



SCHOOL UPDATES

ESCHOOLS:

This is the first issue of the St Mary's News Bulletin to be exclusively sent out electronically. If you have failed to receive our bulletins (last week and this week) via email, please get in contact with the school office with up-to-date email details. All emails, messages and the shared calendar are available at <https://stmarys-whickham.eschools.co.uk/login>, or the dedicated eschools app to download (available on iOS and Android).

If you have mislaid login details, please get in contact with school, and similarly paper copies of the News Bulletin will be available at the main office each week.

CLASS LITURGIES:

This year, we will be sharing special class liturgies (prayer services led by the pupils) each term. Each class will prepare and lead a class or shared class liturgy each Term, and we would like to invite parents/carers, family and friends to come along and participate in the services, which will last approximately 20-30minutes.

Ordinarily, the liturgies will take place at 9:30am, but **next week's Year 4 class liturgy will now take place at 1:30pm on Friday 6th October**. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and sharing in the service with you.

SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our Years 5/6 Hi-5 netball squad who came 2nd and 3rd overall in the recent Gateshead School Sports Competition at Kingsmeadow, with one of our teams qualifying for the regional finals. Well done and good luck too to the school football team, who will tonight be competing in the finals of the Blydon and District League Cup after qualifying undefeated in a tournament at Lobley Hill Primary last week.

Over the coming weeks we have plenty of sporting events coming up including: Y6 Tag Rugby, Girls' Football and KS1 Indoor Athletics. Watch this space for more information regarding these, and many other sporting opportunities our pupils will benefit from this term.

BIKING BEN AND COAST 2 COAST:

This year, we will once again be working with Ben Tweedie ('Biking Ben') who will deliver sessions to promote cycling across the school. Dates will be sent out in the coming weeks, so please keep an eye out for those.

As previously reported, there will also be a meeting for parents and children from Year 5 who may be interested in taking part in this year's C2C project on Tuesday 3rd October. At the meeting, Ben will share with us information regarding the project for you to make an informed decision whether pupils and/or parents will be able to commit to the ride. **The meeting will now begin at 4:30pm** due to Ben's family commitments; if this causes any issues for your attendance at the meeting, please get in contact with Mr Wheatley for a chat.

Please note, the meeting will be for pupils and parents/carers, but all pupils in attendance must be with a supervising adult. Moreover, parents/carers do not have to participate in the project for their child to take part.

SCHOOL MEALS:

As you may be aware, our schools are – and have been for many years – supplied by Gateshead School Meals Service. We have received some queries in school regarding the options on offer at St Mary's over the past few weeks. At present, pupils have the following options:

- Every day, there are two hot meal options (options 1 and 2); pupils can choose either option at the counter. One will always be meat-free – but any child can choose this option.
- On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the third choice is a jacket potato, with a range of filling options; on Tuesday and Thursday (to prevent the situation where a child may choose a jacket potato every day) the third option is a sandwich, again with a range of filling options that the children can select at the counter.
- There is a salad bar available to all pupils, as well as a range of puddings (including fruit) for pupils to select from.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their child about lunch choices each day, and for children to exercise their choice at the counter. If you feel as though your child is not taking full advantage of the choices on offer, please get in contact with school for a chat about how we may support your child to vary their choices.

REMINDERS

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER:

Please ensure that all orders for photographs are returned to school by Friday 6th October 2017.

SECONDARY ADMISSIONS:

Please be reminded that the deadline for the online application is 31st 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).

MUSIC TUITION:

We're still on the look-out for pupils to participate in small group cello tuition. Mrs Watson, our cello teacher, is now looking for pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who may be interested in beginning/continuing lessons with her on a Monday afternoon. All pupils will receive an instrument to practice on at home, and the weekly lessons cost £65 per term. Please get in contact with school if you're interested in this opportunity for your child.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 15th 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. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible on the day.

THE WEEK AHEAD (2.10.17 – 6.10.17):

- TUESDAY – C2C Meeting for interested parents/carers and pupils in Year 5; 4:30pm.
- WEDNESDAY – Open Day for Reception intake 2018-19 (9:30am or 1:30pm start).
- THURSDAY – Friends of St Mary's meeting – all welcome; 9am at school.
Y1 Forest School (am); Y2 Forest School (pm).
Change 4 Life event (pupils involved will receive an individual letter); Gateshead Leisure Centre, 10am-12pm.
- FRIDAY – Year 4 Class Liturgy – all welcome; 1:30pm at school.