



## SCHOOL UPDATES

### WELCOME BACK:

It's been lovely to have pupils back in school after what I trust was a restful October Half Term. What a difference a week makes! It seems as though winter is already upon us, and the dark mornings and seasonal weather have made for some bleary-eyed starts this week. That being said, I know we're in for a fantastic half term, and I look forward to sharing the successes and excitement of what is a very special time in school over the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on the weekly News Bulletin for updates and developments as the weeks go by, and of course you can always see what's going on in school via our school Twitter feed (@whickhamstmarys). I look forward to seeing many of you for a catch-up at our Autumn Term Parents' Evenings next week.

Yours,

Mr J Wheatley  
Headteacher

### PARENTS' APPOINTMENTS:

Parents/carers will have now received an allotted time to meet with their child's class teacher on Monday or Tuesday next week. On your designated evening, we would ask you to arrive at your child's class no more than 5 minutes prior to the allotted appointment time (due to seating limitations in the KS1 and 2 corridors); your child's books will be available to view in the school hall either before or after your appointment. As you will be aware, the appointment with your child's class teacher will take approximately 5 minutes, and will be an opportunity to hear how your child has settled in to their new class as well as to receive some of their current learning targets: aspects of learning that we expect your child to have achieved before the end of term. If, for whatever reason, you feel as though there is an issue that you would like to discuss at greater length, you can of course phone school to make an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher, or indeed a member of the school leadership team, at a separate, mutually-convenient time.

You will find attached some information regarding the format in which pupils' targets will be shared at Parents' Evening this year. Teachers will not have the time to go in to great detail about the 'prior attainment' shared on the pupils' target sheets, so please read the attached information, and retain it for reference following your appointment.

#### ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	0	0	100
YEAR 1	0	0.9	99.1
YEAR 2	0.8	3.3	95.8
YEAR 3	0.4	0.8	98.8
YEAR 4	0	0	100
YEAR 5	0	3.4	96.6
YEAR 6	0	0.8	99.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>98.5</b>

A huge well done to Reception and Y4 for their 100% attendance this week!

#### FAMILY LEARNING – EARLY MATHS:

Following the success of last half term's sequence of sessions delivered by the Gateshead Family Learning Team, we will now be offering an opportunity to attend a 5 week course looking at developing early number. The course will be open to all families with children in Reception or Year 1. As with the previous course, the sessions will be split with some designated time for parents (or other significant adult – grandparent etc) spent discussing strategies and methods for encouraging early numeracy development, and some time for pupils to work alongside the adults (playing games, making resources etc). If you would like to take part, please get in contact with the school office to register your interest. The sessions will take place over 5 consecutive weeks (from 9-10:30am) starting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

#### MUSIC TUITION:

As Mrs Cuggy was sent home from work due to ill-health on Thursday, we will be deducting the cost of one session from the Spring Term violin payment to make-up for lost teaching time.

#### REMINDERS

##### FLU VACCINATION:

Please make sure that all flu vaccination forms are returned to school by **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November**. Pupils whose forms are returned after this time will not be able to receive their vaccination in school.

##### SHOEBOXES:

Please could all shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal be returned to school for **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. Please remember to wrap and secure your box (with an elastic band), label the box to say who it has been packed for (ie. Gender and age group), and if possible, include the payment for shipping as requested in the packing instructions.

## HOLIDAY DATES 2019-20:

Holiday dates for 2019-20 have been set as follows:

	START	END	HALF-TERM
<b>AUTUMN</b>	2.9.19	20.12.19	21.10.19 – 25.10.19
<i>INSET</i>	TBC		
<b>SPRING</b>	6.1.20	3.4.20	17.2.20 – 21.2.20
<i>INSET</i>	TBC		
<b>SUMMER</b>	20.4.20	17.7.20	25.5.20 – 29.5.20
<i>INSET</i>	TBC		

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Y4 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

The next Liturgy for our Y4 Sacramental Preparation group will take place during 9:30am Mass at St Mary's church on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November; the theme will be 'Baptismal Renewal'.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:

We would like to extend an open invitation to all pupils to represent St Mary's in the annual Remembrance Sunday parade through Whickham on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November. On the day, Mr Wheatley will meet pupils and parents/carers on School Street (adjacent to the old Front Street School site) at 10:15am; the parade along Front Street – made up of various groups – will begin at 10:30am. There will then follow a Remembrance Service (to begin at approximately 10:45am) at the Cenotaph which will last approximately 30 minutes, and a 'march past' co-ordinated by local cadet groups. This will all be followed by a short service in St Mary's church, to which all are welcome. Pupils in attendance will need to wear full school uniform (with coat, hat/gloves/scarf etc if required), and to be dropped off/collected by an adult at the appropriate times. Parents who wish to stay for the duration of the event will not participate in the parade, but will be invited to join other members of the public who have congregated to pay their respects along the parade route, or at the Cenotaph. Mr Wheatley will stay with the pupils at the Cenotaph, following the Remembrance Service, until all have been collected by their parents/carers. Pupils who will be in attendance will be spoken to in school next week, so it would be really useful if either parents/carers let us know that they intend for their child to take part in the parade, or indeed if the children themselves know for certain that they will be there. Many thanks!

### REMEMBRANCE DAY – POPPY APPEAL:

To raise funds for this year's poppy appeal, the School Council will be selling items (poppies, wristbands, badges etc) during school next week. Items are priced at 50p or £1, and pupils who would like to buy items should bring money in a clearly labelled envelope or purse/wallet (exact change preferred).

### CHILDREN IN NEED:

As a school, we will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Pupils will be invited to come in to school in their own clothes (with a 'spotty' theme), and to donate £1 towards the cause (to be paid on the day). The pupil council will also be raising money by selling some Children in Need themed items during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> November. Items will be priced between £1 and £2.50, and pupils who would like to buy items should bring a sensible amount of money in a clearly labelled envelope or purse/wallet.

DIARY DATES (5.11.18 – 9.11.18)

MONDAY – Parents Evening 1/2 (3:30 – 6:30pm)  
NO TENNIS

TUESDAY – Parents Evening 2/2 (3:30 – 6:30pm)  
NO HAPPY FEET

WEDNESDAY – Chatterbooks session 2/6

Y1 and 2 Multi-skills at St Thomas More (pupils involved will receive a letter) 4 – 5:30pm

THURSDAY – Family Learning – Early Maths 1/5

Friends of St Mary's meeting 2:15pm

SATURDAY – Y5 Languages Day at St Thomas More (pupils taking part have already received a letter from school) 10am – 2pm

