



SCHOOL UPDATES

END OF TERM:

So here we are at the end of a rather manic, but utterly thrilling Autumn Term. It doesn't seem two minutes since we returned back to school: fresh-faced and eager to get stuck back in to the work, play and laughter we all enjoy here at St Mary's. We have welcomed 30 amazing young people in to our Reception Class, as well as their parents/carers and wider home circle in to our school family, and it is remarkable to see what a happy, confident and creative class of thoroughly engaging individuals we already have. Needless to say, it has been a genuine pleasure and privilege – as ever – to be a part of the learning and life of school over the past Term, so a huge thank you to our wonderful pupils, tireless staff and ever-supportive wider school family. I would also like to say thank you, on behalf of all the St Mary's Team, for all the cards, presents and kind words shared in recent weeks; our working lives are about so much more than personal gain or recognition, but it does mean a lot to be thanked for the hours put in over the year, and your collective and individual generousities never cease to amaze us all.

Over the past four weeks of Advent, our children have journeyed with joy and hope in their hearts, excited and expectant to receive our Lord anew this Christmas. It would be lovely for them all to see through this joyous journey by attending one of our Christmas Masses within the Parish of Our Lady and St Philip (see details below), so please do come along and help to celebrate this great feast in prayer and worship – all welcome!

I wish you all a peaceful, joyous and very merry Christmas and New Year, and look forward to seeing you all back in school on the 8th January 2019.

May the blessings of Christmas be with you,
May the Christ Child light your way,
May God's holy angels guide you,
And keep you safe each day.

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES IN THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP:

Monday 24 th December Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill
	7.30pm	Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston
Tuesday 25 th December Christmas Day	9.30am	Mass at St Mary, Whickham <i>(children may bring along one toy received on Christmas morning for a special blessing)</i>

SPRING 2019:

Please be reminded that all pupils will return to school for the Spring Term on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**.

TERMLY ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	1.6	0	98.4
YEAR 1	2	0.2	97.8
YEAR 2	1.6	1.3	97.1
YEAR 3	1	1.1	97.9
YEAR 4	1.4	1.3	97.3
YEAR 5	0.9	0.9	98.2
YEAR 6	1	0	99
AVERAGE	1.4	0.5	98.6

Thank you for supporting the school's attendance targets this term. We're really pleased to be above our 98% target in what is often the longest and most illness-affected Term, and aim to keep up this success in the New Year!

Particular congratulations must go to Y6 for taking home the award for best attendance this Term with a fantastic 99% (with no unauthorised absences at all!). Let's see which class can top that next term!

FUNDRAISING:

Thank you on behalf of all the pupils and staff at St Mary's for your generosity in purchasing, among other things, raffle tickets, photos and hot chocolates over recent weeks! We have managed to raise a whopping £2062 thanks to all your efforts!

200 CLUB:

Please find below the winners for our Friends of St Mary's 200 Club draws for August and September. 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!

We are having ongoing banking issues resulting in delays to 200 Club draw so apologies. October, November and December winners will be drawn in the New Year when normal service will resume.

August 2018

PRIZE	NUMBER	WINNER
£50	1	Theresa Noble
£25	40	Barbara Blanc
£15	20	Catherine Armstrong
£10	104	Kirsty Recchia

September 2018

PRIZE	NUMBER	WINNER
£50	95	Pamela Collins
£25	37	Marion Drummond
£15	56	Angela Jepson
£10	117	David Sutcliffe

DIARY DATES (7.1.19 – 11.1.19)

MONDAY – STAFF INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

TUESDAY – FIRST DAY BACK FOR PUPILS

1st Happy Feet session of the Term

THURSDAY – Y3/4 Swimming

1st Irish Dancing session of the Term

FRIDAY – Whole School Mass
(9:30am, St Mary's RC Church; all welcome)

No Gymnastics

