



St. Mary's Newsletter

April 2018



At St. Mary's we aim to provide an environment for all members of our school community where positive attitudes to learning and creativity are promoted and valued within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Core Christian Values: Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust.

Welcome back after what I hope was a relaxing Easter break.

Christian Values: Faith

This half-term we are focussing on Faith.
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.
Ephesians 2: 8-9

Mrs Cooper's Award

The Mrs Cooper's Award is a very special award that is presented every half-term to a child who has displayed the personal qualities that represent our school along with our current Christian value theme. A huge congratulations to Tassie Horne who was presented with the award at the end of the spring term.

Music Concert

A reminder that our Music Concert is now being held on Friday 20th April at Askham Bryan College Conference Hall, starting at 6pm. We look forward to welcoming you to this musical extravaganza!

Easter Egg Competition

A big thank you to the children who entered our Easter Egg Competition and to our judges who had an eggxtremely difficult task in deciding the prize winners! All the children were praised for their eggxcellent creative and artistic work. Prizes were awarded for a winner in each year group, plus a Judges' Special Prize for the overall winner. A special thank you to Mrs Lindy Illingworth (Vice-chair of Governors) and Mrs Baldwin (village neighbour) for judging the competition.

Class Newsletters

Class newsletters will be sent out on Friday 13th April. This will keep you informed of the topics and curriculum covered this term, as well as provide hints on how to help your child at home.

National Curriculum Assessments

This term will be very busy with the children sitting their annual assessments. Year 2 to Year 4 children will begin their assessments the week beginning Tuesday 8th May and Year 5 assessments and Year 6 SAT tests will commence Monday 14th May. These tests are important in that they help inform our ongoing teacher assessments, plus help prepare our children for any tests in future years. It is very important that we have full attendance leading up to and during this time and that children are of course, well-rested and well-fed! Thank you.

Attendance

I am very pleased to announce that our whole school attendance this year to date is 96.1%. This is above our current school target of 95%, though has dipped a little from 96.7% at the end of the autumn term. We have 42 children who have managed an impressive 100% attendance during the spring term and 22 children who have managed an amazing 100% attendance this academic year so far since September. In celebration of these great achievements, we have today presented 'Attendance Award' and 'Attendance Star Award' certificates to these children. Each and every day in school really does have a positive impact on your child's development and education, helping

them to achieve their full potential, so thank you for every child's good attendance.

Primary School Reception Places

Please be informed that we have been advised from the York City Council that parents should receive confirmation of allocation of Primary School places, either by email if this has been requested or via a letter on Monday 16th April. Children resident outside the York Local Authority area will be informed directly from their Local Authority.

If you are successful in securing a place at St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, there is a welcome meeting for parents on Wednesday 2nd May at 5.30pm in the school hall. Further information will follow pending confirmation of your place.

School Sport

At the end of last term, our Year 5/6 hockey team took part in the Peter Feasby Celebration Tournament. We enjoyed competing against the other schools and won two games, and lost two games, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the finals. Our team played with great skill and determination, winning one of their matches 5-0 against a much larger primary school. In addition, our school football team have dodged the weather and played fixtures against Rufforth and Appleton Roebuck. The team have performed well but lost against Rufforth and were narrowly beaten by Appleton Roebuck.

Music Mark

We have recently achieved the UK Association for Music Education Music Mark in recognition of our commitment to providing high quality music education for all children.

School uniform stall

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 16th April, from 8.30-8.45am.

York Music Service

York Music Service provides peripatetic music lessons in schools for pupils of all ages

for woodwind (flute, recorder, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone), brass (trumpet, cornet, trombone, French horn, tenor horn and more), strings (violin, viola, cello), percussion, keyboard, guitar and singing. For further information visit www.yorkmusicservice.co.uk or email: enquiry@yorkmusicservice.co.uk

Governor profile

In each newsletter we are providing a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors. This month it is from Professor Kiran Fernandes, a Parent Governor:

I was elected as a parent governor at the end of 2017 having applied as a parent with my eldest son now attending and well settled into the school. I work as a Professor & Associate Dean in Durham University and specialise in modelling innovation in supply chains. I spend a great deal of time working with students in Durham University and feel that my skills as an HE educator can support the school with any pedagogy & finance advice. As a parent governor, I want to ensure that all children are all getting a fair, equal, just and most importantly, well-rounded education.

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 9th: FOSM meeting at The Rose & Crown, 7pm
- Wednesday 11th April: Year 3 and 4 swimming commences
- Thursday 12th: E-Safety Parent Workshop, 7-9pm
- Friday 20th: St. Mary's Music Concert at Askham Bryan Conference Hall, 6pm
- Wednesday 2nd May: New Reception Parents' Meeting, 5.30pm