

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

Summer 2 2021 – NEWSLETTER (June-July)



I hope you all managed to enjoy some quality family time over the half term break and also enjoyed the long awaited sunshine and warmer weather! Summer definitely feels as though it has arrived.

Looking back over this academic year it certainly has been challenging, at times, especially with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the need for social distancing and changes to school routines. Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued patience and support throughout this time.

With the successful roll out of vaccinations we can now see some light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully life can start to get back to some sort of normality in the coming months.

As you know, I will be moving on from St Mary Magdalen's at the end of this academic year. It goes without saying that I have thoroughly enjoyed leading such a fabulous school, over the last six years, and working with such fantastic children, staff, governors and families. Can I thank you all for your continued support, kindness and friendship throughout my time as headteacher.

As we begin our last half term, there are lots of events and activities planned within school. We will be celebrating with our fabulous Year 6 pupils as they prepare to move on to their secondary schools to start the next stage of their educational journey. They seem to grow too fast! Although we will miss them greatly, we are also excited for the many opportunities that lie ahead for them all. Please keep them in your prayers.

Christ at the Centre - 'Statements to Live By'

As a Catholic school we are centred on Christ and Catholic beliefs and principles. Here at St. Mary Magdalen's we love and support each other, we show kindness to those around us and are respectful and tolerant. We recognise that Jesus is with us in all that we do, both in celebrating our successes and supporting us during our challenges. This half term, we will be focusing on the Sunday Gospel readings and exploring our half termly 'Statements to Live By'.

Ethos Statements for June

- *I notice that we are the same and that we are different.*
- *I try to be accepting of others.*
- *We are all special.*
- *I can say one good thing about myself.*

Ethos Statements for July

- *I can say how I feel.*
- *I can laugh and have fun.*





School Uniform



There is an expectation that children come to school dressed in full school uniform. Our uniform can be purchased from **JD Fashions on Church Street**. It is highly recommended that parents order their uniforms before the **30th June 2021** to guarantee your order. No deposit necessary.

Can I remind you that the children are now expected to wear their summer school uniform. This is outlined below. Further information can also be found on our school website.

GIRLS

- Navy pullover or cardigan
- Polo shirt / summer dress – no tie required
- Navy blue skirt/trousers
- Black shoes (not trainers or heels)

BOYS

- Navy pullover or cardigan
- Polo shirt with collar - no tie required
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Black shoes (not trainers)

PE kit

All children **should wear a full school PE kit** for lessons. This includes: a light blue t-shirt, navy shorts and trainers (not school shoes). Children should wear trainers for outdoor sports and plimsolls for indoor use.

Jewellery

Watches are the only items of jewellery which may be worn at school and these must be removed during P.E. and swimming lessons. Teachers are not to assist children with the removal of jewellery. If children cannot remove it themselves, it should be removed at home on the days the child does PE. Children are not permitted to wear any earrings.

We have recently had some children coming to school wearing painted false nails. Can I remind parents that this is not permitted. Could you please ensure that your child has removed any false nails or nail varnish before coming to school. Thank you for your cooperation.



Bikeability

Year 6 will be taking part in 'Bikeability' sessions from 12th-16th July. These sessions have been rearranged after missing our planned session due to the lockdown period. We realise this is a busy week in school, however, we feel that the development of road sense and awareness of traffic dangers is imperative for our children and an important life skill to develop. More information to follow.

KS2 Swimming

We are pleased to say our swimming lessons will resume this half term. Children from Year 3 and 4 will all access four swimming lessons as timetabled on our previous letter. Staff will accompany the children to and from Hetton Community Pool by coach. Children should be dressed 'ready to swim' in their swimming costumes on the days of their lessons. They will need to arrive promptly at school as the coach will be leaving school at 9am.





Important Dates for your diary!!!

June Dates

7th - Return to school after May half term holidays

14th-18th - Assessment Week (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, RE)

14th-18th - DT Week 3 (Food and hygiene)

19th - Year 4 - First Holy Communion at church @10am. Fr Marc will be streaming the service live on his parish Facebook link.

21st-24th - Health and Wellbeing week

21st - Year 6 outdoor problem solving activity day

22nd - Year 5 outdoor problem solving activity day

24th- Sports Day - details to follow

25th- INSET day - children do not attend school

29th/30th - St Aidan's and St Anthony's transition day - Year 6

July Dates

1st- St Aidan's and St Anthony's transition day - Year 6

1st - Reception Induction Meeting for parents @ 5pm in main school hall

3rd - May bank holiday

7th - New Reception Visits to school

7th - Year 6 End of year performance 'What a year it's been' - morning and afternoon showing. Details to follow.

8th - Year 6 Bowling day

8th - Reports out to parents

9th - St Bede's transition day

12th - 'Moving Up' transition morning in school

12th -16th- Year 6 Bikeability

16th- Y6 Leavers Mass in church @ 10am (only Year 6 parents allowed to attend due to social distancing. Fr Marc will be streaming the mass live on his parish Facebook link)

16th - Break-up for the Summer holidays - school closes at 1:30pm. School closes to Year 6 pupils at 1pm. There will be no afterschool club on this day.

Year 6 transition

Transition days with the Secondary schools for our children have been arranged as follows:

St Aidan's - 29th/30th June, 1st July

St Anthony's - 29th/30th June, 1st July

St Bede's - Friday 9th July

Seaham High - no transition dates. Remote sessions to be arranged.

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

Our Leavers Hoodies for our Year 6 children will be given out this half-term and children are able to wear them for school as part of their uniform. They will be given as a gift from school as a memory of their journey through Primary school.



If any further dates or changes to planned arrangements arise, depending on how local and national restrictions adjust, we will keep you informed via the school app. You can also keep up to date with events on our school website - check out the school calendar or Twitter page!

School News!



NSPCC 'Green Day'

Thank you for your generosity in donating money on our 'Green Day' on 7th May 2021. We are pleased to announce we raised **£250** and this will be donated to the NSPCC to support the fantastic work they do for children.

Summer is here

As we move into the second half of the summer term, we are hopeful for some sunshine and warmer weather. If this is the case, please ensure you apply sun cream to your child before they come into school and send them in with a sun hat and water bottle. Equally, in the case of inclement weather, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately.



Covid Restrictions

As government restrictions are being eased, we are constantly reviewing our rules and systems in school. We will react to any changes in guidance issued to schools and inform you as soon as we can. Until then, we ask you to continue to follow our current systems to ensure safety on our school site.

School garden area



We are in the process of designing a garden area in school. Following a successful project for Empathy Week from one of our Year 4 pupils, we will be designing a Garden Area at the side of our school yard where children can sit and have someone to talk to. We will be gathering ideas from our Pupil Leader groups in school to create a suitable design to work with. We can't wait to bring you more information on this exciting project.

**EMPATHY
WEEK
2021**



Beamish and Segedunum Virtual Sessions

Our KS2 children have enjoyed some virtual sessions in History, Maths and Science. The children took part in some active workshops; marching like Romans; calculating problems in shops around Beamish and exploring the Science behind historic mining disasters. They all enjoyed the experience of engaging with the interactive activities.

Following our work during Empathy Week 2021 and the ideas linked to our winning projects, we have been preparing some ways we can carry out the good work planned. Our Mini Vinnies have become involved and have organised for our KS2 classes to record a song of their choice to extend links to the elderly in our community. We will then put these onto a DVD to send to the 'Beachcombers' residential home to share with the residents. This should help to spread some happiness and joy after what has been a very difficult time for them.