St Mary’s Newsletter 16th March 2018

**Ethos statement for this week**

I know it is ok for me to make mistakes

**Morning Prayer**

Class 2 invite their family and friends to their Morning Prayer on Monday at 10am. This is the rearranged Morning Prayer due to snow disruption of the last couple of weeks.

**Lent fundraising**

**Loose change-** a red Mission Together box should have come home this week for the children to collect any loose change (suggested 1p up to 20p). We have asked that they do not raid their piggy banks or parent’s pockets!! The money collected goes towards children who are in hardship around the world. These boxes can be kept at home until week beginning 16th April when we will start counting how much we have raised.

**Sports relief Day and sponsored event**- next Friday 23rd March is a non-uniform day where children can wear their own clothes but we are suggesting red/sports theme as it is also Sports Relief day. We are suggesting a donation of £1 for the day. Also during the day we will be holding our Lenten sponsored walk. Sponsor cards should have been brought home for this green cards (KS2) or yellow cards (KS1). We have explained to children that they need to be safe and not to go collecting sponsors from neighbours etc. without an adult being with them. Please return the cards on Friday so staff can sign to say they have been successful and completed the challenge. Cards will then be returned to you so you can collect the money from your sponsors. Money can be returned to school at any time up until Wednesday 18th April.

**Football success**

We are very pleased and proud to announce that our Yr 3/4 football team who played in the Batley School Sports Association League on Wednesday and ended up being 2018 League Winners. They drew their first game against Norristhorpe but then went on to win every other match (St Patrick’s, Mill Lane, Holy Spirit, Eastborough, Bywell and Batley Parish) scoring 15 goals in the process and only conceding 1 goal. We are delighted for them-we have the trophy back in our cabinet (we also won it last year!) Congratulations and a very well done to: Riley O’Sullivan, Jakub Hutek, Oliver Nahorski, Aidan Kaye, Carson McFarland,

Michael Anderson, Max Sajek, Bradley Stanley and Jacob Howard

**Milk money**

Milk payment for the summer term is now due. Kirklees have changed the arrangements and WILL NOT accept any late requests for children to be added to the milk list. £11.50 must be paid by 6th April (during the Easter holiday so Becky will not be able to send reminders)-this will enable your child to have milk through to July when we close for the summer holiday.

Please note that if you are in receipt of certain benefits which enable your child to receive free school meals (not the KS1 free meal scheme) then milk is also free for your child.

**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.

**SNOW**

The extreme snowy conditions over the last couple of weeks caused considerable disruption to school and I appreciate your support and patience during this trying time. When making the decision to close I make the decision on the conditions at that specific time, as well as the weather forecast and the likelihood of considerable risk and harm that could happen if people were to travel to school. Alongside that I have to ensure we have sufficient staff in school if we were to remain open. I always attempt to travel to school myself as conditions can be so variable from one area to another (even from Dewsbury to Batley). Unfortunately the recent snow made travel conditions and areas around school too dangerous for all concerned. Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow (except for this weekend by all accounts!) Please remember that even if school is open, you as parents/carers have to make the judgement as to whether it is safe to travel from your own homes. No-one should be risking harm, life or limb to get to school.

**KS1 SATs information**

Thank you to the parents who attended the information sessions regarding KS1 SATs. We hope you found the sessions helpful and informative and given you a better understanding of the challenges the children have to meet just to achieve the new demanding year group expectations.

**Dates for the diary**

**March**

Thurs 29th Finish for Easter

**April**

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