

Mini Police Programme

Mini police was set up in our school in October for the year 5 children and Miss Wills. Children took part in writing an application and completing interview questions. We have a fantastic team who will be working in our school and in our community. St Mary's Mini Police will be on the job whenever you need them. They have some fantastic uniforms and we are so lucky as a school to have some amazing pupils who are looking at helping our society in the future. Watch out for Mini Police.



The Mini Police project is linked within Durham Constabulary and is a fun and interactive opportunity.

Head Lice

We ask that all parents are vigilant and check their children's hair regularly and treat as required. An information leaflet is being sent out with this newsletter.

Food Bank

Following a meeting with our mini Vinnies and our parish SVP, we have decided to donate this year's Harvest appeal to the Newton Aycliffe Food Bank. We will invite some members of our local food bank to attend our Harvest liturgy on Thursday 18th October, which will be led by Year 3. Also, at the beginning of this liturgy our new Mini Vinnies will be commissioned officially into their roles and will get their badges. Please see the attached picture so you all know what food items to bring into school.

If any items could be brought to the Year 3 classroom anytime before the assembly, what would be great. Thank you in advance for your support.



Local PCSO

Our local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) is Jen Atkinson PCSO 7758, contactable through Newton Aycliffe Police Station.



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Thursday 11th October 2018

WEBSITE: <http://st-marysrc.schooljotter2.com/>

Events

**12th Oct 2018
PD DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO
CHILDREN**

**15th Oct 2018
BACK TO SCHOOL**

**16th Oct 2018
Y6 & Rec Mass (10am)**

**18th Oct 2018
Y3 Harvest Assembly (9am)**

**19th Oct 2018
Poetry Performance—Woodham
Academy (Tbc– 1pm)**

**19th Oct 2018
BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM**

**29th Oct 2018
BACK TO SCHOOL**

**W/C 5th Nov 2018
Parents Evening**

**5th Nov 2018
Visit by the Army (Y2)**

**6th Nov 2018
Y1 & Y5 mass (10am)**

**8th Nov 2018
Y6/Y2 Remembrance Assembly
(2pm)**

**15th Nov 2018
Y1 Assembly**

**20th Nov 2018
Year 2, 3 7 4 Mass (10am)**

**21st Nov 2018
Y6 trip to Heugh Battery**

**22nd Nov 2018
Reception Assembly**

**28th Nov 2018
Flu Immunisations (Rec to Y5)**

**29th Nov 2018
Babysitting Night**

**4th Dec 2018
Rec & Y6 Mass (10am)**

Dear Parents & Carers

We are well into October already. It only seems two minutes since we were returning from a summer break. Our new children in Reception and throughout the school have settled in so well. It's amazing how much they have grown in both height and confidence in six weeks. We had a lovely service to welcome them into the parish community, during which they received a child's bible. Their manners – saying Thank you were very refreshing to see. Our Y6 Buddies are continuing to do a great job of helping them to settle in.

We have been sooooo... busy for the past few weeks. The Macmillan Coffee Afternoon was a fantastic success and many thanks to Mrs Davies and the team of volunteers she had, for raising a magnificent £375 pounds.

A couple of weeks ago Miss Wills and I had the pleasure of going to London to pick up the Centre of Excellence Award at a presentation in the Institute of Directors. We felt extremely proud and humbled to belong to the small group of schools recognised for working with children who have additional needs be they educational, social, emotional or pastoral. The plaque will be hung outside of school soon. A huge thanks to the staff here who go above and beyond to make St Mary's such a lovely school. Over the past few weeks we have had over 15 students in doing placements and, without exception, all have mentioned how great the children are.

Our theme this year is 'In a world where you can be anything... be KIND'. Last week this was illustrated beautifully by one of the children in Y3. It was the first year the school has entered the area Cross Country Event; during the day one of the Y3 boys Matthew, doing very well in 4th place, noticed one of his classmates had fallen. He went back to help his friend, sacrificing his place! Well done Matthew. Can I also say a massive WELL DONE to Sophie in Y3 who placed 3rd out of 100+ pupils. The whole team were great ambassadors for the school.

Over the past 3 years we have worked hard to increase engagement in science. For some children last week, they had a hard decision to make as to whether they would apply for the Mini Police or go to the Big Bang Science day. Some opted for the science and experienced a magnificent day; touching lambs hearts, escaping from Escape Rooms and making slime to name a few of the activities they took part in.

