



Work, play, pray - together

St. Mary's RC Primary School

November 2017 Newsletter



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GOOD BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE TREAT

"Pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. "Missing out on lessons leaves your child vulnerable to falling behind." Dfe

Our school attendance target is 96% attendance across the year. Lateness and holiday requests severely affect our attendance and research confirms that school attendance affects student achievement, especially absences not due to illness. We have a very straight forward attendance policy and appreciate families who adhere to this and bring their child into school and ensuring they arrive on time. We brought in the 8.45 - 8.58am flexible start to give parents the opportunity of getting their child into school without the hassle of weaving their way through congested streets which tended to happen when everyone had to be here at one time. Despite our best efforts we still have some children arriving late, repeated holiday requests or poor attendance. We really do appreciate that some children have to miss school due to an illness, medical appointments or family circumstances and this is noted.

90% attendance = $\frac{1}{2}$ day missed every week

Over a school year this is 4 weeks - 100 lessons lost

Over 5 years at 90% this is half a year of education

The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.

We have a number of reward strategies in place across our school year to encourage students to maintain their highest attendance percentage possible. All students with 100% attendance are rewarded at the end of the year and best attended classes are rewarded throughout the school year. Year 1 and Year 5 had the best behaviour and attendance record this last half term and had a treat to Boldon Cinema to see 'Captain Underpants' and Year 5 will soon be going to see 'Beauty and the Beast at the Silver Link' for their treat day. This term the school council have also requested that any child with 100% attendance and no lates have their names put into a prize draw for a chance to win an Amazon 7 tablet.

Miss Wood leads on pastoral support and attendance and she is happy to work with families struggling to improve their child's attendance.

MATHEMATICIANS OF THE MONTH



Well done to our pupils Ruby in Year 6, Ellie in Year 5, Lilly in Year 4, Ryan in Year 3, Lira in Year 2 and Chloe in Year 1.

They have all worked so hard this month and received their Mathematician of the Month certificate in assembly.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS - WELL DONE

. Cafod raised £250.00 Thank you!

. We donated 46 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child

. Poppies - we sold all our allocated poppies, wristbands and slap-band ruler, we will be notified soon of the amount we have raised - Well done.

Our pupils enjoyed their Spooky Writing Day and coming into school in their Halloween costumes, children danced and took part in spooky games at their allocated discos, school organised a pizza treat for children and cakes, biscuits and refreshments for parent/carers for those that wanted to chat and wait for the disco to end.




MINI POLICE Our mini police have visited Safety Works in Newcastle on Thursday,

9th November which runs bespoke programmes with a prepared Metro platform and shop scenario.

The very realistic scenarios encouraged them to get fully involved, they all had a great time and I'm sure the messages and lessons they learned will be remembered and discussed throughout school. We plan to take other classes to Safety works across the academic year.

ITS' A BOY

Congratulations to Miss Lamb, she has safely delivered a baby boy on 7th November - 27 days  early, weighing 4lb 15oz and named him Benjamin, mother and baby are doing well.

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL We have again had concerns from local residents, parents and carers regarding inconsiderate parking around our school. Parents inform us that they are having to walk on the road with pushchairs due to being unable to use the footpath because of cars parked on the pavements, residents are reporting cars parking over their drives, double parking on both sides of the road and in certain instances reports of abuse! Any concerns or reports around public & pupil safety are taken very seriously and we would advise you to continue to report any concerns and/or abuse to the community police telephone no: 101. Any parking issues can also be reported to the council's traffic enforcement department 0191 4271717. We will continue to work closely with the community police, the local council and community in trying to improve the traffic situation and parking around St. Mary's. The LA have funded a new gate to access school from Glasgow Road, this gate will be open before and after school only. As soon as the path has been refurbished through the church garden we will be able to use this access. Thank you for your co-operation.

HEADLICE Headlice are present in school again, please can you check your child's hair and call to care in the chemist for the up to date treatment to be used if you find any eggs or lice.

NOVEMBER

17TH - Children in Need non-uniform day - Theme is SPOTS! Bring in your small change; school will try to surround the main school building with money donated side by side.

24th Year 6 Beamish Trip.

28th / 29th - Yr 4 Education visit to local area points of interest - NB - change of date

30TH - Yr3 Trip to Segedunum

DECEMBER

Details of our Christmas Market in school on the 1st of December to follow at the end of this week.

6TH - Rec, Yr1, Yr2 Multiskills Festival (PE Kit required, lunch as normal)

6TH - Big Sing at St. Matthews 6-8:00pm

15TH - Rec, Yr1, Yr2 Christmas Party (pm)

18TH - Yr3, Yr4, Yr5, Yr6 Christmas Disco (pm)

19TH - Rec, Yr1, Yr2 Nativity at 2pm in school

20TH - Yr3, Yr4, Yr5, Yr6 Christmas Concert 2pm in school

21ST - Christmas Mass in St. Mary's Church at 9:30am - All Welcome

22ND - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSET DAY

23RD - 5TH JAN 2017 SCHOOL CLOSED - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

****** ADDITIONAL DATES MAY BE ADDED EACH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ******