



SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

END OF TERM:

So here we are at the end of an action-packed and immensely rewarding Autumn Term. It doesn't seem two minutes since the start of September, and it never ceases to amaze just how much progress our pupils make in these Autumn months. Needless to say, it has been a genuine pleasure and privilege to share in the daily lives of our young people, and I would like to congratulate them all for all their efforts in 2019.

A huge thank you must go to our tireless staff who have – as ever – gone that extra mile for the pupils of St Mary's each and every day, and to our ever-supportive wider school family for all that you have done to support us in realising the vision of our school: to enable each one of our children to be who God calls them to be.

I would also like to say thank you, on behalf of 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 generosity are truly humbling.

Throughout 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 7th January 2020.

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 NERI:

Monday 24 th December Christmas Eve	5.30pm	Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill
	7.30pm	Mass at St Mary's, Whickham
Tuesday 25 th December Christmas Day	9.30am	Mass at St Philip Neri, Dunston

SPRING 2020:

Please be reminded that all pupils will return to school for the Spring Term on **Tuesday 7th January 2020**.

TERMLY ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	1.8	1.2	97
YEAR 1	2.4	0.7	97
YEAR 2	2.8	0.4	96.8
YEAR 3	1.9	1.1	97
YEAR 4	1.4	0.5	98.1
YEAR 5	1.7	0.4	97.9
YEAR 6	1.3	0.7	98
AVERAGE	1.9	0.7	97.4

Thank you for supporting the school's attendance targets this term. We're really pleased to be above our 97% 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 Y4 for taking home the award for best attendance this Term with a fantastic 98.1%. 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 £1946 thanks to all your efforts!

We still have two unclaimed gifts for unmarked tickets numbered 02442 and 02444. Please get in contact with school if these are your tickets.

CHRISTMAS PLAY COSTUMES:

If any families wish to donate their child's Christmas play costume, please send in to school with your child in the New Year. We will endeavour to distribute costumes (in good condition) in future years so as to avoid – what was aptly described by one parent as – an unnecessary 'clothes mountain' of unwanted costumes each year. Thank you!

PE DAY CHANGES:

Classes will need their full PE kit (including trainers) on the following days from the start of the Spring term:

Reception – Friday

Y1 – Thursday

Y2 – Friday

Y3 – Tuesday

Y4 – Thursday

Y5 – Wednesday

Y6 – Tuesday

FIRST WEEK OF SPRING TERM (6.1.20 – 10.1.20)

MONDAY – INSET DAY FOR STAFF (School closed to pupils).

TUESDAY – First day of the Spring Term for pupils.

FRIDAY – Y5 trip to Discovery Museum.

NO GYMNASTICS.

