

St Mary's Weekly

'Every Child Flourishing'



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Friday 11th March

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well.

It has been another wonderful week in school. Our Year 2 children had a fabulous trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park yesterday where they took part in different workshops and learnt about different animal conservations and environments. It's just fantastic to listen to the children talk so excitedly about these experiences and we thank our community for your support in ensuring these trips and extra-curricular activities go ahead.

In school, we have been focusing our staff training this week on phonics and reading across school. We are so proud of the work we do in phonics and reading, and we cannot wait to share more of what we do, along with the progress your children are making, during our next round of parent/carer consultations. We believe that you should all be fully aware of your child's progress, and we ensure to set an effective system up that will allow for regular updates across the year. Next week, we have a whole-school audit from the Leeds Diocese that will look particularly at phonics/reading and our wider curriculum learning, and we will be sharing the outcomes of this with you all once we have received them.

One of the most rewarding parts of this job is hearing positive comments being made about our pupils here at St Mary's. It was lovely this week, to have received several emails and phone calls from members of the local community wishing to pass on their positive comments about the way in which our children conduct themselves outside of school. This was highlighted during a year 5 local community walk and children walking to school in the morning on Stocks Lane. I believe that the values and expectations we have in school are designed to ensure our children are equipped to live by these values outside into wider society and it is lovely to hear such positive comments being made about our children.

Safeguarding

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leaders at St Mary's:

- Mr Spencer
- Mr White
- Mrs Brook
- Mrs Goodyear
- Miss Gulliver

Our Safeguarding Governor is Lynn Greenfield.

Safeguarding Message:

We have been made aware of children unblocking different privacy settings and content on their iPhone and iPad. Please can parents/carers check their privacy settings and if needs be, contact your internet supplier as they can often block these for you. It is important we are all working together to safeguard our children online and ensure the content they are exposed to is age appropriate at all times.

School Aims and Values:

Our school aim:

'Every Child Flourishing'

Our aim at St Mary's is for every child to flourish. We strive to create the conditions for staff flourishing, for family flourishing and for community flourishing so that the children of St Mary's are well rounded with individual areas of expertise and choices open to them for the next phase of their education.

Our school core expectations:

Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Walking around school

I want to take this opportunity to thank our parents/carers for their support in walking around school. As you all know, we take pride in ensuring staff are visible at the beginning and end of every day for you to talk to, say hello to and your children and ensure a smooth transition is in place for all of our children coming into school in a morning. As staff, we have spoken about the values in which we must uphold in school and those that we expect within our community. I want to say thank you for all the lovely manners, conversations, messages passed on and just the general passing comments of 'good morning'. I truly believe this sets our children up for a positive day in school and ensures all children are noticed, spoken to and supported before starting their learning for the day and this is not possible without you doing it too. So, a massive thank you for the way in which you have all been so supportive around school.

Working with other schools

One thing I passionately believe in within education is a strong network to collaborate between within schools across not only the Barnsley area, but nationally. Over the last few weeks, several staff have been working with colleagues in education from around the country looking at ways in which we can further improve provision for children. We are extremely proud of the curriculum we have developed at St Mary's, and it has been lovely that we have other schools from the local and further afield, wanting to work with us and asking for our support in different areas of education. Everything we do is with the sole purpose of supporting our children and to do this, we must always prioritise the wellbeing and training of our staff, so I am very excited to hear that other schools are wanting our support in moving forward their provision for their children.

Twitter:

For more information and to see what we have been getting up to, please follow us on Twitter @stmarysbarnsley This is the best way to keep up to date with everything happening in our school. We will be sharing the amazing events within school on here daily.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr White