculum Workshop 3.15pm-Y3 Classroom</u>
<u>Friday 30th September</u>	<u>MacMillan Coffee Afternoon - Time TBC</u>



