



St Mary's R.C. First School Newsletter – Friday 20th January, 2023



We love, we learn, we live.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are dedicating this year in school to the 'Year of Mary'. Thank you to all the children who sent in a prayer for their family on the 'Home Card' templates they took home last week. We are busy creating a focal point in our entrance where all the children can take time to celebrate, give thanks and pray for their families.



Just a reminder that on Friday 27th January, Reception class will hold their class liturgical prayer alongside the rest of the school on the theme of 'World Day of Peace'. All parents and carers are invited to join us in the hall for this event which will start at 10am. We ask that parents enter school via the fire exit doors of the hall, the door will be opened at approximately 9.55am. I would also like to take this opportunity to mention National Storytelling Week which takes place from 30th January until 6th February. During National Storytelling Week, stories are celebrated in every form. As part of that week, we would like to invite parents into school to take part in our class 'Blast Off with Books' sessions, where parents and carers can come into school and spend time reading their favourite stories with their children. Please see further details below.

It was great to see so many children participating in our extra-curricular activities this week. Our Regenerators have begun working towards our CAFOD Live Simply Award. The Live Simply award is an opportunity for our school community to respond to the Church's call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poorest. It is an invitation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, who lived and preached a simple life and to take meaningful action on the ecological crisis we face today. It was fantastic to hear all their wonderful ideas and share in their enthusiasm for this project, we will keep you posted on their progress!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Oakes

Mission Statement Value Award Winners:

Class			
Reception	Dexter	Florence	Olivia W
Year 1	Gracie	Ashton	George
Year 2	Jessica	Jax	Olivia
Year 3	Jack B	Emily M	Grace F
Year 4	Spencer	Brody	Felix

If you would like to celebrate your child's achievements out of school and would like us to give them a mention in Celebration Assembly on a Friday, then simply fill out one of the Mission Statement Value Cards that have been sent home with your child or ask for one at our school office. We love to hear about all the children's wonderful achievements, both in school and out!

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!	
<u>Reception</u>	99.0%
<u>Year 1</u>	97.1%
<u>Year 2</u>	97.7%
<u>Year 3</u>	94.0%
<u>Year 4</u>	93.3%



Blast Off With Books!

As National Storytelling Week approaches, we at St. Mary's feel that reading is the best way to start the day. With that in mind, during the week beginning the 30th January, we are inviting parents into school before the start of the school day to take part in our 'Blast Off With Books' early bird sessions. The sessions will be held in the school hall, where we will have a selection of reading books available for you to read with your child. We also encourage parents to bring along any favourite story books from home that you enjoy reading with your child. We would like to invite parents and carers to come into school from **8.15am-8.40am** on the following days:

Monday 30th January-**Year 1**
 Tuesday 31st January-**Reception**
 Wednesday 1st February-**Year 3**
 Thursday 2nd February-**Year 4**
 Friday 3rd February-**Year 2**

Parents will enter the school via the hall fire exit door and will exit at 8.40am, leaving your child in school ready for the start of the school day. School staff will also be available to supervise the children.

Mini Vinnies

We would like to invite our Mini Vinnie volunteers to attend two meetings this half term from 3:00-4:00pm
 We will be focusing on our school 'Year of Mary' mission and how we can turn our concerns into Action.

We would like to invite our Mini Vinnies to the following sessions:

Monday 23rd February
Monday 6th March

Eco Club

In Eco Club, we are working towards the CAFOD Live Simply Award. Our first action is to reuse and recycle. We have researched crafts that can be made using recycled materials. If anyone has any recycling materials such as kitchen roll tubes, plastic bottles and cereal boxes, please bring them into school and hand them to Miss Stoves or Miss Carr.



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.

Teacher Strikes

As you will be aware The National Education Union (NEU) has announced several days of strikes in February and March:

1st & 28th Feb

15th & 16th March

St. Mary's First School will be **open as usual** for all our pupils on these days.

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.

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
National Storytelling Week-'Blast Off With Books!' family storytelling sessions: <u>8.15-8.40am</u>	<u>8.15-8.40am</u> Mon 30th Jan-Year 1 Tues 31st Jan-Reception Wed 1st Feb-Year 3 Thurs 2nd Feb-Year 4 Fri 3rd Feb-Year 2
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