



St Mary's Catholic School  
Weekly Newsletter



16.01.26

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<https://stmarysbc.bhcet.org.uk>

*'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Phil 4:13*  
*If we look closely we will be able to find God in the ordinary of our lives.*

Dates for diary (Please also see Weduc Calendar and Newsfeeds)

[School Holiday sheets available from the office](#)

For sports festivals for your child's class, please see additional messages from Mrs Jennings our sports lead and class teachers too.

**Every Tuesday Morning: Toddler Group 9.15- 10.45am. £3 per session. All very welcome!**

**Netball coaching (Owls) - Every Wednesday**

**Tuesday 17th Feb—Netball Competition (Owls)**

**Thursday 23rd January- National Handwriting Day/ Competition**

**Friday 13th Feb 2:30pm —Wrens and Robins Celebration of the Word**

**Valentines (All Welcome)**

**Wednesday 18th Feb 10am ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**

**Thursday 19th Feb—Multi-skills Festival (Larks)**

**Spring Half term 23.2.26 — 27.2.26**

**Thursday 2nd April—Swifts Celebration of the Word**

**Easter (All Welcome)**

**Easter Holiday 3.4.26—17.4.26**

**Bank Holiday Monday 4th May**

**Y6 SAT Assessment Week W.B. 11.5.26**

**Thursday 21st May—Larks Celebration of the Word (All Welcome)**

**Summer Half Term 22.5.26—29.5.26**

**Owls' Residential Visit to Lockerbie 24.6.26—26.6.26**

**(See MCAS for payment plan)**

**Break Up Friday 17th July**

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS



#### MINUTES COUNT!

**Attend Today= Achieve Tomorrow**

Every minute counts so can we make a big effort to get our children to school before **9am, ready for prompt registration at 9am. Anyone arriving after the 9am register is marked late. Fines FOR BEING LATE CAN ALSO OCCUR.**

Holidays during term time WILL NOT be authorised, and the fine for holidays is increasing to **£80 per child, per adult.**

Thankyou as always parents for your support.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

No birthday celebrations in school this week.



### Toddler Session

A lovely first week back for our toddler group at St Mary's with play based activities around the theme of ice and snow.

Everybody welcome to join us each week 9.15am—10.45am for a fun filled morning for both toddlers and parents.

See you next week if you can make it!



### Family Mass Dates for 2025-2026

Each term here at St Mary's we gather together for our 'Family Mass' with Father Thomas, at St Mary's Catholic Church in Barnard Castle.

Parents, Grandparents, friends and family are all very welcome to join us- catholic or non- catholic, you are all so welcome and we do encourage you ( if you can) to come along and join us.

The dates for your diary are as follows:

- ♦ **Autumn Term Mass: Thursday 18th September 2025**  
**Thankyou to everybody who joined us for Mass!**
- ♦ **Spring Term Mass: Thursday 26th March 2026**
- ♦ **Summer term Mass : Friday 17th July 2026**

*Each Mass will be at 10am. Hope to see you there. Thankyou.*

### Holy Communion 2025

Children making their First Holy Communion this year are: **Katie, Rosalia, Gabriela, Margaret and Raph.** Please keep the children in your prayers throughout their preparation journey. Thankyou to both Father Thomas and Mrs McAuley who lead and organise the weekly preparation classes.





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*'Let your Light Shine Before Others' Matthew 5:16*

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**Our Trust Virtues**

Our Trust Virtues are weaved into all areas of our curriculum, and everything we do here at St Mary's. It is important that as we teach the virtues to our children that they have a good understanding of the vocabulary as well as what that looks like in themselves, in

others, in our school. Here are the 8 Virtues that we promote and celebrate as a school community:

- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Justice
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Self Belief
- ◆ Resilience
- ◆ Honesty
- ◆ Confidence



These virtues link closely to our Catholic Social Teaching Principles (CST) that underpin everything we do as a school, and as a Trust.

**Attendance this week**

**'Minutes count, Attendance Matters!'**



**Robins- 93%**  
**Larks- 98%**  
**Swifts- 97%**  
**Owls- 93%**

School holidays during term time will not be authorised. Our attendance policy is available on our website for further information.

Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

**Every day. Every pupil. Every minute!**  
**Make it count!**

A polite reminder to ask all parents to return reading books from school. We are noticing an increased amount of books not being returned and this is beginning to create additional costs to school that could be avoided and also impacts on our reading programmes within school. If we don't have the resources we can not follow our phonics and reading interventions effectively.

We would massively appreciate you having a look at home for any lost Sounds Write phonics reading books and hopefully return them to us asap. We do not want to charge parents for books that are constantly being replaced but we may need to moving forward.

Thank you St Mary's



Little Wrens children and staff wanted to give an extra special thank you to the two members of staff working at Costa this week when they took the children as part of their local adventure. What a lovely treat! Miss Holywell said that the boys working behind the counter were incredibly helpful and kind to the children. How lovely and **THANKYOU** Costa staff at Barnard Castle! The children had a wonderful time with their hot chocolate or warm milk drinks and gingerbread.



**Little Miss and Mr Neat Competition!**

Look out for our upcoming national handwriting competition across school as part of National Handwriting Week! I wonder who will be our Little Miss and Mr Neat in each of our classes.

January 23rd  
Further details will follow soon!

