



SCHOOL UPDATES

MULTI-FAITH WEEK:

Next week, pupils across school will be learning all about Judaism in their RE lessons; we will also be hosting Deanna Vandervelde from the United Hebrew Congregation Gosforth who will be talking to Years 3 and 4 about various aspects of Jewish faith and worship. We will share our learning with you over the week, so keep an eye out on our school Twitter feed and of course in the News Bulletin.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

A huge thank you for all who came along to the coffee morning held by the Friends of St Mary's to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. A total of £313.24 was raised on the day, which was a huge success. Look out for future dates for Friends' coffee mornings in the weekly News Bulletin.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER:

Apologies for the delay in getting the school photo order forms out to you. Without wishing to pass the buck (!), there was an issue with the photographer's printer on the day, meaning that she was unable to generate the order forms as normal, and despite chasing this up, we are still awaiting the paperwork. We will of course get these out to you as soon as possible with an updated deadline for orders to be returned to school. Thanks for your patience with this issue.

SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to the 9 pupils from Years 3 and 4 who took part in the Change 4 Life launch event at Gateshead Leisure Centre. The event encouraged pupils to get involved in a range of fun and challenging sporting events, and we will be using the experiences of our pupils to run our own Change 4 Life activities in school in the future. Each of the pupils represented St Mary's with great enthusiasm, skill and positivity and a wonderful time was had by all. You can see a selection of photos from the morning on our school Twitter feed (also visible on the school website homepage).

A further well done also must go to the school football team who have successfully qualified for the second round of the Bishop's Cup. Keep up the excellent work!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Pupils who have been put forward to take part in our Sacramental preparation programme this year will receive a letter with further details regarding upcoming sessions and information regarding ways in which families can support their child's readiness to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and subsequently Holy Communion. If you have yet to return the reply slip stating your desire for your child to take part in the programme, please do so as soon as possible.

The dates for the upcoming masses during which there will be a special liturgy for pupils preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be as follows:

Sunday 22nd October (changed from the original date of the 15th)

Sunday 5th November

Sunday 19th November

(All during 9:30am Mass at St Mary's RC Church)

The date for Reconciliation service is Tuesday 29th November (6pm start), and the date for the 1st Holy Communion is Saturday 16th June (10am start).

REMINDERS

ESCHOOLS:

As you will be aware, St Mary's News Bulletins are now sent out via our new eschools system. If you fail to receive our bulletins 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.

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).

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.

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

CLASS LITURGIES:

Please come along to our Year 4 Class Liturgy which will be taking place in school tomorrow (Friday 5th October) at 1:30pm.

Years 1 and 6 will also be sharing a Class Liturgy on Friday 13th October at 9:30am; all welcome.

ADULT'S CHOIR:

Mrs Sanderson will again be running a community choir for parents, grandparents, family and friends of the school. The choir meet on regular Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm in the school hall. All are welcome: young and 'experienced', men and women, talented and 'enthusiastic' alike – so please come along and give it a go!

The dates for the upcoming Term are as follows:

11/10/17

1/11/17

15/11/17

22/11/17

6/12/17

13/12/17

THE WEEK AHEAD (9.10.17 – 13.10.17):

MONDAY – Year 3 trip to the Hancock Museum (packed lunch required).

TUESDAY – Year 4 Forest School Session (pm).

KS1 and 2 meetings regarding SATs (and the Y6 residential to Knock);
5pm.

WEDNESDAY – Year 4 trip to Vindolanda (packed lunch required).

Years 5 and 6 tag rugby (pupils involved will have received a letter with
additional letter).

THURSDAY – School Football, Blaydon and District League at Fellside School (pupils
involved will have received a letter with additional letter).

FRIDAY – Y1 and 6 Class Liturgy (9:30am in school; all welcome).

NO GYMNASTICS