Here's to the next two weeks of life in St Mary's. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. A. Sowden, Head Teacher

RECEPTION NEWS This week we have finished learning about Baptism. We have been looking at Autumn and using the natural objects to support Maths. The children have seemed to enjoy discussing a different picture everyday to help develop their spoken language

YEAR 1 NEWS Year 1 have been learning their number bonds and the related subtraction bonds to 10 and below. They have been looking at their self, drawing their self portrait using different techniques of tone and shading to draw their facial features. We have read lots of superhero stories and have written fantastic sentences about them. We have been singing lots of songs and learning poems for National Poetry day. We are very proud of their behaviour and the students have commented on how wonderful their manners are. They are demonstrating kindness to each other and are being caring friends.

YEAR 2 NEWS Year 2 would like to thank everyone who attended their Great Fire of London bakery last Friday. It was a great success. We were in Tuesdays' Northern Echo. We have really enjoyed this topic and the homework which we have received is excellent.

YEAR 3 NEWS We have had a great couple of weeks in school. The children have enjoyed bringing in foods for our class display and our newspaper report even managed to get into this week's Newton News, which was great. In Maths they have been working hard on column addition and have gained more confidence, which is lovely to see. In our English work we have been exploring poetry and have been busy exploring different poems on the theme of Autumn, ready to create their own versions. In Science they had a dental nurse come in to talk to them about how they can look after their teeth. Mrs Willows works as a dental nurse and shared with the children some useful tips on teeth brushing and different ways of caring for our teeth. They even took home a free sample of toothpaste and a teeth brushing record chart. We will report on our visit to the Stone Age museum in Durham in the next newsletter, so watch this space!

YEAR 4 NEWS All the children have settled well into Y4; they are working very hard and have already written some lovely character descriptions to fill a class display. In RE the children have been looking at the family of Jesus and this has been linked to some fabulous art work to create a class display. Our liturgy this week was created by the children and they worked hard to learn a new liturgical dance linking to the rosary. The children have started out topic work and have spent time finding out about modern day Greece before we turn to Ancient Greek. Map skills and grid references will be developed over the coming weeks. We will be holding a themed Greek Day later in the term.

YEAR 5 NEWS Over the last couple of weeks we have been using the Anglo - Saxon legend Beowulf as a focus for our literacy work, and have written some excellent character descriptions. We have also been inspired by the story to create a poem about the dalliance between the mighty hero, Beowulf and his evil foe. We will be performing this poem during the Spoken Word Poetry Performance at Woodham next week so we are practicing every day in school. Our Mini Police trainees are nearly halfway through their training now and are finding out lots of ways that they can help and be a good example to others. However, the rest of Y5 have not been missing out. During these sessions they are either helping in our school garden with some much needed weeding or honing their maths skills and becoming super sleuth detectives when trying to solve a Murder Mystery maths challenges. Lots of children have been trying really hard to learn their spellings each week and are getting full marks for their efforts. All children have made good progress in their times tables timed challenge. Well done Year 5 - we are getting there!

YEAR 6 NEWS Our display boards in Year 6 are filling rapidly with the children's work with our current areas of focus including Loving in RE, blood and the circulatory system in Science and War Horse for our English and Topic. The half term is flying over. Parent's evening will be w/c 5th November, and I hope to see many of you then to discuss the children's progress.

ATTENDANCE

(%) 4th September 2018 to 10th October 2018 (Ofsted Above Average Target = 96.1%)

The symbols below show if the class has improved attendance ↑ since the previous newsletter, stayed the same = or decreased ↓. There are no symbols as this is the first record taken this year.



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
95.2	94.6	96.4	97.8	97.3	95.5	97.6	96.3
↓	↓	↓	↑	=	↓	=	↓

TERM DATES 2018—2019

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes
Autumn 2018		Tuesday 4th September 2018
Autumn half-term 2018	Friday 19th October 2018	Monday 29th October 2018
Christmas 2018	Friday 21st December 2018	Monday 7th January 2019
Spring half-term 2019	Friday 15th February 2019	Monday 25th February 2019
Easter 2019	Friday 5th April 2019	Tuesday 23rd April 2019
May Day 2019	Monday 6th May 2019	Tuesday 7th May 2019
Summer half-term 2019	Friday 24th May 2019	Monday 3rd June 2019
Summer 2019	Friday 19th July 2019	

Staff Training Days

Monday 3rd September 2018
 Friday 12th October 2018
 Friday 28th June 2019

Starting School—September 2019

Will your child turn 5 between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020? If so, you need to complete an application to tell Durham County Council which school you would like your child to attend from September 2019. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. Paper application forms are available on request. You still need to apply even if your child already has a sibling at the school.

Applications open 12 September 2018 and close midnight 15 January 2019.
 For more information contact: 03000 265896

Dogs

Please can we remind parents that, for health and safety reasons, dogs are not allowed on school premises. Thank you for your co-operation.

