



St. Mary's Newsletter

November 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

Core Christian Values: Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust.

Welcome back

It has been a busy first half of term so I hope that you and the children have enjoyed a relaxing half-term break and are looking forward to all the exciting events leading up to Christmas!

Christian Values: Friendship

This half term we are focussing on 'Friendship'. The display in the school hall explores what this means to us.

'A friend loves at all times.'

Proverbs 17:17

Mrs Cooper's Award

Mrs Cooper's Award is a very special award that is presented every half term to a child who has displayed outstanding personal qualities and Christian values. The award for the first half-term was presented to Tia Edwards. Mrs Holliday and Mrs Boast chose Tia because of her positive and friendly attitude — very well done Tia!

YoYo Explore Day

On October 10th we had a visit from our friends at YoYo who undertook and explore harvest session with each of the classes during the day. This focussed on the wonders & beauty of God's creation which is especially evident at this time of year.

School Governors

At the end of last term, Mrs Lindy Illingworth stepped down as a Foundation School Governor here at St. Mary's. Lindy had been an influential governor here for many years and had filled the role of Vice Chairperson recently too. We thank Lindy

for all her support for the school in challenging us to achieve and maintain our high standards and expectations. The Diocese of York have appointed Mrs Ann Watson, who already works closely with the school in delivering Open the Book collective worship in school, as our new Foundation Governor, and we warmly welcome her on to the governing body.

Harvest Service

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us for our Harvest Service. The children impressed us all with their performing, singing and speaking throughout the service. Thank you for your kind donations, as we raised just over £109 which will be split between St Mary's Church and Christian Aid.

Remembrance Day

We will be holding our Remembrance Service for children and staff on Friday 9th November. Poppies have been ordered and will be available for parents of KS1 pupils to buy from 8.30—8.45am in KS1, and will be taken up to our KS2 classes for our KS2 children to buy afterwards for the rest of the week. This will be carried out by School Council members. Remember to wear your poppy with pride.

As part of the 100 years commemoration, our Year 5 and 6 pupils attended a special Armistice service at the York Minster on October 3rd.

Anti-Bullying Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week we have planned an assembly around this year's

theme of choosing respect over bullying and will be linking it with our Christian value focus of friendship. The children will also be carrying out follow up work in class during the week.

Children in Need

This year Children in Need takes place on Friday 16th November. More information will follow from our School Council shortly.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

A huge thank you to FOSM for all the hard work that they do for our children. The Film Night was a great success with over £102 raised! The Monster Bash was a hair-raising evening enjoyed by many too, with £155 being raised. Thank you to all who organised these two events and helped supervise the children. The money will be spent on further resources for the children throughout school. FOSM ask that all parents please sign up to the Classlist website, if you haven't already done so. This enables FOSM letters to be sent directly to parents.

School Sport

Last month we participated in the High 5 (Netball) competition at Manor CE Academy. Our team thoroughly enjoyed their matches, performing with great pride and commitment. The school football team have begun their league fixtures and played their first match, winning 1-0 away at Elvington CE Primary School—a great start for the team this season!

Safeguarding—Road Safety

As you may have noticed, there have been mobile speed camera units in the village over the past few weeks. We are supporting our local neighbours within the village regarding the enforcement of the speed limit and are even campaigning for a 20mph zone around school to continue to ensure the safety of all our children and families.

School Uniform Stall

The next school uniform stall will take place on Monday 12th November, 8.30-8.45am. This will include both new and nearly new items at reduced prices. Thank you to Mrs Barratt for kindly continuing to run and organise this for parents and school.

Flyers and Leaflets

From time to time we will send home flyers and leaflets for local events and opportunities for children. We do this to support our local area, signposting these events and opportunities rather than endorsing them.

Winter Clothing

As the weather turns more seasonal, please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and gloves for playtimes. All items of clothing must be named. Children are allowed to wear boots or wellingtons during playtimes, however, these must be changed into school shoes for indoors. This helps us keep the carpets and school clean.

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.

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. These would be our only means of communication with parents in these circumstances.

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 6th: FOSM AGM, Nag's Head, Askham Bryan, 6.30pm
- Monday 12th: School uniform stall, 8.30-8.45am
- Friday 16th: Children in Need
- Thursday 29th: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling parent information session, 5.30pm
- Friday 30th November: Non-Uniform Day—donations of gifts for Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 5th December: Grandparents' Morning, 9.00am-11.45am
- Saturday 8th December: Christmas Fair 12.00-2.00pm

Many thanks for your continued help and support.