

St. Mary Magdalen's R.C.V.A
Primary School

Spring.1 – NEWSLETTER (January 2019)



A very warm welcome back after the Christmas & New Year break. I hope that you all had a very festive and relaxing time with family and friends and feel ready for the new year 2019!

It was lovely to see so many parents visiting the school to celebrate the many Christmas productions and events that took place last term. Our children certainly did us proud!

We already have a number of school events planned and, despite these dark cold days, we are all looking forward to an exciting and productive spring term.



This term we will be entering the season of Lent. During this time our children will reflect on our school mission and values. It is also the season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday (6th March) and school will attend Mass at St. Mary Magdalen's church at 11:00am - parents are most welcome to attend.

Christ at the Centre - 'Statements to Live By'

During our Monday collective worships, this half term, we will be focusing on the Sunday Gospel readings and exploring our half termly 'Statements to Live By' - Ethos Statements.

Ethos Statements

- I know I belong in a community that includes my school.
- I know we are happiest when we are united.
- I listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you.
- I co-operate with others in work and play.
- I try to use words that make the world a better place (*please, sorry, thank you*)

School Arrivals / Punctuality

Children are able to enter school at 8:40am each morning. If your child is in Year 6, please do try to encourage them to arrive at their class at this earlier time as additional SAT's revision sessions will be delivered by the Year 6 staff. It would be a shame if they missed this opportunity!

Children arriving to school after 9:00am should report to the school office. All other external doors will be closed for safeguarding reasons. Thank you.



Can I politely remind parents that dogs are not allowed onto the school grounds for health and safety reasons. Please ensure pet dogs are securely tethered outside of the school grounds when picking children up.

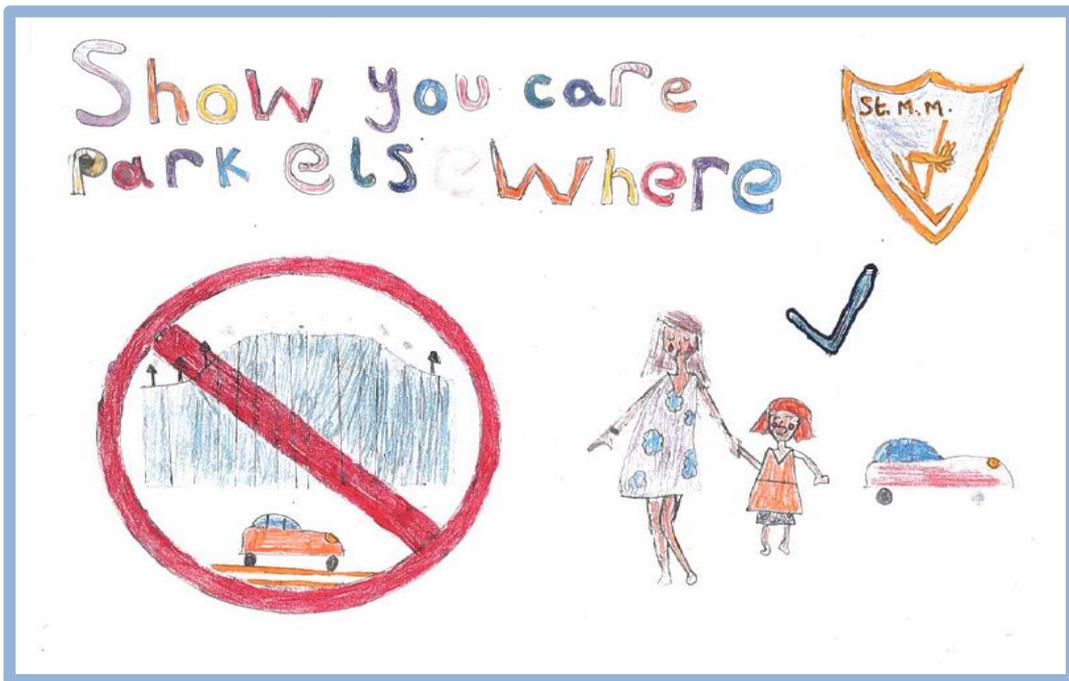
Parking Issues

We are once again experiencing a high volume of cars outside of school during drop off and pick up times. If you do require to park outside of school please could you try to follow these simple rules to keep everyone safe:

1. *Please don't park on the pavements or yellow zig zag lines.*
2. *Please don't obscure the children's view (when children are crossing the road.)*
3. *Please don't park/block public areas (bus stop, driveways, school car park gate)*
4. *Please drive slowly when passing the school - you never know when a child might run out!*

School Car Park

Children are not allowed to pass through the school car park when arriving to school or breakfast club. Please use the main school gate which is a much safer way to arrive to school.



Congratulations to Ellen Marie Atkinson, from Year 6, who submitted a winning entry in the School Gate Parking Design competition run by Durham County Council. Ellen's design will be professionally printed onto a display board which will be positioned at the front of school. Do look out for this over the coming months.

