



# ST MARY'S

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Great Lime Road  
Forest Hall  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE12 7AB  
T: 0191 8142006  
E: [office@stmarysfh.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysfh.org.uk)  
[www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Dear Families,

As we break up today for the half term holidays it is hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year! This half term has been busy and very productive with the children continuing to work hard and as always trying to do their best in everything they do. Thank you to all parents who attended the parent/teacher appointments; I hope you found these informative and enjoyed looking through the children's books and noting their progress from September.

### Year 6 Catenian Public Speaking Competition

Last week, one of our Year 6 pupils, Anna, represented the school at the second round of the Bishop Bewick schools Catenian Public Speaking Competition and I am delighted to inform everyone that she won! Anna will now take part in the final of the competition representing not only our school, but also Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust against pupils from others Catholic Education Trusts in the Diocese. A huge congratulations to Anna in her fantastic achievement and we wish her luck for the final in March.

### Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Key Stage 2 will be attending the Ash Wednesday Mass in church at 10.00am. All families are welcome to join us for this Mass signifying the start of Lent.

### World Book Day

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. It will be a day of fun reading activities based around the theme of 'Adventures'. We will start the day with Breakfast with a Book. One parent is invited to come into the school hall to share a book with their child and have a cup of tea/coffee or juice along with a slice of toast. The hall will be open from 8.30am-9.00am. During the day each class will be focusing on an adventure themed book for the day, completing reading, writing and creative activities linked to this book. The children will also be bringing home a book token on the day which they can use to buy selected books. Look out for the reading home challenges that will also be coming home that day!

### More Than Dance

More Than Dance will be coming into school to work with each class on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March. They will be teaching each class a liturgical dance based on the virtues of: Love, Kindness and Compassion, Bravery and Self-sacrifice, Mercy and Justice, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Peace.

### School of Sanctuary Committee Message

*A blanket made from crisp packets can protect people who are homeless and sleeping on the street, by providing an extra layer of protection in cold wet weather. It takes 300 crisp packets to make one blanket. So we will collect all your empty crisp packets from March – July 2025, so that blankets can be made in good time for the winter of 2025/2026. There will be special collection bins around school in which the children can place the empty crisp packets. Please save these at home too and send in to school!*





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### Weekly Attendance

The overall attendance for the whole school this week is 97.72%.

Reception	98.47%
Year 1	99.67%
Year 2	99%

Year 3	96.67%
Year 4	98.62%
Year 5	96.67%
Year 6	95%

### Attendance Letters

Attendance letters have been given to all pupils today to bring home for parents; please look out for these in bags. These indicate your child's attendance from the beginning of the academic year up to a date within this week (Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February). If your child's attendance figure is below 90%, this is classed as persistent absence and you will receive a monitoring letter which informs parents that we will monitor your child's attendance for a period of time and we expect to see an improvement in your child's attendance figure.

### Reminders:

#### Attendance & Punctuality

- The school day starts at 8.55am with the school doors opening at 8.45am.
- Registers are taken from 8.55am and will remain open for 30 minutes.
- Any pupils arriving after 9am will be marked as 'late before register closes'.
- Any pupil arriving after the register closes will be marked as an unauthorised absence.
- Please note that holidays should not be taken in term time and will not be authorised; if a holiday is taken and meets the new threshold of 10 sessions\* within a period of 10 weeks, we may refer the matter to the Local Authority who may issue a penalty notice. **The penalty notice has increased to £80 per parent, per child.**

(\*1 session = a morning/afternoon session)

#### Statutory Assessment Dates

Each year statutory assessments are carried out for certain year groups in the summer term. This year's dates are as follows:

- Year 1 Phonics Screening check – Week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- Year 4 Multiplication check – Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025
- Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### Clubs

Clubs for next half term:

Day	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
Monday		Recorders	KSI Art (3.30 -4.15pm) Y3 & Y4 Football (3.30-4.30pm)





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<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 1 & Year 2 Multiskills (8.00 – 8.45am)		KS2 Dance (3.30-4.30pm)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 3 & Year 4 Multiskills (8.00 – 8.45am)	Recorders Mini Vinnies	KS2 Art (3.30 -4.15pm) Y6 SATs Club
<b>Thursday</b>			Reception Yoga (3.30-4.30pm) KS2 Choir (3.30 -4.30pm)

## Diary Dates

<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>Pupils return to school</b>
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Pedestrian Training Sessions (R, Y1,Y2,Y3,Y6)
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 High Borrans Parents Information Meeting (3.25pm in Y5 classroom)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	North Tyneside Dance Festival at Whitley Bay Playhouse (7.00pm)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Ash Wednesday
	KS2 Pupils attend Parish Ash Wednesday Mass at Church (10.00am)
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
	Year 5 Trip to St Mary's High School – Spiritual Retreat
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	More Than Dance Workshops
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	First Lego League Event
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 5 Bikeability Sessions
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 4 Skipping Festival Event
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 trip to the Rising Sun Country Park
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Year 4 Pedestrian Training Session
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 5 Pedestrian Training Session
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole School Mass at Church 10am
	Year 4 Bikeability Sessions
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Active Mile Day
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter holidays

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Siobhan Foster  
Head Teacher

