



SCHOOL UPDATES

MULTI-FAITH WEEK:

This week, pupils across school have been exploring the Jewish faith in their RE lessons. Pupils have been exploring various aspects of Jewish belief, customs and culture, from exploring the importance of the Torah and Synagogue, to learning about Jewish festivals such as *Pesach* and *Shavuot*. On Monday, we will also be hosting Deanna Vandervelde from the United Hebrew Congregation Gosforth who will be working with Years 3 and 4.

EXTENDED LEARNING WEEK – 'FREEDOM':

Taking inspiration from the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King's visit to Gateshead and Newcastle on 13th November 1967, starting on Monday, pupils across school will be engaging in an 'Extended Learning Week' focusing on the theme of 'Freedom'. Classes will be engaging in thought-provoking, creative learning experiences, and we will be displaying the outcomes of our learning in the KS2 corridor. Look out for updates via our school Twitter feed (also visible on the school website) to see what the children get up to over the week.

RE-START HEART DAY:

On Tuesday, pupils in KS2 will be celebrating 'Re-Start Heart' day; all pupils will take part in an assembly and follow-up workshop session about CPR and resuscitation.

For any further information about the morning, please get in contact with Mr Wheatley at school.

MARVELLOUS ME:

As you will have read already in the weekly News Bulletin, we have signed up to a new service called 'Marvellous Me' which will allow parents to receive news of the child's ongoing success at school. The system allows parents to download an app, with an individual code, and to receive photos, videos and other positive news about your child – including special awards and badges that pupils may receive from teachers and school staff.

In your child's blue bag this week, you will find information regarding the set-up of your child's account and an attached reply slip which we would ask you to return to school (we already have permissions for use of pupils' images, but this is a new platform and you may wish to opt-out of this). We will begin using the system after the half term break, so we would ask that if you do wish to opt-out of your child's image/video/voice being used, that you get your reply slip back asap.

The system only generates one code per child; this can be set up on multiple devices if necessary. Please get in contact with the school office if you do have not received a code for your child.

FLU VACCINATIONS:

Please ensure that all forms for pupils wishing to receive the flu vaccination on Friday 20th October **must be in school by 9am on Monday 16th October**. The forms are being collected by the school nursing team, and any late forms will not be accepted.

CAFOD FAST DAY:

A huge thank you to Year 4, and all who helped us to raise £128 for Cafod Family Fast Day by participating in our 'fruit raffle'.

SPORTING PARTICIPATION SURVEY:

Next week, our Year 6 'Sports Crew' will be undertaking a review of sporting activity and exercise that St Mary's pupils take place in and out of school. To assist with this, we have sent home a simple questionnaire for all pupils in KS1 to be completed and returned to your child's class teacher (pupils in KS2 will complete their own questionnaire in class); please help your child to complete this honestly, and sent back in to school via your child's blue bag. The information gathered will be used to consider how we move forward as a school to ensure that all pupils are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in regular exercise, activity and sport. Thank you.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER:

All photo order packs have finally been sent out from school. The new deadline for returning school photo order forms to us is **Wednesday 18th October**. If you have any queries or issues with this please let the school office know asap.

PARENTS' EVENING:

We will be holding our Autumn Term Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November 2017 (3:30-6:30pm). As with previous years, we would ask that you complete and return the reply slip sent home in your child's blue bag stating your preference of day and time slot by **Wednesday 18th October**. We will send out a slip/slips with a time slot for your child's appointment(s) next week.

200 CLUB:

Please find below the winners for our Friends of St Mary's 200 Club draws for June – August. If you'd like to be involved in the draw, please get in contact with school; numbers are available for £1 and monthly prizes range from £50 - £10. Many thanks!

June 2017

PRIZE	NUMBER	WINNER
£50	2	Adam Drummond
£25	59	Joanne Punton
£15	100	C & A Duncan
£10	34	Jaimer Preston

July 2017

PRIZE	NUMBER	WINNER
£50	53	Margaret Collins
£25	13	Margaret O'Hara
£15	73	Eve Jones
£10	74	T Noble

August 2017

PRIZE	NUMBER	WINNER
£50	108	Siobhan Cockell
£25	35	Mandy Oswell
£15	10	Faye Gregory Smith
£10	92	Angela Hunt

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 1 and 6 Class Liturgy which will be taking place in school tomorrow (Friday 13th October) at 9:30am.

FILM NIGHT:

Next week, we will be holding our termly Film Nights for KS1 and 2. The cost to attend the event is £3 per pupil (or £5 per family), which includes a hotdog, popcorn and a drink. Please send money in to school in a labelled envelope.

The films chosen for this term will be:

Monday 16th October, KS1 Film Night – *Boss Baby (U)*

Wednesday 18th October, KS2 Film Night – *The Lego Batman Movie (U)*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

A reminder that 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).

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:

1/11/17

15/11/17

22/11/17

6/12/17

13/12/17

THE WEEK AHEAD (16.10.17 – 20.10.17):

MONDAY –

Y6 trip to Beamish.

Y3 and 4 to work with Deanna Vandervelde (United Hebrew Congregation).

KS1 Film Night (3:15-5:15pm).

TUESDAY –

Re-Start Heart Day (whole-school Assembly and workshops in KS2).

WEDNESDAY –

Y3 Forest School.

KS2 Film Night (3:15-5:15pm).

Y3/4 Tag Rugby (pupils involved will receive a letter with information about the event).

FRIDAY –

Flu vaccinations (Reception to Y6 – pupils only).

No Gymnastics.

