

## May Newsletter 2023

### May, the month of Mary

Mary was always faithful to God's will. She was faithful at the stable in Bethlehem, she was faithful in the temple and she was faithful at the foot of the cross. Mary quietly loved God and loved her family through that love. Let us follow her example and be faithful to God's will in our lives.

God our Father,  
help us to do your will  
even when it is difficult.  
Help us to love you  
through the love we show  
our families and each other.  
We ask this through  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
and your Holy Spirit. Amen.



Our newsletters are uploaded onto our school website and our Facebook page. If a paper copy is preferred, please let the office know and a paper copy will be given to the eldest pupil in the family to take home.

Welcome to our first newsletter of the summer term. We hope you have all had a wonderful Easter with family and friends. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school after a well-earned rest and see them ready to learn in class.

We have had a very busy start to the term. Week one we completed a poverty proofing exercise in order to have a deeper understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by our families. We will let you know more information about this soon.

Last week, we had a visit from Ofsted. Many thanks to those of you who were able to complete surveys. Thank you for the positive comments shared about the work going on in school - this is very much appreciated!

We look forward to sharing the report and its findings when it becomes available including areas to celebrate and ideas of how we can move forward.

Next week, marks the Coronation of a new Monarch, His Majesty King Charles III. It is the first coronation since Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. It will be celebrated across the country and marked with a three-day bank holiday weekend from Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May 2023. On Friday, this week we are holding a Coronation celebration day in school. The office staff have already shared the lunch menu which is available to all pupils in school. We will be eating the lunch as a picnic and we would like children to bring a picnic blanket in if possible.

On this day, we would like the children to come to school in celebration clothes or wear red, white and blue. Face paints and coloured hair spray are allowed. Please do not buy anything new! We look forward to celebrating the event with the children.



### Dates for your diary:

#### May

- **Fri 5th - King Charles III Coronation Theme Day**
- **Mon 8th - Bank holiday**
- **9th-12th May - Year 6 SATs week**
- **Wed 17th - First Holy Communion Session 5 in church 5:30pm**
- **Mass in Church in honour of Our Lady 18<sup>th</sup> May followed by tea and coffee back at school-all welcome.**
- **Family Friday 2pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May Y1-6**
- **INSET day Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

We continue on our journey of preparation with our children who are making their First Holy Communion this year both at school and with Fr. Sean, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Haggerstone within the parish. The children have two more sessions in church on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June.



It was lovely to hear about Alfie one of our year six pupils who stopped a young child from running onto the road at the weekend. Well done Alfie! You are a real hero!



Here is a link to the local offer if you need any SEND support:

[Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) and our Local Offer - Durham County Council](#)

Finally, a huge shout out to all our pupils who are preparing for SATs. SATs Tests for Year 6 pupils will take place between Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It is essential that your child attends school every day. On each morning of the SATs, we will be running a breakfast club (free-of-charge) for Year 6 pupils to help prepare and relax them for the day ahead. If you wish for your child to attend, please ensure they are in school between 8.15am and 8.30am; access to Breakfast Club is gained via main reception.

We ask all Year 6 children to be in school by 8.30am each morning of the SATs tests, to ensure a calm and smooth beginning to the day before a prompt 9am start to testing.

Thank you for your support.

### **Attendance Update!**

We continue to work together to ensure your child attends school every day.

Currently, our whole school attendance is 93.4%, but we would like to see it higher. We want all children to be in school to enjoy the wonderful activities that are happening, and of course we want the children to reach their full academic ability and not miss any school.

We do understand that children are sometimes ill, if this is the case then please ensure that you phone the office to inform them of any reason that your child is off school. When a child is absent, the office will make phone calls to all families, and if we do not get a response then we follow this up which is often a home visit.

Likewise, it is really important that we work together to ensure children are in school on time. Arriving late is unsettling for children-learning begins promptly at 9.00am with the doors opening at 8:45am. The first lesson of the day is reading or phonics so regularly arriving late means your child is missing out on vital education. Being 10 minutes late every day is the equivalent of 7 whole days over a year! Every second counts! Thank you for your continued support.



### **TODDLERS GROUP**

**EVERY TUESDAY 1pm-3pm**

**INFANT HALL**

**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

We look forward to welcoming you. Come along to play, have a cuppa and a chat!

Please note all are welcome-you do not have to have a child attending Our Lady of the Rosary School

No charge!

Thank you once for all the support you continue to provide to both your child/children and the school.

**Mrs M Graham Executive Headteacher & Mrs C Sutherland  
Head of School**