



St. Mary's Newsletter

February 2019



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: Endurance

This half term we are continuing to focus on endurance as our Christian value.

'For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.'

Psalm 100:5

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings for Classes 2, 3 and 4 will be held on Tuesday 19th February and Thursday 21st February, with appointments with the class teachers. Please may we ask that reply slips are returned as soon as possible and by Thursday 7th so that your specific time slot can be sent out to you on Monday 11th. At this Parents' Evening, the children's books will be available for you to browse through. Also, ABM, our catering provider, will be running a food tasting session on these afternoons from 3.30pm to 6.00pm.

Due to Mrs Holliday's ongoing illness, Class 1 will hold their Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th March, after half-term. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Following last year's parent survey, where 8% of parents disagreed with the statement 'I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress' we have reviewed the content of our Parents' Evening sessions. We include personal and academic strengths along with suggested targets at these times, but please do ask us if you would like any further information about your child.

World Book Day + Phonics and Reading

Parent Workshop (for Reception and Year 1 Parents / Carers)

We will be celebrating World Book Day again on Thursday 7th March, where everyone can come to school dressed up as their favourite book character. We look forward to seeing all the children's amazing costumes!

The Phonics and Reading Parent Workshop will also be held on Thursday 7th March, starting at 5.30pm and will be led by Mrs Boast.

SATs Evening for Year 2 and Year 6 Parents

The SATs Parents' Evening for Year 2 and Year 6 parents will be held on Tuesday 19th March, starting at 5.30pm. We look forward to sharing with you the key information for 2019, along with some sample test papers.

Friends of St. Mary's (FOSM)

The annual Ceilidh at Askham Bryan College was greatly enjoyed and the evening managed to raise over £321 for school.

Thank you again to all our Friends who put in the hard work in organising this event and for those of you who were able to join in the fun and games and contribute further money to support your child's education.

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.

Arrival at School

A prompt and timely start to the school day ensures that children are more settled and access information, instructions and learning at this important time. Conversely, any children arriving late can be unsettled and anxious by this. Thank you to the many parents who regularly get your children to school on time—no mean feat! We do understand that very occasionally there may be legitimate reasons for late arrivals, however where this happens more regularly, this does not help your child. Please may we remind all parents that we ask for children to be in class for registration at 8.45am. We politely request that any late arrivals are signed in and dropped off at reception. Staff are available between 8.30am and 8.45am, however, please may I remind parents to promptly vacate classrooms by 8.45am and school by 8.50am at the latest. Thank you for your understanding and support in this important matter.

World Thinking Day

We are proud to be supporting World Thinking Day again this year, which falls on Friday 22nd February. World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship and an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women. On the day, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are welcome to come to school in their uniform and they will have the opportunity to talk to their class and the school about the day.

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

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 11th February, from 8.30am to 8.50am. Our thanks and gratitude go to Mrs Barratt for continuing to organise this for parents.

Emblazon, our school uniform supplier, is also currently offering new fleeces for £10 instead of £14.

Governor Profile

In each newsletter we are providing a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors. This month is Mr Garry Bowman (BEng CEng MSc MIET), one of our co-opted Governors.

I live in Askham Richard and have been a member of the governing body since 2014 serving as a Co-Opted Governor. I have two children, both of whom are pupils at the school.

I am a professionally qualified electrical engineer working in the field of electrical power generation/systems. This includes design, development and commissioning of power system projects in the UK and overseas.

February dates for your diary:

- Friday 8th: FOSM Film Night, 3.15-5.00pm
- Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st: Parents' Evenings (Classes 2, 3 & 4)
- w/c Monday 25th: Half-term
- Monday 4th March: School term re-starts
- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day
- Thursday 7th March: Phonics and Reading Workshop, 5.30pm
- Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th March: Parents' Evenings (Class 1)

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.