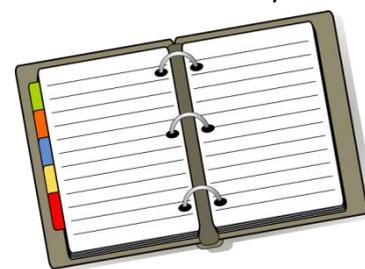
Are you green fingered? Would you like to volunteer to help the school gardening club?



Our school gardening club will start again after the half term holiday. The club will involve planting new plants and bulbs and looking after parts of the school flower borders. The children will also be growing a variety of vegetables that they can sample and taste throughout the growing season! Last year the children grew some fantastic varieties and the garden looked fabulous. If you have any skills or plants you wish to donate to the school we would be very grateful. All bulb and plant donations will certainly be nurtured and looked after and used to further brighten up our school.

Sporting Event Dates this term

All sporting events and extra-curricular clubs are posted onto our school website - www.st-marymagdalens.durham.sch.uk. These will be updated as and when new events occur. If your child is chosen to take part in a team competition, a letter outlining key information will be sent home. If your child wants to take part in an after school club please let us know.



Dates for your diary !!!

Wednesday 17th January - School nurse to visit reception - Handwashing, teeth and germs.

Tuesday 22nd January - Yr4 & 5 parent talk - residential trip to France - Battlefields, Autumn term 2019 (a meeting for parents to discuss this visit will take place after school - 6:00pm)

Monday 11th February - Yr6 visit to University of Northumbria.

Thursday 7th February - Year 5 visit to the Centre for Life

18th - 22nd February - HALF TERM HOLIDAY

11th - 14th March - British Science Week.

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief.

18th - 22nd March - D&T Week

Tuesday 19th March - Parent Evening 1 (3:30pm - 7:00pm) - arrangements to follow

Wednesday 20th March - Parent Evening 2 (3:30 - 5:30pm) - arrangements to follow

Friday 22nd March - World Water Day

Thursday 11th April - Key Stage 2 Easter liturgy in church @ 1:00pm (School will close for Easter holiday following the Easter liturgy - children to be dismissed from school)

Further Diary Dates to Follow!

There will be further diary dates as the term progresses. These will appear on our school website calendar and also through our school App. If you do not have the school App then please ask at the school office who will be more than happy to help you. The school App is free and very easy to upload to a mobile phone or tablet.

Swimming: Year 3 children will continue to do swimming lessons this term. Please ensure your child comes fully equipped for these lessons - Thursday (am).

Sacramental Preparation Dates

During the spring term our Year 4 children will be preparing themselves to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. Dates of children/parent sessions this term are as follows:

Theme I - Tuesday 15th January (5pm-6pm)

Theme II - Tuesday 5th February (5pm-6pm)

Theme III - Tuesday 5th March (5pm-6pm)



Reconciliation Service at St Mary Magdalen's church
Saturday 6th April 2019 @ 10am



School News!

The school autumn term ended with a very special Christmas liturgy in church. Our Year 3, 4 & 5 children certainly did a fantastic job in retelling the birth of Jesus through song, liturgical dance and prayer. Thank you to all who joined us in church to celebrate this special time.

Ecumenical Service

Well done to our Year 5 children who attended St. Cuthbert's R.C. Church, at the end of last term. Our children joined pupils from St Cuthbert's primary to perform carols at the Mayor of Seaham's Ecumenical service. It was a lovely occasion and greatly appreciated by all.

Christmas Liturgy 2018



New Staff Appointments

New Deputy Headteacher: We welcome Mrs Goodwin to our teaching staff as our new Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Goodwin is an experienced primary teacher who will no doubt be a great asset to our school. She has already settled in well and looks forward to meeting you all in the near future - *'I am thrilled to be joining the team at St Mary Magdalen's from January 2019 and working hard to build on the successes of this thriving school.'*



EYFS: At the end of last term, the school bid a fond farewell to Mrs Thoburn, who had secured a permanent teaching post in South Tyneside. We will miss her and wish her every success in her new career. Miss Williamson has subsequently joined the teaching staff and will cover until Miss Hall returns from her maternity leave in February.

'Friends of the School'



Thank you to our 'Friends of the School' volunteers for all their hard work and effort last term in helping to raise money for our school! Our Halloween disco and Christmas fayre were huge successes and the money raised will go towards resources that the children can enjoy and benefit from. If you would like to be part of this fantastic group please do get in touch.



E-Safety: I am sure many of our children received the latest electronic and internet access devices over Christmas. Can I ask parents to be extra vigilant when your children are logged onto the internet and ensure child safety checks are in place. We will continue to be speaking to all children in school about the dangers and risks of using online games and programmes. I am sure with both school and parents working together we can keep all our children safe!