St Mary’s Newsletter 16th February 2018

**Superkids awards**

Well done to our KS1 achievement winners.

Class 1 Isobella Blackburn, Jenson Maher, Roman Brown and Luke Squires

Class 2 Layla Green and Szami Sarkozi Class 3 Sam Parlar and Andrew Miller

Class 4 Amelia Lister and Heidi Stevens Class 5 Sophie O’Sullivan and Loui Quinn

**Bravo winners**

Well done to the following children who are Bravo winners for this half term

Class 6 Miley Kelly & Artemei Antonovs

Class 7 Bailey Marshall & Deacon Gmir

Class 8 Georgia Finneran & Oliver Summers

Class 9 Lewis O’Donnell & Evie Smith

Class 10 Levi Simmonds & Rylee Carroll

Class 11 Courtney Lettice & Freya Maciver

Mrs Hetherington Joseph Howard

**Parents evening**

Thank you to all our parents and carers who came to parents evening this week. We have 83 completed questionnaires but are happy to still receive yours if you took it away to fill in. They are a really useful way to gain your opinions on how school is doing in lots of areas and ways we can improve. You will receive the feedback after half term.

Thanks also for your cash donations to the Rotakids refreshment stall and to the Mini Vinnies homeless collection. You can still donate toiletries, scarves, hats and gloves via the box in the office reception area

**World Book Day 2018**

World Book Day is Thursday 1st March. There will be lots of activities happening in school on this day but we will not be dressing up as characters this year. You will receive more information after half term about the million minutes of reading challenge that we will be taking part in. As usual every child will receive a book voucher to spend on a book of their choice at local shops.

**Lent**

Lent started this week and so as usual there will be fundraising activities over the next 5 weeks of school including Sports Relief and our annual sponsored event. More details are to follow.

**Cloakrooms**

We have a number of complaints regarding the cloakrooms especially in KS1 where parents are blocking the cloakrooms and stopping other children from being able to change their shoes etc. especially when it is raining. Please encourage your child’s independence and let them go into the cloakrooms themselves while you wait outside. Thank you

**Attendance and lates**

The school attendance officer, Catherine Henderson, visits every half term to review attendance. She and I understand that this half term in particular there have been many different illnesses that have spread around school. She is more concerned with the children who have lots of occasional days off rather than one block of illness.

There continues to be a small minority of children who are regularly late-this disrupts both their, and their class mates’, lesson time when they arrive late. Some arrive so late they are actually missing full lessons. Please help your child to arrive on time. We also have a very small number who are frequently picked up late too- we finish at 3.20pm.

At the same time we have children regularly leaving early-please don’t be offended if we ask to see an appointment card if you wish to take your child before 3.20pm

**Free school meals**

It is a time of financial hardship for many schools around the country including for St Mary’s. You could help boost our budget simply by applying for free school meals EVEN IF your child already receives a school meal because they are in Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 2. For every successful application school receives an extra £1300-this money makes the difference on the number of classes we have in school, the number of books we can buy, the number of staff we can employ. This funding also helps to pay for booster classes, after school clubs, trips, the school nurse service and Matthew (Catholic Care). Please take a few minutes to see if you would be eligible. If you are on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits then your child may be eligible. Please go to [www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring 01484 221928](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/schoolmeals%20or%20ring%2001484%20221928)

**Dinner money debt**

St Marys is one of the worst performing schools for dinner money debt. Kirklees are constantly chasing arrears so from Monday 25th February any child that has more than £5 outstanding on their account, will not be able to have a school lunch. Parents will have the responsibility to supply a packed lunch until the account is back in credit.

**Dates for the diary**

**February**

16th Finish for half term

**Monday 26th** **re-open for pupils**

**March**

Mon 5th PTF meeting in school @6pm

Wed 7th Mother’s Day Shop

Thurs 8th Mother’s Day Shop

Thurs 29th Finish for Easter

**April**

**Mon 16th re-open for pupils**.