



Masses

We are pleased to announce that this academic year we will be able to invite Father Swales and Father McKenzie to celebrate Mass with our school community. We will be celebrating Mass on the dates listed below and it would be wonderful if families were able to join us for these special events.

Thursday 9th December – Advent Mass

Thursday 7th April – Lent Mass

Thursday 9th June – St William's Feast Day

Thursday 14th July – End of School Year Mass

Open Days

Reminder that we will be holding open days for new and prospective parents on **Tuesday 19th October at 1:30pm** and **Thursday 4th November at 9:30am**. This will be an ideal opportunity for parents to learn about our wonderful school, meet Early Years staff and see our Early Years learning environment. We will be providing refreshments made fresh in our school kitchen and it would be great to see these events well attended. If you have not done so already, please could you let any family and friends know about these events.

Photographer

Advanced notice: The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 11th November to take photos of individual children and siblings. We are pleased to be able to invite younger siblings who have not yet started school to come in to be part of their older siblings photos. If you would like to bring a younger child in for their photo, please could you email admin@stwilliams.bhcet.org.uk and provide us with your child's name, who their sibling(s) are and which class they are in. All photos with younger siblings will take place first so please could you come to school for 8:30 if you intend to take advantage of this.

Sports Events / Volunteers

Many thanks to Miss Sowerby, our PE subject leader for arranging a number of sporting events for our children to compete in this year. Children from St William's will be competing in the following events:

- Wednesday 10th November, KS2 Sports Hall Athletics at Newton Aycliffe leisure centre.
- Thursday November 18th, KS1 Multi Skills at Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Class 2
- Thursday December 2nd Boccia, Spennymoor Leisure Centre
- Wednesday 12th January KS1 infant games Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.
- Thursday 20th January Year 5/6 basketball at Sedgefield Community College
- Friday 21st January, Non-swimmers Gala
- Date tbc, Key Stage 2 Swimmers Gala
- Tuesday 1st February Sportability at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre,
- Wednesday 16th February Move with Reception and Nursery

Further details about each event will be announced closer to the time. As you would expect, it is vital at these events that we have an adequate number of adults to supervise the children and we are therefore asking for volunteers to attend future events. If you would like to add your name to our volunteer list, please email admin@stwilliams.bhcet.org.uk and let us know your availability so that we can consider you for future sporting events and trips.

Class 3 Meccano Challenge

Good luck to class 3 who will be competing in the County Durham Meccano Challenge at Shildon Railway Museum on Wednesday 20th October. St William's have been winners of this award in the past and it would be wonderful to see the trophy return to us next week!

Parking

Once again, I am having to make a plea to our parents who drive children to and from school to please be considerate to our neighbours and to consider the safety of children and other pedestrians. I received an upsetting email recently from a local resident to describe an incident where a car driven by a parent from St William's drove at high speed near to where she was walking, parked in a way that the whole footpath was obstructed and then swore at her when challenged about their parking. I appreciate that school drop offs can be stressful times and that parking in the estate is difficult but I am sure you will agree that this kind of behaviour is unacceptable. Please avoid using the staff carpark at any time.

Friends

We are busy planning a Christmas fundraising event to be held in school. Unfortunately many parents who have helped the school as part of our Friends society are no longer involved with our fundraising events as their children have left St William's and therefore it is up to school staff to organise these events. We are therefore looking for volunteers to join our friends society and help us plan and run future fundraising events. The Friends of St William's usually meet 3 times a year to plan events and if you are able to give up some of your time to help raise money for the educational benefit of the children we would love to hear from you. Please email admin@stwilliams.bhcet.org.uk if you are able to help out.

Foodbank

We have had a fantastic response to our recent appeal to provide donations for local foodbanks. We have donated this food to Trimdon Food Bank to be used in emergency food boxes. We will continue to take donations from children throughout the year, so please continue to give generously.

Foundation Governors needed

We still have a number of vacancies on our governing body for foundation governors. Are you a practicing Catholic who would like to support St William's as a member of our Governing Body or do you know anyone who would be interested in such a role?

No prior experience is necessary and training will be available for anyone appointed to the role. If you are interested and would like to discuss the opportunity, please contact school to speak to Mr Tiplady for further information.

Reminders

- 100 club draw numbers are available to purchase from the school office. Prizes are awarded each month and all proceeds help support our children's education
- Please remember to send children to school in PE kits on their allocated PE days
- Children should not wear earrings in school. We discourage the wearing of jewellery for safety reasons.