



## St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – Friday 4th November, 2022



*We love, we learn, we live.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are thrilled to announce that our new library is fully operational and each class has a designated time in the library each week where they can take Accelerated Reader quizzes (years 2-4), choose new books and simply read for pleasure! Our new library system enables teachers to accurately monitor the reading progress of each child, as well as track the books they have read and ensure children are comprehending what they have read.



With many families due to attend firework displays over the coming weekend to celebrate Bonfire Night, we spent some time in school discussing how although fireworks are great fun, they need to be dealt with safely, only being handled by adults. The children learnt how to handle sparklers safely and that we never return to a firework. The children spent some time creating their own firework safety posters to explain what they have learnt. If you and your family are off to a fireworks display this weekend, we hope you have a lovely, safe time!

With best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

### Mission Statement Value Award Winners:

Class	 We love	 We learn	 We live
Reception	Rafferty	Phuc	Eabha
Year 1	George	Miya	Gracie
Year 2	Ella	Parker	Oliver
Year 3	Freddie S	Archie	Jack B
Year 4	Jack T	Darcey V	Sebby R

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



Attendance Please remember that every day in school counts!	
<u>Reception</u>	97.6%
<u>Year 1</u>	97.6%
<u>Year 2</u>	96.6%
<u>Year 3</u>	97.0%
<u>Year 4</u>	94.4%

### Application for First & Primary Schools

Applications for St Mary's RC First School, and other Northumberland First & Primary schools, are managed by the admissions team at Northumberland County Council. Online Admissions Portal for First and Primary school admissions will be open on the 1st of November 2022.

[https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

The deadline for your child's first & Primary school place is 15th January 2023.

### **Pencil cases**

Some years 3 & 4 children are bringing pencil cases to school. School does provide all stationary that children will need in their lessons. If children do wish to bring their pencil cases, they will be asked to keep them in their class drawer where the class teacher can permit children to use items as and when they are required. We are explaining to the children that school cannot take responsibility for any lost or damaged items from their pencil case.

### **Safeguarding**

St. Mary's November E-safety focus is 'Online Bullying'. Within class the children will take part in a number of lessons where they will learn what online bullying is, how to appropriately respond and deal with this behaviour and who they can speak to about this. Follow the link below to find out more information about online bullying and how you can support your child.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding we are introducing for parents: **#WakeUpWednesday**

Every Wednesday parents will receive a document called 'WakeUpWednesday' via WEDUC. This leaflet is a free online safety guide which informs parents on relevant current online issues (updated weekly) and how you can keep your child safe online.

### **Accelerated Reader Quizzes - Home Reading Books Y2, Y3, Y4.**

We are excited to announce that our Accelerated Reader program for Year 2, 3 and 4 children is fully operational. Reception and Year 1 will continue to take home their RWInc home reading books. Children in Year 2, 3 and 4 have been allocated their reading books to take home alongside their school planner. Every week, each class has their own dedicated library slot (see table below) where children will visit the library, complete the accelerated reader quiz (a quiz that tests them on how well they have understood the book they have just read) and have the opportunity to change their reading books. The quiz scores are then recorded in your child's school planner to keep you up to date. The expectation is that children should bring their school planner with them to school each day so that staff can monitor home reading and use the planner to log any reading heard in school.

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
<b>Year One</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Friday</b>

### **Parent Reading Volunteers**

If any parents would like to become reading volunteers in school we would like to hear from you. The role would mainly involve listening to children read on a 1 to 1 basis. Please note taking on this role would require individuals to commit to a weekly reading time slot of at least half an hour, completion of safeguarding training and a DBS check. Anyone interested please let the school office know.

### **EYFS Parent Workshop**

On Wednesday 9th November at 3:15pm, Reception parents are invited to come into school and take part in our second Early Learning Goals workshop, where you will be given more information about how you can support your child at home with literacy and mathematics. Please enter school through the main office, ensuring that you sign in when you arrive and sign out when you leave. Just a reminder the next session is to be held on Wednesday 18th January 3:10pm focusing on Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World.

### **Children In Need - Friday 18th November - Be spotacular!**

On Friday 18th November, St. Mary's will be part of an amazing day of fun, excitement, and fundraising as we host a SPOTacular Children in Need Day.

For a donation of £1 towards Children In Need, children can come to school in fancy dress or in a spotacular outfit! We would also love to hold a spotacular bake sale, so any donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Children can bring in any donation in order to purchase some baked goods at break time. Any remaining cakes will be sold at the end of the school day with all money being donated to Children In Need.

