



St. Mary's Newsletter

December 2019



Core Christian Values: Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust

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.

Christian Values: Forgiveness

This half term we are focussing on 'Forgiveness'. The display in the school hall explores what this means to us.

Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

Luke 11:4

School Administrative Officer

Following interviews, we have appointed Mrs Mel Suttill as our new School Administrative Officer. Mrs Suttill has owned and led a range of nurseries and more recently worked at Minster School. I am sure that you join with me in warmly welcoming her to the St. Mary's family.

May I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Amanda Cooper for all her hard work in the office during this last half term. Amanda has immersed herself in the role and all that it entails, getting to know the staff and children, and has made a positive impact in just a short space of time. We all wish her well in the future. She has kindly offered to assist Mrs Suttill at the start of next term to ensure a smooth transition for school and parents. Thank you in advance of your understanding during this transition.

Book Fair

Thank you to all our parent helpers who helped at the Book Fair—your time and support was greatly appreciated. With all the books that everyone bought, we raised £181, which will be used to buy more books for the children to use and enjoy in class.

Children in Need

Thank you to the School Council for organising a fantastic yellow and stripy non-uniform day for Children in Need. In organising the book sale and the jelly for children, they raised over £322.89—a new record! Thank you everyone for your amazing generosity, which I am certain will be warmly welcomed by its recipients.

Grandparents' Morning

A final reminder that our Grandparents'

Morning is taking place on Wednesday the 4th, from 9am to 11.45pm. We look forward to seeing as many Grandparents as possible!

FOSM Christmas Fair

This will be taking place on Saturday 7th December, from 12pm to 2pm. There will be many activities taking place including children's games, tombola, cakes, teas & coffees, stalls, raffle, turkey rolls, and Father Christmas will be visiting too. This year we also have some festive singers joining us as well. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you to our FOSM who managed to raise £90.20 from our last Film Night.

Thank you to the team of parents who helped on the night and to parents and children for raising this amount. As always, this money will be spent on resources for the children across the school.

Christmas Nativity

A reminder that our Christmas Nativity at Askham Bryan College Hall on Tuesday 10th December starts at 6pm. Doors will open at 5.40pm.

York Schools and Youth Trust (YoYo)

On Wednesday 11th December we will be joined by our friends from YoYo. They will be working with some of the children in class and will be leading their collective worship entitled 'It's your Christmas' for all the children.

School Uniform Stall

This will take place on Monday 9th December, 8.30-8.45am. This will include both new and nearly new items at reduced prices.

Christmas Lunch

School will be serving Christmas lunch on Wednesday 18th. If your child would like a lunch, please could you ensure that your reply slip is returned by Wednesday 11th so that sufficient turkey and sprouts can be ordered, thank you!

Safeguarding

If your child is poorly, please inform the school office by 9.00am and provide a absence letter on their return to school. If this is due to sickness or diarrhoea, then the NHS and DfE recommendation is that children do not return until at least 48 hours after their last sickness or diarrhoea. This is recommended so that it reduces the chance of being passed on to other children and adults. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

We recently carried out our termly fire alarm drill. All children and adults were lined up and accounted for in an impressive 2 minutes and 41 seconds. Our new Reception children were particularly impressive in how they calmly managed the drill. Thank you to staff and children for carrying this out so successfully.

Please may I politely remind parents that we ask that classrooms and school to be vacated at 8.45am when the school bell rings, so that we can begin registration and start our learning for the day.

Family Help

Local Area Teams Information Service (formerly York Family Information Service) is a free and impartial information service for mums, dads and carers of children and young people aged 0-19 (or up to 25 for disabled children). They can help with anything and everything around family life and parenting, including a range of courses. Their web address is <http://www.york-ok.org.uk/families/> and they can be contacted on 01904 554444 and at fis@york.gov.uk There are also a range of parenting courses offered by the Family Matters York. These can be found at <https://fmy.org.uk/parenting> Finally, there are online parenting resources available at <https://familylinks.org.uk/parents>

Nut Allergy Aware School—Snacks at Playtime

Please be aware that we have individuals in school who have specific allergies and some have severe reactions to nuts. We therefore ask that no nuts or food containing nuts is brought in to school. With this in mind, please remember that every day, children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 receive a piece of free fruit, under a Government scheme. All snacks for playtime must be either fresh or dried fruit.

School Governors

In each newsletter we are providing a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors a little more. This month our Governor in profile is Glynis Ashford, one of our two Foundation Governors:

I live in Bilbrough where I am churchwarden. I have worked in education all my life, both in secondary education and further education as a SEN coordinator. My daughter and 2 of my grandchildren have attended St. Mary's school and the compassion and support shown to my grandchildren at a tragic time in their young lives was incredible. This exemplifies the school ethos and how the core values are translated into the everyday life of the school.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 4th: Grandparents' Morning, 9am-11.45am
- Saturday 7th: FOSM Christmas Fair, 12pm-2pm
- Monday 9th: School uniform stall
- Tuesday 10th: Christmas Nativity at Askham Bryan Conference Hall, 6pm start
- Tuesday 17th: Carols around the Christmas Tree (by invitation only for local residents)
- Wednesday 18th: School Christmas lunch
- Thursday 19th: St Mary's Church Carol Service, 7pm start
- Friday 20th: Last day of term
- Monday 6th January: Term starts

From myself and all the staff and children at St Mary's, we wish you and all your family a very merry and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.