



St. Mary's Newsletter

October 2017



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: Friendship, Koinonia, Trust and Compassion.

Christian Values: Reverence

Each half-term we focus a different Christian value. This half term the Christian value that we are focussing on is 'Reverence'.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.

Psalm 29:2

St. Mary's Harvest Service

A reminder that our Harvest Service will be starting at 2.15pm on Friday 13th October at St. Mary's Church. We look forward to seeing you all to celebrate Harvest with us.

Safeguarding

The school gate opens at 8.30am and the school day commences at 8.45am. This enables each class to have a prompt start to their working day. We always welcome you as parents into school to work with your children and speak to the classteacher if required. However, could I please ask that this is done between 8.30am and 8.45am, with parents leaving the building immediately after hearing the bell at 8.45am, in order for staff to start registration and lessons. We ask this so that we can maximise the learning time that we have with the children—something that I am a passionate supporter of. If you need a longer conversation with a member of staff, please arrange to see them at the end of the school day, when staff are more than happy to meet.

If you arrive at school after 8.45am,

children must be brought to the school office to sign in as a late arrival, before making their own way to class. This is necessary because the cloakroom door is staffed until 8.45am only, as this is when school starts and staff are asked to be supporting registration and learning. Please ensure that you arrive on time to school and follow these procedures to ensure our safeguarding procedures work and that children are not put at risk with our building being unsecured. Any children arriving in class after 8.45am will be registered as late. Many schools do not allow parents into the building at all. However, this is not something that I would like to do here at St Mary's because we are a school with strong, effective partnerships with our families and your support is greatly encouraged. With the school being clear at 8.45am, the security of the building and the safety of our children is ensured and maximises the learning time that we have with our children. Upon leaving the premises, could you please also ensure that the front gate is closed.

At the end of the school day the school gate opens at 3.10pm and closes at 3.30pm. Please supervise any younger siblings whilst waiting for the classes to be dismissed and kindly vacate the premises promptly by 3.30pm. Children must be supervised on the Infant play equipment, however they are not allowed to play on the Junior play equipment on the field. We greatly appreciate your understanding and co-operation in ensuring the safety of our children and maximising their learning.

Dinner money

Key Stage Two dinners must be paid for in advance either weekly, half termly or termly and collected on a Monday. You may choose to have a two day, three day or full week option. Dinners are priced at £2.15 per day. Please help reduce administration time in ensuring that money is handed in promptly. Following feedback from children and parents, we are currently tweaking our new menu and the ingredients used following the first 3 week cycle of the menu. All meals continue to be freshly prepared each day.

Reception places for 2018-2019

Applications for Reception places starting September 2017 at St. Mary's can now be made. This can be done either online at www.york.gov.uk/schooladmissions or alternatively you may request a paper 'Common Application Form' from the Admissions Team on 01904 551554 or email: education@york.gov.uk. All applications must be made before 15th January 2018. Applicants will be advised of their allocated school on 'National Offer Day', which is 16th April, 2018.

Secondary School places 2018-2019

Just a reminder that the closing date for secondary school places is Tuesday 31st October. The City of York Council produces a 'Guide for Parents' for admissions for Primary and Secondary school places. This is available at www.york.gov.uk/guideforparents. For any queries, please contact education@york.gov.uk

Parking

Thank you to all our parents who are considerate towards our local community and ensure that they are parking safely, legally and compassionately. Please remember to leave sufficient access on Mill Lane for tractors and lorries.

Outdoor clothing

Please ensure that your child has a named coat at school for playtimes. Coats will also be needed on Friday 13th October for the Harvest Service at St. Mary's Church.

FOSM Film Night

On Friday 10th November, FOSM invite all pupils to attend a Film Night in the school hall. This will take place straight after school and refreshments will be served. Letters from FOSM with further information about this event will follow.

Book Fair

The annual book fair will be held in school on the afternoons of Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th October from 3.15pm to 6.30pm. There will be some fabulous books at great prices! School will receive a percentage of the takings which is used to buy more books for the school library and all class libraries, so spend away to your hearts content!

Dates for your diary:

- 8th October: Messy Church at Long Marston Church, 3.30-5.30pm
- 9th October: School uniform sale, 8.30-8.45am
- 13th October: School Harvest Service at St. Mary's Church, 2.15pm
- 15th October: St. Mary's Church Family Harvest Service, 10am
- 16th October: Individual School Photos
- 20th October: FOSM Quiz Night at The Chequers, Bilton-in-Ainsty, 7.30pm
- 24th & 26th October: Parents' Evenings & Book Fair, 3.15-6.30pm
- w/c 30th October: Half-term holiday
- 6th November: School term re-starts
- 10th November: FOSM Film Night, 3.30-5.30pm

Thank you for your continued help and support. Together we make St. Mary's a very special place for our children.