



St. Mary's Newsletter

March 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: Love

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

'Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.'
Corinthians 13:4-8

Mrs Cooper's Award

Before half-term the Mrs Cooper's Award was presented to Harla Swires for being such a kind and compassionate friend to others and for all the good work that she has produced throughout the half-term. Huge congratulations Harla!

Snow Closures

It is always a difficult decision when contemplating whether to close school due to adverse weather conditions. We will always try our best to keep school open for those safe enough to make it in. However we have to consider various factors such as the safety of children, parents and staff; staffing numbers; site safety; driving conditions; weather forecasts and school lunches. We appreciate that decisions to close or remain open can cause disruption for parents so decisions are not taken lightly and are always made with the best intentions.

When school is open in snowy conditions, please could we ask that children come in wellies / snow boots etc and bring their school shoes to change into. Where possible

we will try to get outside at lunchtimes to enjoy the snow, so children will need this change of footwear as they won't be allowed out if they only have their school shoes. Finally, having heard of recent incidents of accidents with children playing out in snowy and icy conditions, please have fun but stay safe out there.

World Book Day + Phonic and Reading Parent Workshop (for Reception and Year 1 Parents / Carers)

World Book Day will now be on Thursday 8th March, where everyone can come to school dressed up as their favourite book character. We look forward to seeing all the amazing costumes!

The Phonic and Reading Parent Workshop will also be held on Thursday 8th March, starting at 5.30pm.

Music Concert

This will also be rearranged and a new date will be confirmed with you as soon as possible.

Friends of St. Mary's Bingo Night

On Friday 23rd February, we had around 80 budding bingo enthusiasts take part in our annual FOSM Bingo Night! It was great fun listening to all the bingo calls and we were all 'eyes down' and very keen to complete a 'Full House'! The older children were fantastic at supporting the younger children throughout the event. The five lucky winners were Indi, Floella, Seamus, Erin and Ava. Thank you to our FOSM for organising and running the event and for all the parent helpers who kindly donated their time to join in with the fun and games.

Sport in School

This half-term sees the school football team playing their matches, the continuation of the Year 3/4 Total Energy Club on Thursdays after school and the Peter Feasby Celebration Hockey Tournament—good luck to all our competitors! We try to offer as many sporting opportunities as possible for a small school and are very grateful to you, our parents, for your support from the side-lines, providing transport and washing kit!

Secondary Transition

Parents of Year 6 children will be informed of their allocated secondary places on Thursday 1st March. Parents within the City of York will receive an email and / or letter on March 1st. North Yorkshire County Council will also email those who signed up for an email, otherwise they will send out a letter by second class post on March 1st. If you have not received information on your allocated school by these times, please contact North Yorkshire Admissions Team on 01609 533679 or by email at schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk, or City of York council admissions team on 01904 551554 or email: education@york.gov.uk Any parent wishing to discuss changing their preferences or appealing against the decision are advised to phone or email the members of the School Service Team in their Local Authority who will be able to offer further support and advice.

School Uniform Stall

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 12th March, 8.30-8.45am. A big thank you to Mrs Barratt for continuing to run this for parents.

Booking arrangements for St. Mary's Out of School Club

For further information, bookings or to change an after school session, please contact Ceri on 07506 344653 or send an email to stmarysoosc@gmail.com. The mobile will be on daily from 7:00am until 7:00pm

and emails are picked up immediately.

However, between 3pm and 6pm, you may also ring School House on 01904 777072. If you need a session in an emergency and you can't get a response from the mobile then you can still contact the School on 01904 707125 where arrangements will be made for that day, **although this option should be used for emergencies only.**

Governor Profile

In each newsletter we provide a Governor profile so that you can get to know our school Governors. This month it is from Dr Tim Whitaker who is one of our Parent Governors and is one of two governors responsible for Safeguarding in school.

Dr Tim Whitaker: Parent Governor

I was elected a parent governor at St Mary's in 2017. I have been the Campus Principal at Askham Bryan College since 2014. My role is to oversee the College and its activities, with particular focus on higher education and students. I sit on a number of national higher education bodies and organisations, I am the designated safeguarding lead for the College, which has over 2000 students in York alone. I have a PhD in Applied Biology and a first degree in Agriculture. I am married, with three Children, one of which attends St Mary's.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 6th March: SATs evening for Year 2 and 6 parents at 5.30pm
- Thursday 8th March: World Book Day
- Thursday 8th March: Reception & Y1 Phonics & Reading Workshop at 5.30pm
- Friday 9th March: Training Day—school closed
- Tuesday 20th March: Easter Egg Competition—details to follow
- Friday 23rd March: Easter Service at St. Mary's Church at 2.15pm
- Friday 23rd March: School closes at 3.15pm
- Monday 9th April: School re-opens

Thank you for your continued help and support.