

DATES for your DIARY

Mon 2nd Nov	Return to school
Tues 3rd Nov	Reception library visit
Wed 4th Nov	Y6 visit Gateshead Heritage Centre a.m. Music Workshop visit for Key Stage 2
Thurs 5th Nov	Mass cancelled for Reception and Year 5 (new date to follow) Volunteer helpers from Reception Parents - meeting with Mrs Ostell
Fri. 6th Nov	Chair of Governors (Mrs Kebell), Mrs Wright and Mrs Noble to attend the Investors In People Award Presentation to receive our GOLD Award.
Tues 10th Nov	National School Meals Week— Our pupils, organised by the Pupil Council have chosen the menu for today. Any child who normally has packed lunch but who would like to stay today should pay on Monday 9th November £1.80. Key Stage 2 will all visit Whickham Library throughout the afternoon to meet the Author Bob Hartman as part of Northern Book Festival. Football match at St. Stephen's School—pupils notified by Mr Sutcliffe
Mon 16th Nov.	School Book Fair will be in school Monday to Thursday. Open each day 8.30 8.55 a.m. and 3.15—3.45 p.m. for parents or carers to browse and buy.
Tues 17th Nov	Parent Appointments with class teachers in Years 1, 3 and 5 Shoe Box Appeal—Operation Christmas Child—Boxes must be returned to school by today.
Wed 18th Nov	Parent Appointments with class teachers in Years Reception, 2, 4 and 6 Yrs 5/6 Basketball tournament at St. Thomas More pupils notified by Mrs Joyce.
Thur 19th Nov	Yr 4 Mass School Disco Tonight—Please see additional details on next page.
Thur 3rd Dec	Years 1 and 6 Mass 9.30 a.m.
Mon 7th Dec	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production for parents 10.00 a.m. Years 3 and 4 Christmas Production for parents 2.00 p.m.
Tues 8th Dec	School Christmas Lunch—Please see additional sheet to be returned if your child wishes to stay for lunch today. Years 1 and 2 Christmas Production for parents 2.00 p.m.
Wed. 9th Dec	Y4 visit Gateshead Heritage Centre—Tudor Christmas a.m. Years 5 & 6 Christmas Production for parents 2.00 p.m.
Thur 10th Dec	Reception Nativity, accompanied by Year 5 at Metro Centre 10-11 a.m. further details to follow from Mrs Ostell. Years 3 & 4 Christmas Production for parents 2.00 p.m. Years 5 & 6 Christmas Production for parents 6 p.m.
Fri. 11th Dec	Duckpool Pre-School Nativity a.m. and p.m. sessions. Details from Pre-School
Tues. 15th Dec	Key Stage 1 Party 1.15—3.15 p.m. Children come to school dressed in party clothes
Wed. 16th Dec	Music Workshop for whole school. Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party 1.15-3.15 p.m.
Thur 17th Dec	Whole School Mass—9.30 All parents are invited to school for refreshments and Christmas Raffle Draw after Mass. Years 5 & 6 Christmas Party 1.15 to 3.15 p.m.
Fri. 18th Dec	Final Day of Autumn Term—Pupils return to school on Monday 4th January 2010

DISCO—Change of Date



Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances the date for the School Disco has been changed to Thursday 19th November

Key Stage 1 (Rec, Yr 1, Yr 2) 3.30 - 4.40pm

Key Stage 2 (Yr 3—Yr6) 4.45—6.00pm

Your child will need £1 entry per child and money for the tuck shop. Children should be collected promptly from the yard at the end of each session.

Parent helpers are needed please contact Mrs Noble if you can help in any way.

Friends of St Mary's



The Friends of St. Mary's extend a very warm welcome to all of the parents new to school with Reception pupils or pupils who have joined in other classes. The Friends meet usually twice a term on an informal basis, the next meeting will be at the Gibside Arms Hotel at 7 p.m. on January 19th. If you feel that you would like to help and support and meet other parents or have good ideas to involve pupils and their families in raising funds please come along, we will be delighted to see you. The Friends' fund raising events for this term are the School Calendar and Christmas Raffle. If you are able to donate good quality gifts which would make suitable prizes please bring them into school. Can you please return all your orders for calendars as soon as possible? Thank You.

School Routines

Parents are reminded that the bell rings at 8.55 a.m. when pupils line up in their classes. As so many parents stay to see their children into school then it becomes very congested and intimidating for the younger pupils to make their way into class.

Parents are asked to be more considerate about where they stand as children still coming into the yard need to reach their class line safely. Please stand well away from the lines, to ensure the safety of all pupils. We do as always welcome parents into school through the Main Entrance not the doors leading from the yard should they wish to pass on any information through Mrs Noble to Class teachers or Headteacher.

When children are collected at night time in Reception, year 1 and year 2, they remain in their class line with the Teacher or Teaching Assistant until collected by parent or a known adult.

Please note that dogs are not allowed on school premises at any time!



Sports

Our pupils continue to have great success in the many sporting events which are arranged for them and managed by Mrs Joyce and supported by Mr Sutcliffe. A Newsletter is attached.



Apologies

Unfortunately we had to cancel Reception/Year 5 Mass on Thursday 5th November as Fr. Humble was called away on urgent business, apologies to any parents who were unaware of this cancellation and came for mass. We will inform you of the new date once it is arranged.

PARENTS Appointments

Parents appointments are an important aspect of the home school partnership and your 5 minute appointment has now been confirmed. We would appreciate it if you would keep to the 5 minute time frame as I'm sure you understand that teachers have a lot of people to see.

Children are not expected to attend these appointments and we have no facilities for looking after them. Should you have any concerns or issues which require a longer discussion then please see Mrs Noble who will be happy to book an appointment for you.



Your Views Please



During the first half of the Autumn Term we held information giving meetings for each year group, this enabled parents to meet the class teacher and receive an overview of the teaching and topics planned for the academic year. Thank you to everyone who attended, but overall the turn out was low. This is the second year that we have offered this opportunity and we would appreciate your views on:

- Information received
- Time and length of the meeting
- Usefulness
- Any information you feel was not provided
- Should we continue to provide these meetings?

Gateshead Primary Review

Please see the attached Consultation Document relating to the Primary Review for Wickham and the Inner West Area. Whilst St. Mary's is not a school to be considered for closure, I would ask every parent to read the document so they are aware of the implications of this review for all the primary schools in our area, as any changes to school provision will affect all schools in the area. There is a response form for you to complete with **your own thoughts, suggestions and considerations for the future of Catholic Education within our area as well as for other primary school provision.**



Kenya



During the Summer holidays Mrs McMillan and family visited our link school and all of our friends in Kenya. Previous visits enabled us to see the progress the people of the area were making with developments to their homes, access to water and in providing opportunities for their children to attend school. The differences shocked us as 2009 is another year when drought lead to crop failure. So lack of food and lack of water are contributing to major health problems and further poverty. Lucy Wood (Yr3) raised £140 which she has donated to St Anthony's School, Nakuru. This is a brilliant effort which has been sent to them for the Autumn term. As a school we would like to support our partners on a termly basis and seek your suggestions as to what we can organise for Spring and Summer term 2010. Our three parishes of St Mary's, Wickham, Immaculate Heart, Lobleyhill and St Philip's, Dunston, are also committed to supporting the needs of our partner community where we are aiming to provide support on a more sustainable and regular basis rather than reacting to crisis appeals.

