



St. Mary's Newsletter

June 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: Hope

This half term we are focussing on the Christian value of Hope.

*Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.
Psalm 62:5-8*

Building Work

Unfortunately, Phase 2 of the school building works has been delayed. It is hoped that the work will start very shortly. When the work starts, the continued health, safety and safeguarding of our children remains a top priority. To ensure this, steps including the boarding up of windows where the building work is being carried out; workmen not in the school building; and mobile phones not to be used will be implemented. Our aim throughout this final half-term is to continue with school as much as is normal and to keep any disruption to a minimum. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to me about these, thank you.

National Curriculum Assessments

As you will be aware, each year in the summer term, we assess the children in Years Two to Six through the use of English and Maths tests. These are used alongside ongoing teacher assessment for staff to confirm the level of attainment that your child is currently working at. These tests also help ready the children for the more formal compulsory national SATs tests in Year Six. All these

tests are managed well by the members of staff, so that children are prepared and comfortable taking them. All credit to our children—this year being no exception—who generally take them in their stride, with several even enjoying them! Though these are a necessary process, here at St. Mary's we ensure that children have other academic, sporting and artistic opportunities too, in order to develop and nurture the whole child. Thank you to all staff and parents who have helped provide the right environment and given our children the best opportunities to succeed—not just in these tests, but in all their education and development as individuals.

2019-2020 Term Dates

These dates are set by the City of York and include five days to be chosen by individual schools for their staff training days. These are on the school website, within the parents section. The school's web address is www.stmarysprimaryschool.co.uk Please remember that under DfE National Arrangements introduced in September 2013, requests for leave of absence in term time will not be authorised and you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

Nut Allergy Aware School

Please remember that as we have individuals in school with severe nut allergies, may I remind parents not to include any food that may contain nuts when providing a packed lunch for your child, thank you.

Sports Day & FOSM BBQ

On Wednesday 19th June we will be hosting our annual Sports Day—weather permitting! With our building work due to start before this date, entry for parents will be through the back entrance through the staff car park. Please remember to park considerately towards our local neighbours, using the field at the end of Snowdon Close, kindly offered to us by the Bartram family, and the Rose & Crown car park. There is no parking or turning in De Mowbray Court which is a private road. FOSM will again be organising the popular BBQ following the Sports Day. If you are able to help out in any way, please contact FOSM. Please may I politely remind parents that no alcohol is permitted on site, thank you. We have a non-uniform day this Friday, the 7th, where we are asking children to bring in a donation of a gift for the tombola or hamper for the BBQ.

Mental Health Week

As part of Mental Health Week before the half-term break, we had an assembly with the children based on the 5 steps of promoting good mental health: connect; be active; give; learn; and take notice. Further useful tips on how to help your child can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>

Safeguarding

During the summer term especially, please ensure that your child has their water bottle at school every day and a sun hat for lunchtimes. If your child needs sun cream, please apply this before school commences.

School Uniform

Please may I remind parents of our school dress code, which can be viewed on the school website within the Parents section. In particular, the wearing of shoes and not trainers is requested, along with skirts of an appropriate length and not shorter than knee length, thank you. The next school uniform stall will take place on

Monday 10th June, 8.30-8.45am. We have a limited supply of new uniform, as well as nearly new items.

Governor Profile

In each newsletter we are providing a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors. This month it is from Mrs Sally Walmsley, our Teacher Governor: I have been teaching for over 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 finishing 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.

-Dates for your diary:

- Friday 7th June: FOSM Non-Uniform Day
- Wednesday 12th June: Class & Year 6 photographs
- Friday 14th June: YoYo Reflect Day
- w/c Monday 17th June: Health Week
- Wednesday 19th June: Sports Day and FOSM BBQ, 1.15-5.00pm
- Wednesday 26th June: Reserve Sports Day & FOSM BBQ
- Monday 1st July: Times Table Tussle competition

Thank you for your continued help and support.