



## SCHOOL UPDATES

### CURRICULUM EVENING:

Thank you to all parents/carers who managed to make it to our Curriculum Information Evening on Monday. It was lovely to see so many of you there, at the outset of the new school year, as we embark on what I'm sure will be a wonderfully successful 2017-18 for us all. If you were not in attendance, you will have been sent a copy of your child's Curriculum Booklet and Termly Curriculum Map, along with this term's RE overview in your child's blue bag – please fish them out and have a good read through. Further information shared at the session regarding curriculum updates, general reminders and upcoming events this year will be shared via the weekly News Bulletins over the coming term.

### ESCHOOLS:

One of the pieces of news we shared with you at the Curriculum Information Evening was that, this year, we will be using a service called eSchools to communicate with parents/carers about what's going on in school each week. The service, which operates as a desktop version and dedicated app, will be used in the first instance to:

- Share the weekly News Bulletin.
- Contact parents/carers by text (generally 'last-minute' or 'emergency' information).
- Share diary dates via an e-calendar.

In your child's blue bag, you have received personal log-in details and information on how to download the app (available on iPhone and Android devices). Please download the app – if you're able – asap, and ensure you're up and running in time for next week's News Bulletin. If you have any issues getting set-up with the new system, please get in contact with the school office for further guidance.

*Please note, this will be the last paper News Bulletin to be sent to all families. Paper copies will be available to collect at the school office for those parents/carers who wish to take the News Bulletin in this way. The weekly bulletin will also still be published on the school website in the 'News Blog'.*

### MARVELLOUS ME:

One further development we discussed on Monday was the use of another app called 'Marvellous Me'. We will be trialing this system as a way of sharing examples of your child's ongoing learning and development during the school day. Watch this space in the coming weeks for further updates.

## REMINDERS

### SECONDARY ADMISSIONS:

Please be reminded that the deadline for the online application is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Feel free to get in contact with the Gateshead School Admissions team, or indeed the school office, if there is anything you would like to discuss about the process.

### UNIFORM:

Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining the high standards we have for dress and appearance at St Mary's.

Our full school uniform requirements are available to view on the 'Parents - School Documents' area of the school website ([www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk](http://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk)).

#### SCHOOL COATS:

Especially in light of the particularly inclement weather we've been facing this week, it is important that all pupils have a waterproof coat in school each day. Hoodies do not suffice as a school coat.

#### MEDICAL FORMS:

Please ensure school has been made aware of any changes/updates regarding your child's medical needs; this can be done by completing a medical form (available from the school office). Please also ensure that all medication in school is up to date for the new school year.

#### LINING UP IN THE YARD:

Thank you for continuing to ensure pupils make a safe and orderly entrance in to/exit from school by allowing your child to line up independently in their class line and for keeping walkways to KS1 and 2 clear at the start and end of the day.

#### MUSIC TUITION:

If there are any pupils in KS2 who are keen to receive small group tuition in Violin, Viola, Cello or Guitar, please get in contact with school to register your interest (if you don't already receive tuition in school); Mrs Cuggy and Mrs Watson are particularly interested in pupils in Y5 who were part of the string orchestra project last year who would like to continue with their chosen instrument. Information regarding payment etc from the music service will go out in the coming weeks.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### WHOLE SCHOOL MASS:

Please come along to our first school Mass of the year, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 9:30am at St Mary's RC church – all welcome!

##### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER:

The school photographer will be in on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like your children to have a family photo (where 1 or more children do not currently attend St Mary's), please come to the Main School Office from 8:30am. Family photos where all pupils attend St Mary's will be completed during the school day along with other individual and group shots. *Please ensure all pupils come in to school as normal, dressed in accordance with school policy (including guidance on hair, make-up and jewellery).*

##### EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGAUGES:

We will be celebrating the European Day of Languages in school on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. All pupils in school will be learning about a variety of European countries and languages with the help of Mrs Innerdale our Modern Foreign Languages teacher. Check out our school Twitter feed for more updates on the day.

##### RECEPTION CLASS OPEN MORNING:

For anyone who has a child starting school in September 2018, there is an open day on Wednesday 4th October. There will be two sessions, one starting at 9:30am, and one at 1:30pm; each session will consist of a tour, to see the school in full swing, and an opportunity then to have a chat with Mr Wheatley and ask questions you may have about the school or the admissions process. Please spread the word to other interested parties, and if you are unable to attend on this day, please just get in contact with school to arrange a mutually convenient alternative. Applications for children who attend Duckpool Pre-school, or whose parents/carers have already expressed interest in applying for a place at St Mary's, will receive a pack outlining the admissions process, and copies will be available at our open day. The deadline for Admissions to Reception 2018-19 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:**

On Friday 29th September, The Friends of St Mary's will be hosting and taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning with all donations going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Invitation is open to everyone, so please bring as many friends and family along and join us in the school hall from 9-10.30 for a cuppa and slice of cake. We are asking you to lend your support by baking or buying a cake to sell on the day; you can find plenty of ideas and inspiration at [www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk). We look forward to seeing as many people as possible on the day.

**THE WEEK AHEAD (25.9.17 – 19.9.17):**

**TUESDAY –** School Photographer.

Hi 5 Netball (pupils involved will receive a letter with further details).

1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation meeting: for parents of pupils in Y4 (or higher) who are interested in putting forward their child for sacramental preparation; 5pm at school.

**THURSDAY –** EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES.

**FRIDAY –** McMillan Coffee Morning – 9am in school; bring a cake!