### **Armistice Day**

At 10.45am on Friday 11th November, Year 3 will be holding a whole school liturgical prayer in the school hall to mark the end of the fighting of the First World War. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for this event. Parents will be asked to enter via the hall fire exit once all the children have entered the school hall.

### **Christmas Events**

Unbelievably, it is coming up to that time of year again and in order to give parents/carers the opportunity to book time off work we thought we would give you some advance warning about upcoming Christmas dates.

### **Christmas Crafts Art Day-Wednesday 30th November**

From 1.30pm on the 30th November we would like to invite parents into school to help their children to create some products to sell at our Christmas Crafts event on the 9th December. All parents and carers are invited into school for this event. Be warned, it may get messy!

### **Santa Dash & Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 9th December**

Children will take part in a Santa Dash fun run on the morning of the 9th December. All children are to come to school in their PE kit wearing their Christmas jumper. Children can add a little festive decoration on their head such as a Santa hat or a piece of tinsel etc for the running event.

### **Christmas Crafts Sale-Friday 9th December 3pm**

The PTA alongside the children of St. Mary's are hosting a Christmas Crafts fair (see flyer attached) in the school hall. Children will be dismissed from school as normal on this day and can then return with their families to the hall via the fire door at 3pm in order to purchase Christmas crafts, take part in the raffle (see below) and enjoy some tasty treats. All welcome!

### **PTA**

The PTA will be collecting for the class coloured hampers again this year. Any donations of the following colours would be greatly appreciated, please bring them to the school office .

This will be drawn during the Christmas Crafts event on 9th December.

RECEPTION	Yellow/Gold
Y1	White/Silver
Y2	Red
Y3	Green
Y4	Purple

### **Nativity - Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th December at 1.30pm in school hall**

More details to follow nearer the time.

### **Christingle Service-Tuesday 13th December-9.30am St. Mary's RC Church**

All the staff and children of St. Mary's will take part in a christingle service at St. Mary's Church. Parents and carers are invited to attend this event.

### **Film Night & Christmas Dinner Day-Wednesday 14th December**

Christmas dinner day for the children will be on Wednesday 14th. More details to follow nearer the time.

The PTA are hosting a film night from 3pm-4.45pm on 14th December where the children will be watching the Christmas film 'The Polar Express'. The tickets will be £3.00, if your child would like to attend then can we ask that you bring the money to the school office in a sealed, named envelope so the PTA can keep a record.

### **Christmas Theatre Visit**

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December we will be visiting the Queen's Hall in Hexham to watch the performance of 'The Wind in the Willows'. This is a special Christmas treat for our children and will strengthen our community links, helping us work towards achieving our Artsmark award. The production will begin at 10am and the children will return back to school in time for lunch. There is a cost of £12.50 for this trip which can be paid in instalments on the Weduc app. Just a reminder that the final payment of £12.50 needs to be paid **before 1st December**.

**Reception, year 1 year 2 Christmas Party-Tuesday December 20th PM**

**Year 3 & year 4 Christmas Party-Wednesday December 21st PM**

Children will come to school in their uniform bringing their party clothes with them in a named bag. They will change before their party where they will dance, play games and have some tasty snacks!

**Dates for Diary:**

<b>Wednesday 9th November</b>	<b>EYFS parent workshop (literacy and mathematics) 3:15pm</b>
<b>Friday 11th November</b>	<b>Year 3 Remembrance Day Liturgical Prayer in hall 10.45am - Parents invited</b>
<b>Tuesday 15th November</b>	<b>Mass for years 1 &amp; 4 in St. Mary's Church 9.30am Parents and carers are invited to attend.</b>
<b>Friday 18th November</b>	<b>Children In Need Day</b>
<b>Tuesday 22nd November</b>	<b>Year 4 Skipping Festival</b>
<b>Wednesday 30th November</b>	<b>Arts Day Parents are invited into school 1.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 9th December</b>	<b>Santa Dash &amp; Christmas Jumper Day PTA Christmas Craft Fayre 3:10pm (School Hall)</b>
<b>Monday 12th December</b>	<b>Christmas Nativity -1.30pm School hall</b>
<b>Tuesday 13th December</b>	<b>Christingle-9.30am St. Mary's Church Christmas Nativity -1.30pm School hall</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th December</b>	<b>School Christmas Dinner Day PTA Christmas Film Night (Polar Express)</b>
<b>Thursday 15th December</b>	<b>Queens Hall performance- Wind in the Willows</b>
<b>Tuesday 20th December</b>	<b>Reception, year 1 &amp; year 2 Christmas Party</b>
<b>Wednesday 21st December</b>	<b>Year 3 &amp; year 4 Christmas Party</b>