



# St. Mary's Newsletter

May 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: Wisdom**

This half-term we are focussing on Wisdom. *Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.* Proverbs 4:5-7

## **Building Work—School Entrance**

With the start of our Phase Two building work over half-term and into the second half of the summer term, our contractors will be using the school entrance for access. As a result, we are asking that children, parents and visitors use the staff entrance from Monday 3rd June until the end of the term. Staff will not be using this area as a staff car park at this time and our contractors will ensure this area is safe for parents and children to wait. Children will again be brought to this door to be collected at the end of each day. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with this change during our building work.

## **Easter Service**

Thank you to all the children, staff and parents who celebrated our Easter Service together at the end of last term. The children were a real credit to the school performing difficult songs with great talent. Thank you for all your donations totalling £66.83, which will be shared between St Mary's Church and Christian Aid.

## **Easter Egg Competition**

A big thank you to the children who entered our Easter Egg Competition and to our judges who had an eggxtremely difficult task in

deciding the prize winners! All the children were praised for their eggcellent thoughtful and detailed creations. Prizes were awarded for a winner in each year group, plus a Judges' Special Prize for the overall winner. A special thank you to Mr & Mrs Cannings (Chair of Governors) and Mrs Smith (local neighbour and volunteer) for judging the competition.

## **School Buses**

Our two school buses are organised and managed by the City of York council and North Yorkshire County Council. They currently pick up from the villages of Askham Bryan, Wighill, Healaugh, Catterton and Bilbrough. We would recommend this service for your children, which also helps to reduce traffic here at school each morning and afternoon. For further information, please contact the CYC School Services Team on 01904 551554 (Askham Bryan bus) or NYCC Transport Team on 01609 533693 (Wighill, Healaugh, Catterton and Bilbrough bus). If you have any issues with the bus service, please speak to CYC or NYCC directly to resolve them. Please also let us know so that we can monitor and support you with this.

## **Attendance**

I am very pleased to announce that our whole school attendance this year to date is 96.27%. This is just above our current school target of 96%, though has dipped a little from 96.6% at the end of the autumn term. We have 30 children who have managed an impressive 100% attendance during the spring term and 18 children who have managed an amazing 100% attendance this academic year so far since September. In celebration of these great achievements, we have presented

'Attendance Award' and 'Attendance Star Award' certificates to these children. Each and every day in school really does have a positive impact on your child's development and education, helping them to achieve their full potential, so thank you for every child's good attendance.

We will be sending out our termly letters informing parents of any children who have fallen below the DfE figure of 90% attendance, which they define as persistent absence, regardless of whether absence is authorised or unauthorised. We will also send out letters for any children who may be just above this 90% figure. These letters are to make parents aware of their child's attendance and offer any support to help improve this. Please may I take this opportunity to thank and remind parents for:

- providing a letter on your child's return to school, explaining the absence for our school records
- trying to arrange doctor or dentist appointments for children out of school hours if possible
- continuing to use holiday request forms for holiday absences

### **Sport in School**

Many congratulations to our school football team who have finished their season. They have performed with great skill and improved as the season progressed. The team played 8 games in the league, winning 5, drawing 1 and losing 2. Despite this impressive record, we just missed out on first place in our division. A huge well done to our Year 5/6 hockey team who progressed to the finals of the Peter Feasby Celebration Tournament, just missing out on a place in the semi-finals, despite not losing a game. The team played with great energy and represented the school tremendously well.

### **Safeguarding**

As and when the hot weather arrives, 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.

### **Snacks at Playtime**

Milk is provided free to all under 5s daily and at a cost for other children throughout the school. If you wish your child to start having school milk, please contact Mrs Godbolt in the school office.

Children within Foundation and Key Stage 1 also receive a piece of free fruit daily, under a Government scheme. It is school policy that all other snacks for playtime must be either fresh or dried fruit.

### **Story Sacks**

A reminder that we have lots of different story sacks in the school hall which are available for children and parents to borrow from school, to support your child's reading. These contain classical children's stories, along with different games, props and activities related to that story. If you would like to browse and borrow a story sack, please sign them out with Mrs Godbolt in the office.

### **School Uniform**

The next school uniform stall will take place on Tuesday 7th May, from 8.30am to 8.45am. We have a limited supply of new uniform, as well as nearly new items.

### **Dates for your diary**

- Monday 6th: School closed for Bank Holiday-
- Tuesday 7th: School uniform sale
- w/c Monday 13th: Year 6 SATs
- Thursday 16th: New Reception Parents' Welcome Meeting, 5.30pm, School Hall
- Thursday 23rd: FOSM Games Night
- Friday 24th: School closed for staff training day
- w/c Monday 27th May: Half-term holiday
- Monday 3rd June: Term re-starts

*Thank you for your continued support.*