

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, South Moor

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely start to the summer term we have had. Please see below for the April highlights for your child's class. It has been wonderful to see the children return with such enthusiasm, and there is already so much lovely learning taking place across school. As always, we have a very busy and exciting summer term ahead, with a number of important events, celebrations and opportunities for parents and carers to come into school. Please do check the diary dates carefully, as new dates may continue to be added.

As we move into the warmer weather, please send your child into school with their water bottle every day. We also ask that you apply sunscreen to your child before school, as we begin to enjoy more lessons outside and have fun in the sun at breaktimes.

We are looking into booking the school photographer at the end of term for whole-class photographs. Please watch out for further information regarding this.

At St Mary's, transition is planned as a process rather than a single event. During the final half term, pupils will have regular opportunities to meet their new teacher, spend time in their new classroom, learn key routines and share information about themselves as learners. Teachers will also complete detailed handovers to ensure continuity of learning, pastoral support and provision for pupils with SEND.

This year, we are strengthening our transition work even further so that children feel confident, settled and excited about September. Alongside transition visits in school, parents and carers are invited to a Parents' Information Evening on Monday 22nd June at 4pm, where you will have the opportunity to visit your child's new classroom, meet their new teacher and hear about expectations, routines and ways you can support your child at home.

For our Year 6 pupils, this is also a very special term as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. We wish them the very best of luck with their KS2 SATs from Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May. Later in the term, they will enjoy their residential visit from Monday 1st June to Wednesday 3rd June, attend the Y6 Primary Festival at YMT on Tuesday 23rd June, and take part in their transition days.

I hope you all have a wonderful bank holiday weekend, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 5th May.

Warm regards,
Mrs Anderson



St. Mary's
Catholic Primary School



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust



CLASS 1 NEWS

Class 1 have been observing our 5 caterpillars. Just as we read in 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, the caterpillars have eaten lots and grown bigger and bigger! They are now in position to start making their chrysalis, so the children are super excited to observe the next part of the life cycle!



CLASS 3 NEWS



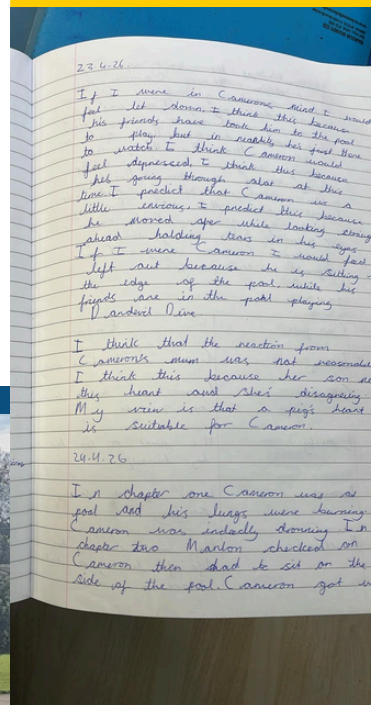
CLASS 2 NEWS

Class 2 have been learning about the life of Floella Benjamin through her book 'Coming to England'. We have learnt about how different life was in Trinidad to life in England. We have written a diary entry as if we were Floella Benjamin describing her journey to London and her new life and meeting the Queen.



CLASS 4 NEWS

In Class 3 we have been creating branching databases in computing and exploring how light is reflected in shiny surfaces in science. We have also written our own effective endings for "The Borrowers" story. We have been learning about fractions in mathematics. Children have learnt about Persia and Greece including the growth of the Persian empire and battles between the Persians and the Greeks. In Geography we have explored Agriculture and farming. We have studied British Inventors in Design technology. Children have worked hard and have challenged themselves in all lessons.



In Class 4 we have been working hard in all areas. We are currently looking at a text in English that explores the divisive topic of xenotransplantation. All learners have considered this very carefully and maturely; writing their own opinions and predictions using evidence from the book and their thoughts on the matter. Year 5 have shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm during their sessions with the Mini Police, local PCSOs and an officer, who have been coming in and working with learners to help them understand the law and their role in upholding it. Year 6 have been working their socks off with SATs preparation and I'm really proud of how much effort I'm seeing!

SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES

PLEASE CHECK ALL DATES AS NEW ONES WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADDED

- Wednesday 29th April: Mini Police assembly.
- Tuesday 5th May: Mini Vinnies after school.
- Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May: KS2 SATS
- Tuesday 19th May: Mini Vinnies after school.
- Wednesday, 20th May (2 pm). Drop in session (Durham services information).
- Wednesday 20th May (3 pm): Class 2 Celebration of the Word . All welcome.
- Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May : Half term break.
- Monday 1st June–Wednesday 3rd June: Year 6 Residential Trip.
- Monday 8th June: St. Mary's Feast Day Mass: 2 pm, all welcome.
- Wednesday 10th June (3 pm): Class 1 Celebration of the Word, all welcome.
- Monday, 22nd June (4 pm) Parents' information evening – come along to see your child's new class and meet the teacher.
- Tuesday 23rd June: Y6 Primary Festival at YMT.
- Wednesday 24th June (3 pm): Class 4 Celebration of the Word, all welcome.
- Monday 29th June: Day of Many Colours.
- Monday 1st July to Wednesday 3rd of July: St Bede's transition days.
- Friday 3rd July: Sports Day, weather permitting.
- Monday 6th July (2 pm): Y6 Leavers' performance for parents and carers.
- Monday 6th July (6pm): Year 6 joint leavers' Mass: at St. Patrick's Church, Dipton.
- Tuesday 7th July (2.15 pm) : Thanksgiving service in school, all welcome.
- Monday 13th July: Whole school trip to the beach (TBC).
- Wednesday 15th July (2pm): Summer singing celebration concert in school.
- Friday 17th July: last day of term. School closes at 1.30 pm.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2026– PORTAL NOW CLOSED

Reception Admissions – September 2026

Reception applications for September 2026 have now closed, and we're delighted with the high number of families who chose St Mary's this year. Offers will be sent out on **Thursday 16 April 2026. If your child is not allocated St Mary's but you would still like a place, please contact me – we can talk through the options.**

If you haven't yet applied, you can still do so, but please act quickly. The Parent Portal is now closed, so you will need to contact Durham County Council School Places (Admissions), **who can send you a late-application form.** The sooner you do this, the better your chances of being considered.



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
(01207) 232189

info@stms.bwcet.com

Hustledown, South Moor, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 6PH