



St Mary's Catholic School
Weekly Newsletter



28.11.25

Email: office@stmarysbc.bhcet.org.uk
<https://stmarysbc.bhcet.org.uk>

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Phil 4:13
'In November, We Remember'

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!

Monday 1st December: Wear Purple today symbolising the first week of Advent.

Friday 5th Dec —Some of our Owls class will be serving Advent Lunches in our local parish hall. Volunteered by Evelyn- love it!

Tuesday 9th Dec - Choir carol singing at Barnard Castle Scouts Hut.

Break Up Friday 19th December and return to school Monday 5th January 2026

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.

Christmas Dates for diary:



Wednesday 3rd December: Christmas Fayre 4-6.30pm in school.

Wednesday 10th December: Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day.

Friday 12th December: Christmas Party day

Tuesday 16th December: Nativity Performances:

EYFS (Wrens and Robins) 9.30am

Larks and Swifts Class 2.30pm and 5.30pm

Thursday 18th December : School Disco 5.30pm -7.30pm

Friday 19th December: Carol Service at Church. Owls class narrating.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to Melody, Pip and Evelyn who all celebrate their birthday this week.

Enjoy your birthday weekend!



St Mary's Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 3rd December

4pm -6.30pm



Thank you so much for the donations we have already received for our Christmas Fayre. Any donations such as chocolate for tombola, bottles (of anything!!) for our mystery bottle stall or raffle prizes would be much appreciated if possible. Thanks St Mary's!

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**

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. Next sessions planned are **24th Nov and 1st**

December, here in school 4-5.15pm.

Thankyou to both Father Thomas and Mrs McAuley who lead and organise the weekly preparation classes.





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PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Jubilee Year 2025
'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- 89%
Larks- 96%
Swifts- 90%
Owls- 84%

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!

AUTUMN TERM PARENTS EVENINGS

A huge **thank you** to parents and staff for parents evenings this week. We recognise that appointments can, and do run over but we are so appreciative for your patience and understanding with this.

We have had some really lovely, kind messages from parents thanking staff after the meetings for all they do for the children at St Mary's; they really do go above and beyond- we have a great team, and parents- that includes you, so a big **thank you** to you too! Next year, we are considering parents evening in the hall as opposed to individual classrooms.

The first Sunday of Advent is this Sunday 30th November 2025.

BE READY! - "Stay awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." - Matthew 24:42

- Advent calls us to be ready—living each day in alert expectation of Christ's coming—by faithfully witnessing to his commandments in the now, not merely preparing for the future. As Working Preacher reminds us, vigilance isn't passive; it's sustained, courageous living in the tension between Christ already come and yet to return

Don't forget to wear purple (as little or as much as you want) as we mark the beginning of the Advent Season... a time of preparation.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE



We are excited for our Christmas Fayre this year with lots of stalls confirmed to make it extra special. We have stalls including sweet treats, crafts, fudge, Temple Spa, Chocolate tombola, Elf Hunt and Bingo, Face painting, Instant photograph stall, Christmas cards stall, Christmas crafts, bottle stall, With Love gifts shop, chocolate golden ticket game, crochet gifts, and soooo much more!!!

If you are having a stall with us this year, you will be able to **set up in the hall from 2.30pm**.

£10 per stallholder donated to school (collected on the night) and the rest you make is your own!

Come along and join us - everybody welcome!

4pm- 6.30pm

Wednesday 3rd December

Tickets for both the Christmas Disco and £1 donation towards party food are now available to pay on MCAS. Tickets for the disco are £3 or £5 for a family ticket. Get your dancing shoes ready boys and girls!

***Nursery children and reception children (Wrens and Robins) need to be accompanied by an adult at the disco- obviously no charge for the adult tickets.**