



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – Friday 13th January, 2023

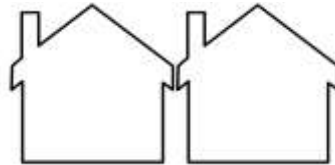
We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the time with your families and loved ones. It is amazing that we have reached the start of the spring term already. We start the term by welcoming some new faces to our staff team Miss Newton who was with us in the autumn term has joined us as an HLTA, we have also been joined by Miss Watt who is working as a TA across school and Mrs Monnelly, who as an experienced early years practitioner is working as a TA in our Reception class. Next week, we are also being joined by Miss Regan who will be an additional TA across school.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents with children in Reception that next Wednesday 18th (3.10pm) we are holding our final Reception Parent Workshop on 'Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design'. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible. Any school aged children (& siblings) will be looked after while parents attend the workshop. With that in mind, a reminder that the deadline for applying for your child's first school place is 15th January 2023 (see further information below).

This academic year in school we are dedicating it to the 'Year Of Mary'. Each month we have a theme dedicated to prayer throughout the school in forms of art, music, dance and scripture. Our prayer groups offered to both children and staff will also cover monthly themes. Today, your child will bring home a 'Home Card' with the outline of two houses on it.



Over the weekend, children can write a prayer for their family or simply draw their family in one (or both) of the houses before returning their 'Home Card' to school next week. We will then create a focal point in our entrance where all the children can take time to celebrate, give thanks and pray for their families. I will finish by dedicating our January prayer to our St. Mary's First School families:

Mary, mother of God and our holy mother,
We bring our families to you in prayer.
Hold and protect them in your loving arms
as you held your precious son Jesus.

Please ask God to help us to always show love to our families
in the same way as you loved Jesus and Joseph.

May we always turn to you, Mary our mother, as our guide in following Jesus.

Amen

Best wishes,

Mrs. Oakes

Mission Statement Value Award Winners:

| Class |  |  |  |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| Reception | Olivia C | Nathan | Frankie H |
| Year 1 | Phoebe | Frankie | Esmee |
| Year 2 | Ava | Charlie | Marcus |
| Year 3 | Mason | Vinnie | Nils |
| Year 4 | Jack | Isaac B | Charlie |

Trainers

There have been an increasing number of children wearing trainers in school. Just a reminder that trainers are only permitted as part of the school's PE kit and children should wear school shoes as part of their uniform.

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

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

Safeguarding

Our e-safety focus this half term is 'Online Reputations'. Throughout this half term our children will learn how to search for information about others online, with a strong emphasis on the fact that information about anyone online could have been created, copied or shared by others. The children will learn ways to protect their 'digital personality' and online reputation, including degrees of anonymity.

Please follow the link below to gain an insight into how you can support your child's learning regarding 'Online Reputation'.

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/online-reputation/>



| Attendance Please remember that every day in school counts! | |
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| <u>Reception</u> | 88.7% |
| <u>Year 1</u> | 96.3% |
| <u>Year 2</u> | 90.3% |
| <u>Year 3</u> | 96.0% |
| <u>Year 4</u> | 82.4% |

Extra-Curricular Clubs-

The following extra-curricular clubs will commence next week, permission forms for Regenerators and Prayer Club will be sent out to the relevant children on Monday 16/1/23:

Regenerators-

Children who are part of our eco committee which was formed during the autumn term are invited to our after school Eco club on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 3:50pm. We will be working towards our level 2 gardening award as well as beginning our journey to achieve a CAFOD 'Live Simply' award. Parents of our Eco committee will need to complete the permission form to enable your child to attend the after school activities. When attending please can we ask that the children bring a pair of wellies or old shoes, warm coat and spare trousers as we will be busy in the allotment.

Prayer Club

Children in years 1-4 are invited to attend 'Prayer Club' on Wednesday morning from 8.15am. The focus of Prayer Club is to spend time together in a quiet and reflective space. Praying for the world, our community, our families and ourselves in lots of creative and interactive ways, including crafts and games. Pupils need to arrive at the main entrance for 8.15am.

Gymnastics Club

A number of key stage 2 children have been selected to take part in a gymnastics club on Thursdays after school from 3-4pm. All children involved in this club have been sent a paper copy of the permission form which must be completed before your child can participate in this event.

Singing Club -

Singing club will be held on a Thursday lunch time for children in years 1-4. Children will learn and perform a range of traditional hymns, children's Christian songs and popular children's pop songs. Children will sign up via their class teacher in school for this event.

Art Club

Art club will be held on Wednesday lunch times for children in years 1 & 2. Children will be able to explore and create art using a range of different materials and mediums. Children will sign up via their class teacher in school for this event.

Football Club

Football club will continue to run for key stage 2 children on Tuesday lunchtimes (weather permitting). Children will sign up via their class teacher in school for this event.

Dates for Diary:

Please note-Teacher Training Day - Change of Date

The Teacher Training Day which was to be held on Friday 3rd February, will now take place on Friday 17th February.

This is in line with the majority of the Hexham Partnership.

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| Reception Parent Workshop - Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design | Wednesday 18th January - 3:15pm |
| Reception class-World Day of Peace-Liturgical Prayer in hall-Parents invited. | Friday 27th January 10am |
| Parents Evening | Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th February 3.15-6pm (Booking details to follow nearer the time) |
| School closes for half term | Thursday 16th February |
| Teacher Training Day | Friday 17th February |
| School reopens | Monday 27th February |