



RIGHTS RESPECTING WEEK

Next week, each class will be taking part in a 'Rights Respecting' week. As a Rights Respecting School, our pupils learn about their rights and the rights of all children around the world, as well as the work of Unicef and other organisations who work for the rights of others. We will be taking the theme of 'Refugees', and each class will be focusing on a different aspect of what it means to be a refugee. We will also be having visits in school from current asylum seekers and refugee resettlement workers living and working in Gateshead, who will be helping KS2 to understand some of the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers today. We will share our learning with you via the RRSA blog on the school website.

NORTHERN CROSS FOOTBALL:

Well done to the girls' football team who competed in the first round of the Northern Cross this week. Despite losing two tightly contested games, the girls acquitted themselves admirably, represented St Mary's with great enthusiasm, determination and respect, and had great fun in the meantime (in spite of the rain!).

FILM NIGHTS:

We will be holding two Film Nights this week to raise money for our school fund:

KS2 (Y3 – 6) Film Night Monday 17th October (3:15-5:15 p.m.)

KS1 (Reception – Y2) Film Night Wednesday 19th October (3:15-5:15 p.m.)

The price to attend the film night, receiving refreshments of a hot dog, popcorn and a drink is £3.50 per child/£5 per family. Please send in payment to the school office in an envelope marked 'Film Night' with your child's name and year group.

Please note there will be no Tennis or Children's Choir, due to the clash with Film Night! (Parents will therefore have £3 credit for Tennis sessions after Half Term).

YEAR 5 COAST TO COAST BIKE RIDE:

To enable us to make all the necessary reservations can we please ask that all Coast to Coast confirmation forms are returned to school and deposit payments of £50 are made through the SIMS AGORA payment system by Monday 17th October.

Please note, we do not yet know how much the trip will cost (as transportation costs will be affected by the numbers who commit to the project). As stated at the initial meeting, we will endeavour to keep the cost in the ball park of the Year 6 residential trip, and the cost includes bike and equipment use (for all rides), accommodation, food and travel. Exact costs will be calculated after Monday's deadline for deposits. If anyone is concerned that cost may be a limiting factor in their child taking part, please contact Mr Wheatley for a chat.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR Y5 C2C BIKE RIDE:

Monday	06/02/17	Bike Skills – All Day
Tuesday	14/02/17	Bike Skills a.m. 1:00-3:00 Local ride
Monday	27/02/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Monday	06/03/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Monday	13/03/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Monday	20/03/17	All day bike ride
Monday	27/03/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Monday	03/04/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Monday	24/04/17	All day bike ride
Tuesday	02/05/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Friday	05/05/17	Full day bike ride
Monday	08/05/17	Local ride 3:15-5:00
Monday	15/05/17	Full day bike ride
Monday	05/06/17	C2C

PARENTS EVENING:

This year we will be changing the way we operate our parents' evenings. Staff will be available on two nights (14.11.16 and 15.11.16) from 3:30 – 6:30pm for a 5 minute appointment to discuss academic progress this term. In this way, we hope to cater for our parents/carers, who in recent years have seemed to favour later appointment times (4:30pm onwards). So that we may allocate times appropriately, please could you complete and return the attached reply slip by Monday 17th October 2016. We will send out appointment times via your child's blue bag next week.

FACEBOOK – A POLITE REMINDER:

It has come to our attention that there are a number of 'unofficial' private groups currently operating via facebook, in which school-related issues are being discussed between parents/carers. Whereas we support a parents' right to communicate with other adults in whatever forum they see fit, there are some sensible requests made by school, to ensure that we are able to aid information sharing etc.

Firstly, we would always recommend contacting school (via the class teacher, or school office) if you have any queries or concerns; as I'm sure you will appreciate, sometimes messages can be misinterpreted or misconstrued if passed on via third parties, and it's always easy to deal with school directly.

Secondly, it is vital that children's photos or personal details (including names and ages) are never shared via social media without the expressed consent of a parent/carer. Even if done innocently, and with good intentions, such actions can put our children at risk, and it is vital that we safeguard against this.

If you are unsure as to the reasons for our policies, please feel free to get in contact with Mr Wheatley for further information.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

We will be celebrating the first Liturgy for pupils preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Mass on Sunday 16th October at 9:30am. Pupils to sit with their parents/carers during Mass; a polite request that parents/carers encourage their child's participation in the Mass (children to sit respectfully, and to join in with responses, prayers, hymns etc). *Please note, pupils in Y4 should not go out of Mass for the parish children's liturgy group this week.*

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES:

In the past we have been fortunate to have received some very generous gifts from our St Mary's community to use as "Star Prizes" in our Christmas Raffle. We are kindly asking for donations of prizes/ vouchers/ tickets for events etc – either from people with their own businesses or whose employers would be keen to support our school. Please could you let us know, by getting in contact with school, or members of the Friends group, and help us put together some fantastic prizes for this year's Christmas raffle. Thank you.

The next Friends meeting will be held at school on Thursday 20th October at 9am.

EVENING CHRONICLE WISH TOKENS

HCPT Group 41 are once again participating in the Evening Chronicle wish token campaign. Last year, with your help, an astonishing 47,000 tokens were collected on the group's behalf which translated into a donation of over £600 towards the cost of taking 6 local children with a range of needs to Lourdes. Please help Group 41 to continue their work by cutting out the wish tokens from the Evening Chronicle and handing them in at the school office. Thank you.

SMALL SAINTS HOLIDAY CLUB:

Small Saints is offering places for holiday club this October half term:

Price per day is £24.00 per child and this includes 3 meals.

Each day we will be doing a specific activity which will include a Halloween party, mask making, rocket building, baking, sports activities, and lots of other fun things.

Spaces are limited and if you would like to discuss further or reserve your place please contact me on 07882421973 or email smallsaints@hotmail.com. Many thanks.

Leanne Sanderson (club manager).

THE WEEK AHEAD:

SUNDAY

9:30am Mass at St. Mary's R C Church (Sacramental Preparation group Liturgy 1 Gathering).

MONDAY

KS2 Film Night (3:15pm – 5:15pm; £3.50 per pupil or £5 per family).

Y6 Boys Football @ English Martyrs' (pupils involved will receive a separate letter with all relevant information).

TUESDAY

Y2 Visit to Discovery Museum (9:30am – 3pm).

WEDNESDAY

KS1 Film Night (3:15pm – 5:15pm; £3.50 per pupil or £5 per family).

'The Event' – a Diocesan event for pupils in Y6 (pupils interested will receive a letter with all relevant information).

Parent's Evening Autumn Term 2016-17

Please tick more than one box, if possible, so that we have the best chance of meeting the needs of all our parents/carers.

I can attend on the following date(s):

Monday 14th November 2016

Tuesday 15th November 2016

I can attend at the following time(s):

3:30pm – 5pm

5 – 6:30pm

I am unable to make either time and will contact school to discuss this

My child will require more than one appointment

Child Name:

Class:

Parent Name:

Signed:

Date:

Please return to school by Monday 17th October 2016