



St. Mary's Newsletter

February 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.

Christian Values: Compassion

This half term we will be thinking about compassion, which is one of our core Christian values.

'The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger in rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.'

Psalm 145: 8-9

Maths Parent Workshop

Thank you to those parents and children who were able to attend our annual Maths Parent Workshop which we hoped proved useful to show you the different age-appropriate expectations around the topic of 'time'. Please feel free to ask your child's class teacher if you need any of these strategies explaining further.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held next week on Tuesday 6th February and Thursday 8th February, with appointments with the class teachers. Slips will be returned on Friday with you specific time slot. This term, children's books will be available to browse though. Also, ABM, our catering provider, will be running a food tasting session at both sessions.

Music Concert

The date for our annual Music Concert has had to be changed from its original date. The new date is Friday 2nd March and I apologise if this causes any inconvenience. Letters will be coming out shortly with

further detail.

SATs Evening for Year 2 and Year 6

The SATs information evening for Year 2 and Year 6 parents will be held on Tuesday 6th March, starting at 5.30pm. We look forward to sharing with you the key information for 2018, along with some sample test papers.

Resilience Workshops

After half-term, Class 3 and Class 4 will be participating in two resilience workshops. These sessions will be led by our School Wellbeing Worker, Louise Wall, and will help the children to deal with challenges that arise.

Friends of St. Mary's (FOSM)

A huge thank you to our dedicated FOSM team and to you our parents for your generous contributions. FOSM have recently agreed to the purchase of guided reading books, dictionaries, classic book collection, maths games, computer headphones, outdoor physical development equipment and school football kit. These resources will all be used by the children across the whole school.

The annual Ceilidh at Askham Bryan College was greatly enjoyed and the evening managed to raise over £200 for school.

Thank you again to those individuals who put in the hard work in the organisation of this event and for those of you who were able to join in the fun and games!

York Schools and Youth Trust (YoYo)

In February the YoYo team will be working with Class 4 on 'It's your Bible'. They will also be leading another collective worship for the whole school.

Safeguarding: Internet E-safety

Please ensure that parental controls are in place for any device that has access to the internet. Please be aware that the legal age for using Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram is 13 years old.

I am pleased to say that following our initial letter, there is sufficient interest amongst parents for us to hold an E-safety Parent Workshop here at school. More details of this will follow shortly.

School Dinner Money

Thank you to the many parents who pay for school dinners on time. This is a big help in reducing administration time, by avoiding the need for us to chase late payments. As a reminder, dinners must be paid for in advance and this can be either weekly, half termly or termly.

School uniform stall

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 5th February, from 8.30am to 8.50am. Thank you to Mrs Barratt for running this for parents.

Governor profile

In each newsletter we are providing a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors.

Sally Walmsley: Teacher Governor

In July I will have been teaching thirty years, ten of which, have been at St Mary's. During this time, I have taught many age ranges and witnessed many changes in education. But I have always believed passionately that children learn best when they are inspired by an engaging and creative

curriculum, which I strive to provide. My twin boys attended St Mary's and are now in their 3rd year at university. I am convinced that their success began with the good grounding they gained at St Mary's. I love being outside in all weathers and I can often be seen walking my 2 dogs. But when I have a rare five minutes of peace, I love to curl up with a good book.

February dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th: Parents' Evenings
- w/c Monday 12th: Half-term
- Monday 19th: School term re-starts
- Monday 19th: FOSM meeting in the school hall, 3.30pm
- Friday 23rd: FOSM Bingo, 3.15-5.00pm
- Thursday 1st March: World Book Day
- Thursday 1st March: Phonics and Reading Workshop, 5.30pm
- Friday 2nd March: Music Concert at Askham Bryan College, 6pm
- Tuesday 6th March: SATs Evening for Year 2 and Year 6 Parents, 5.30pm
- Friday 9th March: Training Day (school closed)

Thank you for your continued help and support. Please let us know if there is anything more that we can do to support your child or family.