



St. Mary's Newsletter

January 2020



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.

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 2020 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. If you have any new contact numbers, please let the school office know as soon as possible, thank you.

Christian Values: Service

This half term we will be thinking about Service as our Christian value.

'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.'

Isaiah 42:1

Staffing Update

We warmly welcome Mrs Mel Suttill to the staff team and the St Mary's family. Mrs Suttill is our new permanent School Administrative Officer and starts this term. She will be supported during the first week of term by Mrs Cooper and we ask for your understanding during this transition period.

ParentPay

Having now transitioned to ParentPay for all our dinner and trip money payments, we are going to try and use this for more of our messages to parents too, replacing ParentMail which we previously used. This will hopefully reduce paper copies being sent out, in order to do our bit for the environment. We will still continue to send hard copies of letters that include reply slips, which will hopefully be useful for parents too.

Winter Weather and Snow Procedures

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 Please listen carefully in the morning to the local radio for information about school closures, which will also be shown on their websites and the City of York Council website. These would be our only means of communication with parents in these circumstances.

Maths Parent Workshop

The Maths Parent Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday 28th January, 5.30-6.30pm. Our maths focus across the school this year are the key facts and knowledge across each year group, including place value.

Friends of St. Mary's Bingo Night

The children are invited to come and join in a fun session of bingo after school on Friday 7th February. This will be taking place in the school hall. More information will follow from our FOSM team.

School Uniform Stall

Mrs Barratt will host the next school uniform stall on Monday 13th January, 8.30-8.45am, in the school hall.

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 to do so, 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/

*We wish you all a very happy New Year.
Thank you for your continued help and support and looking forward to making 2020 a great year!*

Medicines in School

Just a reminder that school will administer prescribed medicines only. 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 medication or 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 previously or currently 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 6th: Term starts
Monday 6th: Y5/6 lunchtime Touch Rugby Club starts
Monday 6th: Y1/2 after school Dance Club starts
Wednesday 8th: Y3/4 after school Dance Club starts
Friday 10th: Year 5/6 after school Dance Club starts
Monday 13th: School uniform stall
Tuesday 28th: Maths Parent Workshop, 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 7th February: FOSM Children's Bingo Night