



# St. Mary's Newsletter

January 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.***

## **Happy New Year!**

A very happy New Year and welcome back to all our children and families—we hope that you have all had a fun and relaxing break. Our wish for 2019 is that together we can make it a happy and successful year for your child. Please ensure that any new items of clothing are clearly named. Water bottles and book bags are also available to purchase from the school office if required.

## **Christian Values: Endurance**

This half term we will be thinking about endurance as our Christian value. 'For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.'  
Psalm 100:5

## **Winter Weather**

In times of ice and snow, the priority is the safety and wellbeing of children, parents and staff. If you are able to transport your child safely, please ensure that they are appropriately dressed for the cold and wet weather. It is recommended that on snowy days that children come to school in wellington / snow / walking boots and bring their school shoes to change in to at school. May I also remind parents of the school's 'Snow Procedures'. If the decision is made to close the school, a message will be relayed to Minster FM and Radio York as soon as possible. It will also be placed on the school's website, as soon as possible: [www.stmarysprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stmarysprimaryschool.co.uk) Please listen carefully in the morning to the local radio for information about school closures. These would be our only means of communication

with parents in these circumstances.

## **Maths Parent Workshop**

The Maths Parent Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday 29th January. Our focus across the school this year is place value.

## **Behaviour**

Following a successful trial in Class 4 last term, we are introducing a new positive behaviour strategy across the school from this term onwards. In class, using a visual traffic light system, all children start each day on green which represents our high expectations of positive behaviour. If a child has to be warned of inappropriate behaviour then this is discussed with them and their name is moved to amber. If the child has to be warned again then this is discussed with them again, their name is moved to red and they will miss 5 minutes of playtime. If a further incident occurs then this will be recorded in the class Red Book and 10 minutes of playtime will be missed. This strategy also allows children to move back from red to amber and from amber to green with expected positive behaviour. This shows forgiveness and that children can rectify a problem. In addition, a child can move up from green to the star which recognises outstanding and exemplary behaviour. This strategy will also link to each class reward system. If you have any questions on this new system, please don't hesitate to speak with either myself or your child's class teacher.

## **Friends of St. Mary's Ceilidh**

Come and join in a fun evening on Saturday 26th January, for our FOSM annual Ceilidh.

This will be taking place at Askham Bryan College Conference Hall. A haggis or sausage supper (vegetarian option also available), live music from Pugwash Convention and dancing will be on offer! Tickets are available from FOSM for only £15. Please encourage your friends to come along and book a table for the evening.

### **School Uniform Stall**

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 14th January, 8.30-8.45am.

### **Free School Meals**

Application forms for Free School Meals are available from the school office. We would strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to take up this offer as this also releases additional funding for your child in school.

### **Safeguarding**

Please remember that with any new mobile phones received over Christmas you will need to inform the office if you have a new number. We need to have up-to-date contact numbers at all times for emergencies.

With the possible addition of new computer equipment over the festive period, please check that parental settings are activated for children. Please also note that children are not allowed mobile phones in school. A useful website for parents regarding e-safety can be found at [www.internetmatters.org/](http://www.internetmatters.org/)

### **Medicines in School**

Just a reminder that school will administer prescribed medicines only and a full copy of the policy is available on request. The City of York Council Health and Safety Team have also advised that this includes 'throat sweets'. Any medicated throat lozenge would need to be prescribed by a doctor and any other throat sweet would come under the school's 'no sweet' policy. For children with sore throats who are deemed fit enough for school, please administer any throat sweet before and after school. Water is available for the children during the school day to ease their condition.

### **Governor Profile**

In each newsletter we provide a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors. This month is Mr Mark Barratt, one of our Co-opted Governors.

I was co-opted to the Governing body in 2015. I live with my wife and three children in Hessay, with my three daughters all being pupils at St Mary's.

I work with farmers across the North of England advising on grain marketing, purchasing cereal crops and selling inputs. My prior background is in retail management and purchasing. In my spare time I enjoy fly fishing and the great outdoors.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Monday 7th: Staff training day

Tuesday 8th: Term starts

Friday 11th: Year 3/4 Football Club starts, 3.20-4.20pm

Monday 14th: School uniform stall

Saturday 26th: FOSM Ceilidh, Askham Bryan College Conference Hall

Tuesday 29th: Maths Parent Workshop

*We wish you all a very Happy New Year.  
Thank you for your continued help and support. Looking forward to making 2019 a great year to remember!*