



Work, play, pray - together

St. Mary's RC Primary School

September 2016 Newsletter



Work, play, pray - together

Mrs. Graham - Head Teacher

Dear all,

Welcome back to school for the start of another academic year, a huge welcome to the new family who have joined us in Year 4 with their son Cameron and to congratulations to all of the new children and parents that have started in the Nursery and Reception. The children have settled in to life at St Mary's very quickly and I do hope all of our families make the most of your time with us by getting involved in school events and coming along to all the wonderful things we are busy planning for this year.



Staffing

I want to extend a huge welcome to our new members of staff. We have Mrs Ewin in nursery, Miss Reville and Miss O'Reilly in Reception, Miss Waite in Year 3, Mr Barltrop in Year 5 and Miss Charles and Miss Stothard working across Key Stage 2.

Miss Charles, Miss Wood and Miss Lamb have specific Higher Level Teaching Assistant responsibilities across the school and you will receive correspondence from them in regards to this across the term.

Uniform.

Thank you all so much! Your children look wonderful for the start of term. All of the staff and visitors have commented on how smart the children look. I am delighted with the support you have shown in ensuring the children have the correct uniform, equipment and sensible black school shoes (no trainers.) Thank you for ensuring your children do not come to school with earrings in, this helps to enforce the need and the respect we have for school rules.

Admissions.

The admissions for September 2017 for both Primary school and Secondary school are now available to complete online or by sending in a hard copy. Any parent who wishes to apply to St Mary's and would like to arrange a visit to school please contact the school office or speak to a member of staff in nursery and we will be more than happy to arrange this. Any parent who would like to complete their form online and have not got access to the internet at home can arrange to do this in school, once again please speak to a member of staff.

Photograph consent

CHEESE!



As you know the school has a website and a Facebook page. I would like to ask your consent for your child's photograph to be used within these. All photos are used sensitively, promoting the excellent work and experiences that your children partake in during their time in school. Children's photos may be used on our Website, Facebook as well as the local press. When

children attend residential or externally organised events you may be asked to sign a separate consent form for the company involved with that particular activity.

Rather than issuing every child with a new photo consent form, we are introducing an annual

opt out system. This means that if you do not want your child's photo to be used in any or all of the above mentioned media then you are required to provide us with that request in writing, no later than Friday 30th September. Please address it for the attention of Mrs Smith and send it into school via the office. You are entitled to change your mind at anytime, simply inform the office.

Dates for your Diary - PLEASE KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

Travelling Books: 19th September to 23rd September

New Academic Year Mass: 30th September @ 9:30 at St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

Macmillan Coffee Morning: 30th September @ 10:30am in the school hall (all welcome)

RAP Event Y6: 4th October

Harvest Fast Day Bake Sale: 7th October

Beamish Museum Y2 Trip: 10th October

Skipping Festival Y4: 10th October

Year of Mercy Y2 & Y6 visit to St. Mary's Cathedral: 14th October

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Sessions Y2 & Y5: 18th October

The Event @ St. Joseph's Y6: 19th October

Welcome Assembly Reception: 19th October @ 9:10am (parent/carers welcome to attend)

October Half Term: 24th October - 28th October 2016

Parents' Curriculum Night: 1st & 2nd November: 1:30 -4:30pm (further details to follow)

The Big Sing: 8th December (further details to follow)

Flu Spray vaccinations Y1 to Y6: 9th December

Junior Concert: 14th December (further details to follow)

Infant/Nursery Parties: 15th December (further details to follow)

Junior Christmas Disco: 16th December (further details to follow)

Christmas Holidays: 22nd December - 6th January 2017 (Council website to be updated)

Y1 Parents' Burns Day lunch: 25th January (letter to follow)

Y2 Parents' Chinese New Year lunch: 30th January (letter to follow)

Y4 Skipping Festival: 8th February

Spring Half Term: 20th February - 24th February 2017

Reception Parents' Mother's Day lunch: 24th March (letter to follow)

Red Nose Day Non-uniform £1 donation per family: 24th March

Easter Holiday: 10th April - 21st April 2017

Y3 Parents' St. George's Day lunch: 24th April

Summer Half Term: 29th May - 2nd June 2017

School breaks up on Wednesday 19th July 2017



Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you over the term.

Mrs M. Graham

Head Teacher

Behaviour.

I am sure the children have been talking to you about our new approach to behaviour and the rewards and sanctions we have in place. I was very aware that the previous policy in place did not acknowledge rewards and the w1, 2 and 3 needed clarification as the system was leading to some confusion. We have put in place a new approach and I attach a copy of the draft policy for you to read and support, any comments can be fed back to me via the school office. This policy may be tweaked slightly if we discover any teething problems and will be presented to governors for their approval at their next meeting.

Take a Break Club

If you would like your child to take advantage of our Take a Break Club, booking forms are available at the school reception. May I remind all current users of this service that a form should be completed prior to their child attending the Tea Time Session as the catering service need one day's notice of children attending. Pupils wishing to attend the breakfast session can do so without booking in. Cost per sessions are Tea £7.50, Breakfast £3.00 and both on the same day is £10.50. Times are 8:00- 9:00am and 3:30 - 6:00pm.

First Communion and Baptism.

Children in Y4 have the opportunity to make their First Communion. An interest meeting and dates will be sent out to you very soon.

Deacon Kevin has sent dates for baptismal sessions should any parent like to have their child baptised. The sessions consist of two one hour sessions prior to your child's baptism. Please contact me if you require any further information.

Carpark Access



May I remind parent/carers that due to H & S Regulations and the safety of your children, the carpark gates should not be used to access the main school yard; can I ask that the small gate only to be used at all times.

Thank you.

Harvest Festival

Miss Burn will be organising the Harvest Festival and further details will follow soon.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday, 30th September school will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning in the school hall. Children will go to a New School Year Mass at St. Mary's Church at 9:30am (Parents welcome to attend) and then return to school for this event at 10:30am.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our parent/carers and extended families to this worthy fundraising event. If any parent/carer would like to donate cakes, please send them into school on the Friday morning, thank you all for your continued support!

