



January 2020 Newsletter

Mrs M. Graham

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us at St Mary's to wish you all a Happy New Year and, although a distant memory, we hope you had a lovely Christmas. Looking back at last year it was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Celebrations, Christmas mass, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas Concert, the Foundation Stage / KS1 Nativity and our Nursery Nativity. All of your lovely comments were very much appreciated by myself and the staff, so again, thank you.

As you are all aware I am working across both St Mary's Primary and Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School in Peterlee, the Head Teacher Mr Swift made a decision to leave his post at the end of December, with the permission of the Governors here at St Mary's the trust have asked that I continue this arrangement working across the two schools until the Summer time. Mrs Tumelty will continue in her role as Head of School. We will also welcome Mrs Colley back from maternity this term as she returns on the 10th of February.

Reception Places 2020

The closing date for applications into Reception this year is on Wednesday the 15th of January. We encourage you to submit an application for a place here at St Mary's for your child if they are eligible to start in September or to let your friends / relatives know. A reminder that you do not have to be a baptised Catholic or have a faith to apply for a place at our school in line with our admissions policy. This continues to be an exciting time for us as our school grows with the Northern Saints Trust.

We also have two year old places, three year old and 30 hour provision places across in nursery with a new toddler group starting Tuesday, 21st January 2020. Please speak to Mrs Riley in nursery or the school office staff if you would like any information.

St. Mary's Got Talent

It is that time again where the children (and staff) show off their talents. Children can prepare a short act, either in groups or individually, that they will share with their classes on Wednesday, January 29th 2020. Costumes and resources are allowed. The best four acts from each class will be invited to perform in the semi-finals in front of the school and staff judges on Wednesday, 5th February and then ten final acts will be chosen and will perform in the final round before February half term. We are trying to work out a way so that parents can be invited to the final. We will let you know more when we work out the logistics of this.

The benefit if this activity is to promote opportunities where pupils can thrive together, understanding that difference is a positive and that individual characteristics make people unique. The activity will be positive and all children who take part will receive positive feedback.

Reading Week

We are hosting a Harry Potter themed reading week in March. During this week, the children will play Quidditch, make potions, art and craft activities based around the books, perform and write poetry, no pen day and much more.



Children can dress up as any book character on World Book Day, which is **Thursday 5th March 2020**. On **Friday 6th March**, we will be having a Harry Potter themed day to celebrate the end of reading week- if children wish they can dress up in Harry Potter themed costumes. Don't worry about this if you do not have a costume to hand as the children will be given the opportunity to make accessories to wear with their school uniforms.

School Trips/Residentials

We are trying to finalise prices for the residential trips now that we have final numbers- there are a still few days left to add children on if they would like to attend one of our residential trips.

Fundraising

We have been working with the school council to generate fundraising ideas; part of the monies raised will go towards KS2 residential trips and part towards day trips. Mrs. Tumelty will be holding a fundraising meeting on **Wednesday, 15th January 2020** at 3pm. Please attend if you have any fundraising ideas or are willing to support activities. If you cannot attend the meeting, but have any ideas then please let us know.



Valentine's Day Disco - Non-Uniform Day

We are holding a Valentine Disco on **Friday, 14th February 2020** at 3:30-4:30pm. Children can attend school in non-uniform on that day.

Tickets will cost £2 and will be available on ParentPay until NOON on WEDNESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY after this date it will be removed so that the necessary arrangements can be made. Children will receive a drink and a snack. If children are not attending the disco and would like to come in non-uniform during the day, then please donate £1

Sponsored Walk

On **Tuesday, 25th February 2020**, we will complete a sponsored walk in school. Sponsor forms and further information will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Reading Army



We would love to put together a group of adults who would like to hear children read in school. Mrs. Walker will provide support so that you know the correct questions to ask and correct help to give. For safeguarding reasons, there will be a member of staff present in the room while you read with children. You may be required to gain a DBS check for safeguarding reasons. Please sign up in the school office and we will set up a brief training session.

ParentPay - Important Information!

As St. Mary's is a Cashless School; we have asked all parent/carers to access ParentPay to pay for dinner money, trips and events we organise or provide.



From Monday, 13th January 2020 there will be a deadline for parents to book their child and pay for forthcoming events on ParentPay so that office staff can abide by the Trusts Finance Policy and follow procedure.

We may at times need to order groceries for i.e. Disco's and this takes at least one day to arrange and have delivered due to us being a cashless school. I hope you understand the reasons behind this change, we would like all our children to be included in all events however cut-off dates must be adhered to so we can make the necessary arrangements for the event. Deadline day and times will be in bold in forthcoming letters. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

If you have any problems accessing ParentPay or need any help setting it up, please feel free to call into the school office and Mrs. Smith will do her utmost to assist you.

PE Days

Your child must have their PE kit in school on these days for their planned lessons.

RECEPTION - Wed pm	YEAR 1 - Mon pm	YEAR 2 - Mon pm	
YEAR 3 - Fri am	YEAR 4 - Fri pm	YEAR 5 - Swimming Fri pm	YEAR 6 - Fri am

Lost Property

All our staff do our utmost to ensure children go home with all their belongings at the end of each day; however our lost property has increased with so many cardigans, sweatshirts etc. not having names in. Please may I ask you to name all items of clothing, bags, plimsolls etc. so that we can return them to their rightful owners.

