



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336

Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

Acting Head of School: Mrs. A. Tumelty

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk

22nd October 2022

Dear families,

We have reached the end of the half term and broke up from school yesterday for a well-deserved week off school. I hope that you all have a great break and manage to get out and about.

The children have had a great half term and have experienced activities such as food technology, forest school, relax kids plus many classes have been out on trips to enrich the curriculum. More trips are planned for next half term and Mrs Smith, our officer manager, will keep you informed of these.

We have had many visitors in school this week as part of the regular school checks, e.g. health and safety and curriculum; the children were very polite and articulated how St. Mary's kept them safe and how they were well taught and what they have learned this year. You all would have been proud of them. Talk to the children about how we are 'Ready, respectful and safe' school. The classes have been exploring this recently and talked to our visitors about it.

We will be hosting parental/ family consultations after the holidays during the week beginning 21st November. You will be given the opportunity to look at your child's work and speak to the teachers. We will continue to offer face to face or telephone consultations. A letter will be sent home after the holidays.

Equipment

To extend your child's experience in school, we have purchased many new resources in school. We are awaiting a new piece of playground equipment for the infant yard, but this has been delayed since the summer. Where equipment is taped off then please keep your children off this to keep them safe. The gym equipment on the junior yard must not be used before school and after school, as it can only be used by children of a certain age and after being shown how to use it effectively. Eventually this area will be fenced off to help keep the children safe.

Fundraising

It was wonderful to see so many of you in school for our Macmillan Coffee morning this morning earlier in the month. We raised nearly £500 and this money was sent straight to the charity.



Children in Need is going to be celebrated on November 18th this year, and we would like children to come to school in non-uniform if they would like. There will be a voluntary option to donate to the charity added onto parent pay.



Vacancies

We have a lunch time supervisor and a teaching assistant advert on the school website. If you would like to discuss them then please speak to a member of the school leadership team. <https://stmarysjarrow.co.uk/vacancies/>



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Cost of living crisis

We are completing a poverty proofing exercise where we take part in a project to have a deeper understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by pupils and families who are living in poverty and also any families struggling with the cost of living crisis. We do understand that paying for school items can be costly therefore we are reducing the fundraising activities, so that families do not feel pressured and where possible we will restrict event days where additional items need to be purchased, e.g. any top can be worn on Christmas jumper day or we will suggest non-uniform days rather than specific items requested like Pudsey clothes.

We are aiming to provide a regular warm hub where parents/ families can come into school to keep warm over the winter and have a warm cup of tea, coffee etc. We will let you know more information soon. During this event, we will also have a clothes sharing event where you can collect clean clothes, e.g. coats, jumpers etc and uniform if needed.

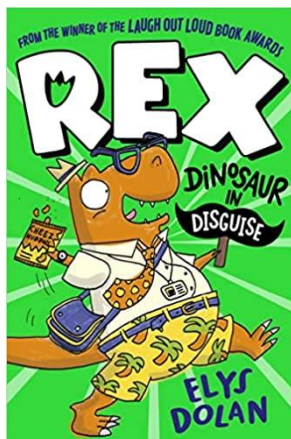
A reminder that hot meals are provided free of charge to pupils in Reception, year 1 and year 2 as part of the universal school meal offer. We encourage all pupils to have this; it not only saves you time and money but it also ensures that the children are receiving a daily hot meal. The autumn and winter menu begins after half term and has many delicious choices on.

Reading

We were visited by the author Martin Scott recently. Martin works for our Academy Trust and has written a book called 'The Stuttering Coach'. Martin met up with many children and read the book to them. Follow the link to find out more about the book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMDfMeL9tQI>

If you would like to purchase a signed copy then please get in touch.



Year three, four and five will be meeting the author Elys Dolan on November 23rd. Elys will be at Simonside school and we will go there as part of our community links. There will be an option of purchasing a book and this will be on parent pay.

We have purchased copies of both books so all children will get to read the books without you purchasing them.

School website

The staff work really hard at adding photos on to demonstrate the activities that are completed. Please click on regularly to see the photos. <https://stmarysjarrow.co.uk/news/> We also have details of the curriculum <https://stmarysjarrow.co.uk/parents/curriculum/> Copies of letters all also go on the website.





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Home Handwriting Books

Children have brought home an exercise book this week so that they can practise at home. Each week the teacher will put a sentence on Dojo that can be copied into the book. Spellings can also be copied into this book. You can use this exercise book as much as you wish at home to help your children. The children have daily handwriting sessions in school using the same tramline books so they will be able to show you how it should be, but there is also an example in the book. We will collect the books in half termly to reward the children.

As a school we use the Letterjoin handwriting scheme at school, previously I have shared a home log in. I have included them again as a reminder.

Pupils log-in details

Desktop log-in

Username: ayr

Password: drive

Tablet log-in

Username: ayr

Swipecode:

PE days

After the half term holiday, each class will have two set days for PE. All classes have had at least 2 hours of directed exercise already this half term with swimming, Commando Joe events, Relax Kids and Forest school, but moving on this half term, years 1 -6 will have a PE session taught by Grassroots and either a swimming session or a session taught by the class teacher. Reception class will continue to be taught by the teachers.

On PE days, children can wear PE kits for school, but please remember that these must be in line with our uniform policy. Normal uniform must still be worn on swimming days.

Year group	PE day 1	PE day 2
Reception	Tuesday	To be confirmed
Year 1	Monday	Thursday
Year 2	Monday	Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday	Friday
Year 4	Monday	Friday (swimming)
Year 5	Monday	Friday (swimming)
Year 6	Wednesday	Friday

Have a wonderful week off and we will see on October 31st.

Mrs Tumelty
Acting Head of School

Mrs Graham
Acting Executive Headteacher

