



Work, play, pray - together

# St. Mary's RC Primary School

## March 2018 Newsletter



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We are a few months into the New Year and March is here before we have had time to get over Christmas!

As we needed to close school for three days due to the horrendous weather we experienced. May I thank you for supporting my decision to close school and apologies for any inconvenience but safety is paramount for all of us.

The snow has been making a winter wonderland of the school yards and field for our pupils to enjoy building snowmen, sledging and the sneaky snow ball fight! There have been lots of socks, tights, hats and gloves drying on the radiators, please provide additional socks etc. in your child's school bag so that they can change if necessary.

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### Thank you!

Last half term we said thank you and well done to our Year 6 mini police and have welcomed and inducted our Year 5 mini police into their new role. They will soon be attending events organised by Northumbria Police.

Our choir have been extremely busy and made us very proud performing at Durham Cathedral in the Durham Vocal Festival, for the residence of Needham Court, the Jo Boyce Concert at St. Joseph's and attended the carol service on Edinburgh Road.

We continue to take on board your replies from the parental questionnaire. We have decided to set up an online booking system for school uniform and have added additional garments/items to purchase.

This can be found at <https://studentuniform.co.uk/stmarys1075>

We have also begun working with ParentPay which is an online payment service for lunch money, clubs, Wrap Around and trips etc. We will be in contact with parent/carers soon to provide them with user details and logins. This system should enable us all to run more efficiently and reduce monies that seem to get lost in reading bags etc.

Until then, parents are reminded that lunch money should be paid if possible on a Monday or Tuesday for the forthcoming week. Unfortunately there has been some lunch money arrears, Mrs. Smith, our Office Manager will be contacting parents/carers via letter and telephone when necessary.

Remember outstanding lunch money/club money etc. have to be followed up and may affect your child attending Thurston and Ford Castle so please endeavour to keep your child's account up to date. If you require a breakdown of your child's account Mrs. Chaganis, administration assistant will be happy help.

School has seen structural improvements such as windows in parts of school/nursery and have recently had a new automatic entry door to the school reception fitted, we have carpeted and painted throughout school and we will continue to improve our school working environment for our pupils and staff.

As you are aware school did not take part in World Book Day because of Science Week however they have secured a book for each child in school from WHSmith with the £1 book voucher we received. May I take this opportunity to thank Dawn and the staff at WHSmith who have worked with school to make this possible and have donated a £100 book voucher for school to get new dictionaries for KS1. The Travelling Book Company will also be in school week commencing the 23<sup>rd</sup> April for all to visit at 8:30am and 3:30pm.



## Holy Week

Children have been discussing Lent which started on Ash Wednesday and finishes during Easter Week. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week, during the 40 days of Lent; Christians remember the time when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God.

Class Liturgies will be taking place:

- Year 3 - Palm Sunday Liturgy on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm
- Year 4 - Holy Thursday Liturgy on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm
- Year 5 Good Friday Liturgy on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30pm
- Year 6 Easter Sunday Liturgy on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March



**Parent/Carers are welcome to attend their child's class liturgy and any other liturgy this week.**



School will be once again be holding our Easter raffle of Easter Eggs, if you would like to make a donation of an egg please give it to a member of the office staff. All money raised will go directly to your child and into their School Fund account to help towards the cost of trips etc. Raffle tickets will be on sale in the school hall through Holy Week for 50 per strip at 8:30am and 3:30pm.

School breaks up for Easter on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm and returns Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Our parent evening sessions will take place on the following day:

- RECEPTION Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March
- YEAR 3, 4, 5, 6 Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March

There is a ten minute slot allocated for each pupil, due to time restrictions please be on time for your slot. Your child's books will be available for you to look over prior to your time slot.

*Mrs M. Graham*

*Head Teacher*