

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, South Moor

NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely first half of the summer term — I cannot believe how quickly it has flown!

Please join me in wishing Miss Smith a heartfelt goodbye. She has done an amazing job covering for Miss Stafford while she was on maternity leave. We wish her every success in her new TA role and will miss her greatly.

We also look forward to welcoming Miss Stafford back after the half-term break. We are really excited to have her return.

As a reminder, if your child is unwell, please **ring the office before 9am** so that the correct absence codes can be entered before the register closes. You are welcome to leave a voicemail at any time before 9am, and messages will be checked when staff arrive. Thank you, as always, for your support.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our children and families with the donations already received for PACT House. We will continue fundraising next half term — thank you for such a fantastic response.

The children engaged brilliantly in our mental health assemblies this week. We were also delighted by the positive response from parents who attended our coffee and cake afternoon. We plan to make this a regular event, so please do join us next time if you were unable to attend. A new date will be shared next term.

Please make note of the 'Meet the Teacher' date in this newsletter. To support transition this year, we are inviting all parents into school to meet your child's new teacher and see their new classroom. Teachers will share key information about the upcoming year group. Transition arrangements will begin after half term to ensure a smooth move.

A reminder that Year 6 hoodies must be ordered by 31st May. Mrs Barker has resent the ordering link to parents.

Now that Year 6 have completed their SATs — and we are incredibly proud of how hard they worked — they will be heading off on their residential on our first day back after half term. I am sure they will have an amazing time. Information about next year's Year 6 residential will be shared after half term.

I hope you all have a wonderful bank holiday weekend, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, 1st June.

Warm regards,
Mrs Anderson



St. Mary's
Catholic Primary School



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

CLASS 1 NEWS

Class 1 have thoroughly enjoyed observing the life cycle of a butterfly first-hand and were excited to release all five butterflies today. 🦋

They have also been very busy planting and growing a range of vegetables, including potatoes, beans, onions, lettuce, kale and cabbage. A huge thank you to Mrs Carr for kindly supplying some of these plants for Reception.



CLASS 2 NEWS

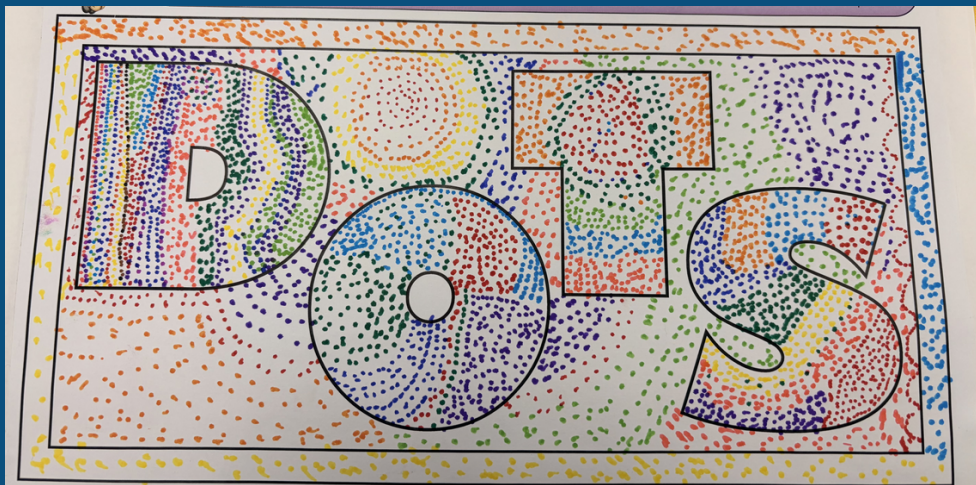
We have been reading the Velveteen Rabbit. Children had to write about their favourite toy and then present it to the whole class as part of a Readers Theatre.



CLASS 3 NEWS

Class 3 have been learning about the French artist Georges Seret and using his Pointillism techniques during art. We are enjoying exploring and watching clips of erupting volcanoes, and learning how they are formed.

Children have been working so hard on their times tables. Their progress has been exceptional, and Year 4 are well prepared for their upcoming Multiplication Tables Check, straight after the half term holiday!



CLASS 4 NEWS

We have had an incredibly busy month of May in Class 4. Year six have completed their SATs after so much hard work and dedication to their studies; whatever the outcome, we are so proud. Year 5 have been working very hard as well, fine tuning their own maths skills which will put them in fantastic stead come September. We have enjoyed an assembly on mental health and discussing how we can manage our own feelings. We have also spent time putting together motions for a formal debate based around the divisive topic of xenotransplantation, the children have shown great maturity and understanding of this sensitive subject.



SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES

- Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May : Half term break.
- Monday 1st June–Wednesday 3rd June: Year 6 Residential Trip.
- Monday 1st June: Multiplication check week for Year 4.
- Thursday, 4th June: home visits for new starters (Reception)
- 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

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.

PAYMENT REMINDERS

As per Trust policy, the admin team have to ensure all payments are kept up to date. **Please support the office by paying in advance for lunches, clubs, trips and milk.**



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